

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

### **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

**February 24, 2021**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) met virtually at 2:00 pm on February 24, 2021, via Microsoft Teams.

See Pages 4 and 5 for meeting attendance

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

Kathy Nelson welcomed attendees and introduced herself as the new 2021 Chair of BPAC, and Robert Caskey as the new Vice-Chair. The November 2020 meeting summary was accepted as submitted. A list of BPAC Committee members was read and each member present introduced themselves, the city they represent, and an active transportation project they are most excited about (past, present, or future).

#### **2. Local Community Updates**

##### **a. Upcoming TxDOT Call for Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Projects – Maher Ghanayem, TxDOT**

Maher Ghanayem provided a summary of criteria and deadlines for project funding in non-urban communities as part of TxDOT's 2021 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Call for Projects (CFP). Eligible project areas for TxDOT's CFP are non-urban communities located outside of the census urbanized areas and possess a population less than 200,000. The upcoming CFP has an extended deadline of March 8, 2021, for preliminary applications, with a maximum of three applications per entity, for the fiscal years of 2023-2024. There will be approximately \$10.5 million dollars available for fiscal year 2021-2022 and approximately \$13 million available for 2023-2024. Basic requirements include having less than 50,000 residents and completing the 20 percent local funding match. After approval, there is a three-year window to complete projects or entities risk losing awarded funds. Jurisdictions are encouraged to start the process early, as agreements, environmental analyses, and preliminary designs can typically take one – two years, leaving limited time to design the project. If a community has any questions about the requirements and timeline, more information can be found at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov).

This presentation can be found on the [BPAC Website](#).

##### **b. Update on the Loop Trail Project – Philip Hiatt Haigh, Circuit Trail Conservancy**

Philip Hiatt Haigh provided an update on a trail alignment within the Loop Trail Project that lies within an active freight rail right-of-way, making it a unique "Rails-with-Trails" project, unlike the more common "Rails-to-Trails" alignments that create first/last mile connectors to passenger rail stations. The Circuit Trail Conservancy assisted in the design, engineering, and legal counsel to the City of Dallas and railroad owners in the development of the Trinity Forest Spine Trail.

The Cotton Belt and Ridgewood trails are other examples where collaborative efforts between rail companies and transportation developers are needed. It was noted that when developing rails-with-trails projects, designs must accommodate rail needs such as maintenance and operational demands. In the case of the KCS railroad crossing along the Trinity Forest Spine Trail at White Rock Lake, several design and alignment iterations were considered before KCS gave the approval for final trail construction documents and license agreements. In similar coordination with Union Pacific along the same trail, a bench-cut design at the undercrossing was required to avoid interaction the rail activities. With such a high frequency of requests to rail companies to build within their right-of-way, feasible engineering designs and secured funding must be in place before development discussions can begin.

For more information please visit: [www.theloopdallas.org](http://www.theloopdallas.org).

This presentation can be found on the [BPAC Website](#).

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

Robert Caskey reviewed upcoming events and training opportunities for active transportation professionals. Event details can be found on the [BPAC Website](#).

**3. Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan – Matt Fall**

Matt Fall provided an update on the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) which is now in its final editing phase. The Federal Highway Administration designated Dallas and Fort Worth as Focus Cities in an effort to prioritize federal resources within the region, due to the increasing rate of reported pedestrian fatalities. The policies and actionable items in the PSAP support the Texas Transportation Commission and TxDOT's performance targets, aimed at eliminating all pedestrian fatalities by 2050. The PSAP will serve as a framework for the local governments and agencies in the Metropolitan Planning Area, who are encouraged to develop their own locally significant pedestrian safety plans. A PSAP steering committee was assembled in the development of the PSAP to provide technical assistance and guidance. Pedestrian safety corridors were identified based on crash density, to target locations where funding for countermeasures and infrastructure treatments would be most effective. The PSAP will be finalized and shared with BPAC members by mid-2021.

This presentation can be found on the [BPAC Website](#).

**4. Garland Trails & Bikeways Master Plan Update – Ziad Kharrat**

Ziad Kharrat provided an update on the Garland Trails & Bikeways Master Plan, which will serve to update the 2015 Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Garland's recently adopted goals for connectivity. Many feasibility studies have gone into the plan that looked at trail alignments throughout highlighting areas of interest and important pedestrian crossings at major intersections. The City of Garland collaborated with TxDOT to ensure safe bicycle and pedestrian crossings within the state highways right-of-way. The planning process was comprehensive in assessing existing conditions, engaging the community, determining system needs, and developing safety and design recommendations. The Plan was presented to council members individually, to answer any district-specific questions.

This presentation can be found on the [BPAC Website](#).

**5. NCTCOG Updates – Caryn Sanders, Regional Trip Reduction Resolution Review**

Caryn Sanders presented an update regarding the Travel Demand Management (TDM) team's proposal for a NCTCOG Regional Transportation Council resolution establishing a regional trip reduction target to reduce single occupancy vehicle travel throughout the region. Trip reduction targets are not a one-size-fits-all issue, and mandatory telework and employer buy-in is necessary. In establishing an annual trip reduction target, the TDM team considered employer-specific trip reduction programs, monitoring of agency participation utilizing TryParkingIt.com, and annual target status updates.

This presentation can be found on the [BPAC Website](#).

**Members in Attendance at the February 24, 2021 BPAC meeting:**

City of Allen	Krishan Patel
City of Arlington	Eric Seebock
City of Burleson	Heather Houseman
City of Carrollton	Marcos Fernandez
City of Cedar Hill	Shawn Ray
City of Colleyville	Lisa Escobedo
City of Coppell	John Elias
City of Dallas	Jessica Scott
City of Denton	Chandra Muruganandham
City of DeSoto	Tony Irvin
City of Duncanville	Athena Seaton
City of Farmers Branch	Mitzi Davis
City of Fort Worth	Jeremy Williams
City of Frisco	Robert Caskey
City of Garland	Josue de la Vega
City of Grand Prairie	Brett Huntsman
City of Grapevine	Kathy Nelson
City of Haltom City	Melissa Eckert
City of Irving	Cody Owen
City of Keller	Cody Maberry
City of Lancaster	Emma Chetuya
city of Lewisville	Stacie Anaya
City of Mansfield	Chris Ray
City of McKinney	Robyn Root
City of Mesquite	Wes McClure
City of North Richland Hills	Joe Pack
City of Plano	Drew Brawner
City of Richardson	Jessica Shutt
City of Rowlett	Tara Bradley
City of Southlake	Ken Baker
City of The Colony	Eve Morgan
City of Waxahachie	Colby Collins
City of Weatherford	Chad Marbut
City of Wylie	Brent Stowers
Dallas County	Micah Baker
DART	Patricio Gallo
DCTA	Tim Palermo
NTTA	Kelly Johnson
Rockwall County	Lee Gilbert
Town of Flower Mound	Kari Biddix
Trinity Metro	Jennifer Grissom
TxDOT Dallas District	Melissa Meyer
TxDOT Fort Worth District	Phillip Hays
Wise County	Chad Davis

**NCTCOG Staff in Attendance at the February 24, 2021, 2020 BPAC meeting:**

Julie Anderson	NCTCOG
Matt Fall	NCTCOG
Carolyn Horner	NCTCOG
Kevin Kokes	NCTCOG
Robert Kozub	NCTCOG
Sonya Landrum	NCTCOG
Preston McLaughlin	NCTCOG
Caryn Sanders	NCTCOG
Daniel Snyder	NCTCOG