

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

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

**November 20, 2019**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) met at 2:00 pm on November 20, 2019, at NCTCOG offices. Please see Pages 5 and 6 for meeting attendance.

#### **Meeting Summary Outline**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. TxDOT Memorandum: Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) and Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHBs)
3. Local Community Updates
4. City of McKinney Safety Committee Coordination
5. Statewide TxDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) Update
6. NCTCOG Updates
7. Other Business/Open Discussion
8. Review of Regional Veloweb, Community paths and On-Street Bikeways Network Maps

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions – Jessica Shutt, Co-Chair, City of Richardson**

Jessica Shutt welcomed attendees and introduced herself as the 2019 Chair of BPAC. The August 21, 2019 meeting summary was accepted as submitted with no further discussion.

#### **2. TxDOT Memorandum: Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) and Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHBs) – Heather Lott, TxDOT Traffic Safety Division**

Heather provided an overview of TxDOT's memorandum from 2018, which offers guidance on the use of RRFBs and PHBs following the Federal Highway Administration granting TxDOT interim approval for the use of the beacons at marked crosswalks where crossing is not controlled by a traffic control device (i.e. a signal or a stop sign). The RRFBs can be used in conjunction with signs and pavement markings to warn and control traffic at locations where pedestrians enter or cross a street or highway. Heather provided further details regarding the conditions that must be met before RRFBs can be considered on facilities. The memorandum and links to other related guidance documents can be found on the [BPAC website](#).

#### **3. Local Community Updates**

##### **a. Earn-a-Bike Program – Stan Hart, Bike Friendly Dallas**

Stan provided an overview about the Earn-a-Bike program, a service provided by Bike Friendly South Dallas (a nonprofit founded in 2012). Children of low-income families, previously incarcerated individuals and other community members that may otherwise have difficulty learning about or purchasing bicycles are able to earn bicycles through volunteer work or by donating a small amount to the program. More information about the project can be found on the [BPAC website](#).

**b. Southwest Boulevard Construction Update – Julia Ryan, City of Fort Worth**

Julia provided an overview of the bikeway project along Southwest Boulevard (SH-183), an important connection to the future Bomber Spur trail. Julia discussed key sections of the project, including an off-street connection to the Trinity trails system requiring the addition of retaining walls and an “on-road trail”. A unique aspect of the project was the conversion of the roadway shoulder to a trail, using flex curbs/posts as a barrier to separate the trail from the travel lanes, thus providing a safe travel option for active road users. The flex curb/post barrier cost \$108 per linear foot. Julia shared lessons learned such as engaging private rail stakeholders early in the process and avoiding delays by identifying sunken utilities prior to the construction phase. The presentation can be found on the [BPAC website](#).

**c. Main/Columbia/Abram Project Update – Jared White, City of Dallas**

Jared highlighted complete streets design concepts the City has been designing and meeting with neighborhoods related to the Main/Columbia/Abrams project, including a retrofit of the roadway to incorporate protected bike lanes, “floating” bus stops, and improved pedestrian facilities. The project will convert the existing 6-lane median divided arterial to a 4-lane roadway, with traffic calming measures to connect neighborhoods and improve safety for all transportation modes. Jared also discussed the use of zebra domes within lane buffers and “floating” bus stops for the DART bus stops. The presentation can be found on the [BPAC website](#).

**d. Katy Trail Connection – Philip Hiatt-Haigh, Circuit Trail Conservancy**

Philip discussed facilities currently under design linking the Katy trail in Victory Park (east of IH 35E) to the Trinity Strand trail (west of IH 35E) in Dallas, including effective intersection treatments designed to require as little maintenance as possible. Intersection improvements along the CTC Hi-Line Connector include dedicated bicycle and pedestrian lanes, bicycle signaling, reduced width of vehicle travel lanes, and retrofit of the street curb to widen sidewalks. The project includes improvements to Hi Line which crosses under IH 35E and requires coordination with TxDOT. From the Katy Trail to IH 35E the project will have separated pedestrian and bicycle lanes alongside the roadway (raised from the travel lanes). From IH 35E westward to the Trinity Strand Trail the project will include a shared use path through the center median of Hi Line. Extensive public art and landscape installations will be included through private funding sources. The presentation can be found on the [BPAC website](#).

**e. Upcoming Events and Training – Jessica Shutt, Chair**

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

**4. City of McKinney Safety Committee Coordination – Robyn Root, City of McKinney**

Robyn provided an overview on the City of McKinney’s Safety Committee, which formed through a joint agreement between the City and McKinney ISD to improve traffic, crossing guard locations and other general safety measures. The committee has made many significant improvements thus far, including relocating driver feedback signs to be directly adjacent to crossing areas, putting crosswalks where students may otherwise take higher

risk shortcuts, and using walk audit data to determine safe alignments in the development of future pedestrian paths. The presentation can be found on the [BPAC website](#).

## **5. Statewide TxDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee Update – Kevin Kokes, AICP, NCTCOG**

Kevin presented an update from the October TxDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) held in Austin. Karla Weaver serves as the North Texas representative on the BAC. TxDOT is currently developing access and eligibility mechanisms to support the state's Unified Transportation Plan. Funding awarded by the TxDOT State Commission this year includes \$600 million for safety projects, inclusive of \$60 million specifically for pedestrian enhancements and \$120 million for intersection improvements to be distributed in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 (as identified in district-wide safety plans). The recently conducted statewide Transportation Alternatives (TA) Call for Projects saw \$270 million in requests from applicants through 250 project applications currently eligible for review. There is \$8 million available statewide for Safe Routes to School projects and \$46 million for all TA projects in areas with populations under 200K. A draft project list is expected by December and a conditional project list for the commission is expected in February. The commission has requested the BAC consider an option to expand the Pedestrian Focus and to look closer at micro-mobility at the state level. These changes would occur as part of the 2021 Legislative Cycle for a Statutory Change. The committee is also continuing development of Bikeway Design information, which may address the removal of wide (14-ft) outside lanes as project options for bicyclists along routes with high automobile counts.

## **6. NCTCOG Updates**

### **a. Regional Pedestrian Safety Survey Results – Matt Fall**

Matt presented the results of the Regional Pedestrian Safety Survey, conducted in May-July of 2019, as part of NCTCOG's regionwide Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. Input from the 1,045 respondents showed overwhelming support for walking as a transportation option, given the expansion of accessible facilities, safety measures, and education for all road users. The presentation can be found on the [BPAC website](#).

### **b. Trail of the Month Videos – Matt Fall**

Matt provided an overview of a video series NCTCOG's bicycle and pedestrian planning team has developed as an outreach initiative to highlight the region's trail system. New videos are posted the first week of each month, focused on the benefits of the trail for purposes of transportation, regional connectivity, access to job centers and schools, and community enhancement. Videos include interviews with elected officials, trail users, city staff, and "friends of trail" groups. The presentation can be found on the [BPAC website](#).

### **c. Walk to School Day Results – Kathryn Rush**

Kathryn provided highlights of the Walk to School day that took place on October 2, 2019, with many schools, city staff and elected officials helping to make the event a success. Kathryn detailed strategies to increase future participation, including continued regional promotion, more incentives and expanded outreach. School Districts are eligible to receive educational materials and are invited to check out [school kit](#) reference materials on the [Look Out Texans](#) website. The presentation can be found on the [BPAC website](#).

**d. 2020 Transportation Alternatives Program 2020 Call for Projects – Daniel Snyder**

Daniel provided an overview of the anticipated 2020 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects for the North Central Texas Region. The Call will have an active transportation project category as well as a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project category. Eligible active transportation projects must be located within the urbanized area boundary, whereas SRTS projects can be located anywhere within the 12-county metropolitan planning area. Funding awards for the 2020 Call projects will be limited to construction only, thus requiring engineering design and environmental approvals to be funded entirely with local funds. A minimum 20 percent local match will also be required for the construction phase. The Call for Projects is anticipated to open on February 17, 2020, and close on May 15, 2020. More details regarding eligible areas, project categories, schedule and scoring criteria can be found on the [BPAC website](#).

**7. Other Business/Open Discussion – Co-Chair Jessica Shutt, City of Richardson**

Jessica opened the floor to Committee members for open discussion. Jessica announced the date of BPAC's next scheduled meeting on February 19, 2020, at 2 PM at NCTCOG.

**8. Review of Regional Veloweb, Community Paths and On-Street Bikeways Network Maps – All**

BPAC attendees reviewed maps and provided feedback to update the regional trails and bikeways geodatabase maintained by NCTCOG.

**Members in Attendance at the November 20, 2019 BPAC meeting:**

<b>Representing</b>	<b>Name</b>
City of Arlington	Anthony Cisneros
City of Carrollton	Marcos Fernandez
City of Cedar Hill	Shawn Ray
City of Colleyville	Lisa Escobedo
City of Dallas	Jared White
City of Denton	Marc Oliphant
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	Dennis Williams
City of Grand Prairie	Brett Huntsman
City of Grapevine	Cindy Harris
City of Irving	Cody Owen
City of Keller	Cody Maberry
City of Lewisville	Stacie Anaya
City of Mansfield	Chris Ray
City of McKinney	Robyn Root
City of Mesquite	Wes McClure
City of Midlothian	Heather Dowell
City of North Richland Hills	Joe Pack
City of Plano	Christina Sebastian
City of Richardson	Jessica Shutt
City of Southlake	Stephanie Taylor
City of The Colony	Eve Morgan
City of Waxahachie	Colby Collins
City of Weatherford	Chad Marbut
City of Wylie	Robert Diaz
Town of Addison	Janna Tidwell
Town of Flower Mound	Matt Hotelling
Dallas County	Minesha Reese
Ellis County	Joseph Jackson
Hunt County	Brian Crooks
Rockwall County	Lee Gilbert
Tarrant County	Mike Galizio
Wise County	Chad Davis
Dallas Area Rapid Transit	Patricio Gallo
Denton County Transportation Authority	Tim Palermo
Trinity Metro	Sandip Sen

**Non-Members and Guests in Attendance at the November 20, 2019 BPAC meeting:**

Representing	Name
Bike Friendly South Dallas	Stan Hart
BW2	Jim Waldbauer
Circuit Trail Conservancy	Philip Hiatt-Haigh
City of Corinth	George Marshall
City of Fort Worth	Julia Ryan
City of Fort Worth	Quenell Johnson
City of Lewisville	Mike Kim
City of North Richland Hills	Chad Van Steenberg
City of Plano	Lance Knox
City of Weatherford	Terry Hughes
Federal Highway Administration	Amelia Hayes
Ford Mobility	Madeline Shepherd
Fort Worth Bike Sharing	Jennifer Grissom
Halff Associates, Inc.	Bud Melton
Halff Associates, Inc.	Dean Stuller
KSA Engineers	Abiel Carrillo

**NCTCOG Staff in Attendance at the November 20, 2019 BPAC meeting:**

Matt Fall
Kevin Kokes
Kathryn Rush
Daniel Snyder