

MEETING SUMMARY

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

November 17, 2021

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) met virtually at 2:00 pm on November 17, 2021, via Microsoft Teams.

See Pages 6 and 7 for meeting attendance.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Kathy Nelson, Chair, City of Grapevine

Kathy Nelson welcomed attendees and introduced herself as the 2021 Chair of BPAC, and Robert Caskey as the Vice-Chair. The August 2021 meeting summary was accepted as submitted.

2. Local Community Updates

a. Dallas Vision Zero Action Plan – Kathryn Rush, City of Dallas

Kathryn provided an overview on the Vision Zero Action Plan Development scope of work, which is in its final stages of draft recommendations. The focus areas in the Plan highlight factors that account for the highest percentage of fatal and severe crashes in Dallas, including, but not limited to pedestrian-involved crashes and speeding/unsafe travel speeds. During the crash analysis, city staff found that 8 percent of streets (non-freeways) account for 60 percent of severe crashes and 25 percent of crashes were on freeways (on-system roadways). Draft recommendations included overall themes such as the 5 E's (Engineering, Enforcement, Education, Evaluation, and Equity), using data to determine priorities, dedicate resources to reducing fatal and severe crashes, and create a culture of safety. Next steps for the Plan include Phase 2 to collect public and partner feedback on the draft recommendations via a virtual meeting held on November 16 and online survey open from November 16-30, 2021. A City Council briefing is scheduled for December 15, 2021 to present the draft Vision Zero Action Plan. City Council's adoption of the Plan is anticipated in Spring 2022.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC

b. Real Time Display Kiosks – Gene Moulden, City of Irving

Gene provided an overview on Real Time Display Kiosks recently installed in the City of Irving. The Eco-DISPLAY Classic+ is a real-time count display for pedestrians by day and total by year. The displays are Bluetooth-enabled with hard wired connections and feature custom graphics. Another digital kiosk that displays items such as news and events accompany the real-time bicycle and pedestrian counter. Both displays are located at the Levy Event Plaza in Irving.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

c. Road Corridor & Cotton Belt Trail Extension – Kathy Nelson, City of Grapevine

Kathy provided an overview on the Dallas Road Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Corridor and Cotton Belt Trail Extension Project. The project, located in downtown Grapevine, received \$5 million from NCTCOG TA Set-A-Side Funding in 2017. The construction bid total for the entire project was \$8.4 million. The objective for the project was to create a more comfortable and safe area for pedestrians and bicyclists as part of the critical last half-mile for the new Downtown Grapevine TexRail station. Improvements for the entire project included three mid-block crossings with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) and pavers, a new signalized intersection with crosswalks and pavers, two enhanced intersections with refuge islands and paving design, and 1.5 miles of the regional Cotton Belt Trail with driveway demarcation. Each sidewalk constructed was at least six feet in width, with 125 shade trees added and pedestrian lighting to improve visibility. A landscaped center median was also added on Dallas Road with 5-foot-wide landscaped buffers along each curb. This project started construction in January 2020 and was completed in September 2021.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

d. Upcoming Events – Robert Caskey, Vice-Chair, City of Frisco

Robert Caskey reviewed upcoming events and training opportunities for active transportation professionals.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

3. Smart Sensors and Infrastructure for Transportation – Dr. Pengfei (Taylor) Li and Farzana R. Chowdhury, University of Texas at Arlington

Dr. Li and Ms. Chowdhury provided an overview of their research on utilizing Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) sensors to collect pedestrian behavioral data and improve pedestrian safety. In a response to the rising number of pedestrian fatalities from 2010 to 2019, safety measures utilizing various technologies were researched to increase equity in transportation safety. Using purely pedestrian count data was not indicative of safety. LiDAR was then used, which measures distances by illuminating the target with laser light and measuring the time the reflection of the light takes to return to the sensor, to conduct pedestrian safety data collection. The LiDAR sensors are efficient and reliable in identifying objects and their characteristics such as types (of travel mode), behaviors, etc. in light or dark conditions. A pilot study using LiDAR to monitor pedestrian behavior was conducted at two locations, UTA Blvd. and S. Cooper St. in Arlington, and W. Walnut Hill Ln. and N. Belt Line Rd. in Irving. It took approximately 2.5 hours to install the computer system and LiDAR at each intersection, with an additional hour to calibrate the equipment remotely. Results from the study found that perception-reaction time did not match the recommended walk time. Results also measured pedestrian crossing speeds were significantly slower than the 4.0 ft/s recommended by AASHTO, which implies an urgent need to modify the guidelines for traffic signal control design.

For more information on this research, please visit: <https://actionlab.uta.edu>

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

4. Walk. Bike. Safe Texas Initiative and Training for Law Enforcement – Neal Johnson, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Neal provided an overview on the *Walk. Bike. Safe.* initiative and resources created for training law enforcement. *Walk. Bike. Safe.* is a program that was created by TTI and is sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation. This outreach program focuses on safety for pedestrians and bicyclists through educational websites, social media messaging, and safety videos regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety laws and best practices. This program was formed in reaction to the increased number of pedestrian fatalities since 2010, which saw a 100 percent increase, while bicycle fatalities saw an 83 percent increase. Law enforcement training regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety laws and best practices, also a part of this program, allows for officers to receive training of new and existing laws and regulations regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety.

For more information about Walk. Bike. Safe, please visit: www.walkbikesafetexas.org

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

5. Santa Fe Trail Master Plan – Samuel Mortimer, Friends of Santa Fe Trail

Samuel provided an overview on the Santa Fe Trail Master Plan that seeks to create a corridor identity that embraces the forest, prairie, and urban landscapes. The Plan for this trail corridor in Dallas includes design elements incorporated from public input from the surrounding communities, which ultimately formulated the overall recommendations. Safety, lighting, branding and art, water, seating and gathering, planting, wayfinding, and education were among the recommended elements to be added along the trail. Elements within the designated prairie landscape zone included supporting adjacent parks and connecting to neighborhoods, provide unique neighborhood spaces, and increase native planting and wetlands. The forest landscape zone includes elements such as embracing varied terrain, allow for dense forest experiences, shade and cooling opportunities, and incorporating areas for respite. Major interventions for the overall trail included the Tokalon Park Trailhead, Old Rail Bridge Overlook, Grand Ave Overpass, Brookside Overpass, Glasgow Trailhead, “T” Intersection Park, and Deep Ellum and Fair Park Gateways. The master plan is now on the second round of public input.

For more information, please visit: www.linktr.ee/fosft

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

6. NCTCOG Updates

a. Monthly Trail Usage and Data Collection and Reporting – Daniel Snyder

Daniel provided a brief overview on updates to NCTCOG’s online traffic count map. Monthly Trail Usage counts were currently unavailable but will be updated soon. Bicycle and pedestrian count data are available on NCTCOG’s Online Traffic Count Map. In addition to vehicular traffic counts, agencies can review historical count data graphs and charts on existing trail counters in the region. Daniel also shared the Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Exchange developed by the Texas Transportation Institute and TxDOT. This online map platform can be used to view patterns and trends of bicycle and pedestrian count locations collected across the state.

The Online Traffic Count Map can be found here:

<https://trafficcounts.nctcog.org/trafficcount/>

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

b. Regional Trail Branding and Wayfinding Project – Shawn Conrad

Shawn provided an overview on the Fort Worth to Dallas Regional Trail Branding project that aims to enhance functionality, promote visibility, attract new users, and programming to the trail. The trail branding project hopes to create a regional-level trail name and brand by creating wayfinding signage guidelines, unified 911 signage and lighting recommendations, and recommendations for major event infrastructure. A local stakeholder meeting was held virtually on November 4 to identify priorities for the project, introduce project goals, scope of work, branding process, roles, and schedules. In addition, an online tool to provide feedback on the trail called “Map Your Experience” was created to mark places of interest along the trail, along with common access points and routes. This project is anticipated to be completed in Fall 2022.

For more information, please visit: www.FortWorthtoDallasTrail.com

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

c. Regional Complete Streets Policy/Context Sensitive Design – Julie Anderson

Julie provided an overview on Context Sensitive Design (CSD) of Complete Streets, a slight change in approach to the Regional Complete Streets Policy presented at the August 2021 BPAC meeting. Context Sensitive Design is a design process that not only considers physical aspects or standard specifications of a transportation facility, but also the economic, social, and environmental resources in the community being served by the facility. This ensures that projects are safe for all users, implements a shared stakeholder vision, meets or exceeds the expectations for both designers and stakeholders, and demonstrates effective and efficient use of resources. Next steps include developing a policy for RTC adoption with the Mobility 2045 update to be completed in spring 2022, developing a draft CSD checklist/guide, receiving feedback from regional stakeholders and through public meetings, and finalizing the CSD checklist/guideline.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

d. TxDOT Inventory/Active Transportation Tool – Julie Anderson

Julie provided an overview on the TxDOT Active Transportation Plan Inventory tool, which is a map-based central repository of bicycle, pedestrian, or any other form of human-powered, non-motorized transportation (e.g., micro mobility, skateboarding, wheelchair use, etc.). The goals of the tool include providing a centralized inventory of active transportation plans across Texas, enable easy access to active transportation plans by engineers and the public, increase collaboration and coordination among planning professionals, and facilitate the development of safe bicycle and pedestrian networks. All communities in Texas are encouraged to participate in this effort when the tool becomes available Winter 2022.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

e. **Update on the TxDOT Roadway Design Manual – Julie Anderson**

Julie provided a brief follow-up to Ken Mora’s presentation during the May 2021 BPAC meeting regarding the Interim Guidance for Design Practices to Accommodate Bicycles. The updated Chapter 6, Section 4 Bikeway Facilities material emphasizes “context” considerations and Bikeway Planning principals: safety, comfort, connectivity, and cohesiveness. The expected publication of the new TxDOT Roadway Design Manual (RDM) is December 2021. NCTCOG will be distributing a link to the updated RDM when it is available.

For more information, please visit:

http://onlinemanuals.txdot.gov/txdotmanuals/rdw/bicycle_facilities.htm

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

f. **2022 BPAC Representatives and Meeting Schedule – Bobby Kozub**

Bobby provided a quick announcement that STTC members will soon be receiving an email regarding the nomination of 2022 BPAC Representatives and 2022 BPAC meeting schedule. BPAC members will be sent a copy of the 2021 attendance sheet for any corrections necessary before the email is sent to STTC for next year’s nominations.

7. **Other Business/ Open Discussion**

BPAC members joined Bobby in congratulating Kathy Nelson for serving as Chair for the BPAC for 2021.

Kathy announced the date of BPAC’s next scheduled meeting, to be held on February 16, 2022.

Members in Attendance at the November 17, 2021, BPAC meeting:

MEMBERS	
Krishan Patel	City of Allen
Anthony Cisneros	City of Arlington
Heather Houseman	City of Burleson
Marcos Fernandez	City of Carrollton
Ray, Shawn	City of Cedar Hill
Laura Melton	City of Cleburne
Kathryn Rush	City of Dallas
George, Nathaniel D.	City of Denton
Skye Thibodeaux	City of Duncanville
Williams, Jeremy	City of Fort Worth
Robert Caskey	City of Frisco
Josue De La Vega	City of Garland
Brett Huntsman	City of Grand Prairie
Kathy Nelson	City of Grapevine
Anderson, Letora	City of Greenville
Cody Owen	City of Irving
Cody Maberry	City of Keller
Emma Chetuya	City of Lancaster
Chris Ray	City of Mansfield
Robyn Root	City of McKinney
Joe Pack	City of North Richland Hills
Drew Brawner	City of Plano
Jessica Shutt	City of Richardson
Tara Bradley	City of Rowlett
Colby Collins	city of Waxahachie
Chad Marbut	City of Weatherford
Robert Diaz	city of Wylie
Minesha Reese	Dallas County
Ryan Mccutchan	DART
Tim Palermo	DCTA
Kevin St. Jacques	Hunt County
Susan Au	Tarrant County
Matthew Hotelling	Town of Flower Mound
Phillip Hays	TxDOT Fort Worth District

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance at the November 17, 2021, BPAC meeting:

Julie Anderson	NCTCOG
Shawn Conrad	NCTCOG
Kevin Kokes	NCTCOG
Robert Kozub	NCTCOG
Cauner McDonald	NCTCOG
Daniel Snyder	NCTCOG