

# Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) Meeting Minutes

November 23, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Community Room  
215 North Mason Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80522

FOR REFERENCE:

Chair, Sylvia Cranmer	970-493-5277
Staff Liaison, Tessa Greegor	970-416-2471

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Ragan Adams, Parks and Recreation Board  
Joe Halseth, Natural Resource Advisory Board  
Mark Houdashelt, Air Quality Advisory Board  
Chris Hunt, Poudre School District  
Chris Johnson, Bike Fort Collins, Director  
Kelly McDonnell, Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition  
Greg Oakes, Transportation Board  
Edward Reifsnnyder, Land Conservation & Stewardship Board  
Lee Swanson, Downtown Development Authority

## AT LARGE MEMBERS PRESENT

Cathy Busch-Kinkaid  
Sylvia Cranmer, Chair  
Patrick McCarty

## ABSENT

Lawrence Bontempo, Senior Advisory Board  
Joy Childress, Colorado State University  
Todd Dangerfield, Downtown Development Authority (alternate)  
Bruce Henderson, Parks and Recreation Board (alternate)  
Ryan Nicholson, Fort Collins Bike Co-op

## CITY OF FORT COLLINS STAFF PRESENT

Tessa Greegor, FC Bikes Program Manager  
Nancy Nichols, Safe Routes to School Coordinator  
Kurt Friesen, City of Fort Collins Park Planning Manager  
Amy Lewin, Tracy Lipfert, and Rachel Prelog, FC Moves

## GUESTS and CITIZENS PRESENT

Aaron Buckley, Citizen  
York, Citizen (also alternate member for Transportation Board)  
Kristi Savig, Recorder

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was preceded with dinner provided by Pizza Casbah (5:45 – 6:00), and called to order by Chair Cranmer at 6:00 p.m.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

The Chair briefly reviewed the presentations and speakers scheduled for the evening.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Chair addressed the two guests present regarding requests for comments and refreshed all attendees regarding protocols followed by the BAC in regards to public involvement and comments. She stated there is a limited time in the agenda for public comment and that no public comments should be made other than during the public comment period.

No public comments were made at this meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes of October 26<sup>th</sup>, with the following changes to Committee member status. Four (4) attendees abstained since they were not at the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chair Cranmer mentioned that Chris Hutchinson, University Connections member was not noted as an absent member in the October 26<sup>th</sup> minutes. Chris Hutchinson has resigned from the BAC, but it was not until November 2015, following last month’s meeting. Also, Bruce Henderson will now be considered as an alternate BAC member for the Parks and Recreation Board. Chris Johnson will now be the BAC committee member for Bike Fort Collins. The chair noted that there are currently 16 Board Members. Further discussion may be necessary in regards to the need for two-thirds of members (majority) being present to conduct votes.

**FOLLOW-UP FROM PRIOR MEETING/FUTURE BUSINESS**

There are no current agenda items for the December meeting at this time. Unless Tessa Greeger (Staff Liaison) hears a need for agenda items to be discussed in December, no meeting will be scheduled.

Mark Houdashelt (Air Quality Advisory Board) asked about the January and February meeting dates due to conflicts with rescheduled Air Advisory Meetings. The Chair asked if any other board meeting conflicts were known. None were mentioned. Mark was ok with missing the two meetings if they could not be rescheduled.

**ACTION ITEMS**

None mentioned.

**DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**Trails Update (Kurt Friesen, City of Fort Collins Park Planning Manager)**

Kurt has been with the Park Planning and Development Division for over a year. Designing trails and parks is a primary focus of his work. Kurt provided a quick but thorough overview of current and future trail projects the Division is working on.

Complete Projects for 2015:

- Fossil Creek Trail (Trilby & Lemay), underpass under Trilby

- Poudre Trail (Mulberry & Lemay), repurposed pedestrian bridge, complete Summer 2015
- Poudre Trail Repair (Environmental Learning Center), completed Summer 2015
- Poudre Trail Arapahoe Bend Natural Area- Two (2) miles of trail Harmony to Rigden Reservoir, completed fall 2015.
  - o Kurt was excited about this trail and sees it as an initiating piece for the trail crossing under I-25. (Note: although the design process is underway, the CDOT I-25 bridge replacement process is dependent on funding etc.)
  - o A ¾ mile stretch remains to connect Rigden Reservoir to the Environmental Learning Center trail area. Barriers to finish this piece include land purchase requirements (private developer owned), railroad crossing, and CSU property easements. (Note: no funds are available for this remaining stretch at this time.)

Cathy Busch-Kinkaid (Member at Large) asked about maps of these areas. None are available online as of yet, but Kurt offered to email his documents/maps if requested.

#### Future Working Projects:

- Fossil Creek Trail (Shields to College)- There are signs of BNSF approval coming soon to enable 2016 construction of the railroad underpass. It will be very expensive and complex to tunnel under the railroad.
- Fort Collins/Loveland Trail Connections:
  - o Longview Trail (4 mile trail along Shields from the Cathy Fromme trailhead to Loveland) - Loveland, Larimer County, & Ft Collins all working on this trail segment.
  - o Colorado Front Range Trail (Carpenter & Lemay) – This trail will follow the power line and county roads south to Boyd Lake; another Loveland, Larimer County and Ft. Collins Partnership.

#### Discussion points:

Ragan Adams (Parks & Recreation Board) mentioned that the Parks and Recreation budgets must balance expansion with maintenance. It's important to keep maintenance requirements in mind as these new trails (as well as parks) are developed.

Kurt mentioned that there have been several matching grants received to build these trails. However, the matching process has required city funds (from the budget).

#### Q&A

Q. Is there a reason the center line is not being replaced on existing trails.

A. Painting has been a safety issue (slippery when wet pavement). The Division is leaning towards putting these back in future if possible.

Q. Chris Johnson (Bike Fort Collins) asked about plans to make the Hwy-287 and Poudre Valley Trailer Park area, as well as north Willow neighborhood more accessible to existing and future trails.

A. Nancy Nichols (Safe Routes to Schools) mentioned the current project for North Willow and Poudre Park.

Q. A question was made regarding the Colorado Front Range Trail (Carpenter & Lemay) roundabout at County Road 30.

A. Kurt responded that the County and Loveland divisions should look at this area.

### **West Elizabeth Enhanced Travel Corridor Plan (Amy Lewin/Rachel Prelog)**

Amy Lewin and Rachel Prelog of FC Moves reviewed progress of the Corridor Plan, originally presented to the BAC in April 2015. They were requesting BAC members' comments in regards to facilities and treatments that would be best for corridor.

### **West Elizabeth Enhanced Travel Corridor (ETC) Plan - Overview**

- ETC's are uniquely designed corridors that are being planned for high frequency connections.
- The West Elizabeth ETC will provide opportunities to connect CSU Foothills Campus on the west to Max transit centers on campus on the east. The corridor's south and north boundaries would be W. Prospect Rd. and W. Mulberry St. respectively.
- The Plan has an 18 Month timeline (March 2015 – July 2016).

Many activities have and are being conducted to gain corridor transit understanding, including surveys, classes, listening sessions, etc.

### **High Level Themes**

- Vehicles – traffic volume, speeding, access concerns, conflicts with others
- Transit –highest ridership corridor, buses are overcrowded.
- Walking – high number of pedestrians, inconsistent facilities to walk (east-west) in corridor, not ADA compliant
- Biking – high number of cyclists and crashes, challenging intersections, and driveway conflicts in Campus West area

### **Vision Highlights for the West Elizabeth ETC**

- Be unique and adaptable
- Be safe and comfortable for all users
- Encourage and prioritize public transportation and active transportation options.
- Support the interconnectivity of all modes
- Be a beautiful and vibrant environment.

### **Preliminary Corridor Improvement Approaches**

- Near Term – Provide Tweak and Tune Transit Services to better meet demand, and consider other improvements that can be made without large investments.
- Mid-Term
  - A. Transportation Systems Management
  - B. Traffic Calming Focus
  - C. W. Elizabeth St. MAX transit Focus
- Long Term
  - D. Economic Vitality Focus – focus on Campus West area

Amy and Rachel provided BAC members with a November 23, 2015 draft of the Corridor Plan map, as well graphic figures of several bike related treatments from the 2014 Bike Plan.

### **“What types of bike treatments are appropriate for the West Elizabeth Corridor?”**

Time was given for BAC members to review facility option concepts, including 1) Conventional Bike Lanes, 2) Buffered Bike Lanes, and 3) Protected Bike Lanes.

- Patrick McCarty (At large member) suggested “More infrastructure and buffer is needed as you move east from Overland to Shields”. There is more concern and awareness of need as approaching Taft.

- The intersection at Elizabeth and Taft may also need to be highlighted (treated), especially around bus stops in the area.
- Kelly McDonnell (Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition) asked, "Would you consider a shared bike lane going east and west across Shields into/from campus parking?" The bike traffic here is too much to ride single file.
- Lee Swanson (Downtown Development Authority) suggested implementing the buffered bike lane as much as possible; however, this might limit riding side by side.
- The benefits and disadvantages of buffered bike lanes and infrastructures were discussed.

### Discussion and Q&A

Potential bike improvements were discussed among meeting attendees

- Two-stage-left-turn boxes at key intersections. (Used in Taiwan).
- Green paint treatments through intersections
- Protected intersections/elements
- Roundabouts at key intersections.

Q. What are the projects for 10-15 years out on the West Elizabeth corridor? Is growth stable or getting worse?

A. The City looked at figures for 2040 if no changes were made. Amy recalled traffic volumes might increase as much as 20% over current volumes. All the more need to encourage biking alternatives.

A. The ETC tries to provide viable options to driving. Both the City's Modal Plans and Climate Action Plan also call for a need to reduce greenhouse gasses (GHG) and support the purpose of the ETC efforts.

Chris Hunt (Poudre School District) thought if we can encourage residents west of campus to ride bikes, it would greatly reduce vehicle traffic.

- By making West Elizabeth more bike friendly, it would also make riding more "calming".

Mark Houdashelt felt the area has the greatest conflict for cyclists with other cyclists, more than vehicles. The volume of cyclists is a safety issue.

- Amy mentioned that a wider bike lane may be necessary to accommodate excess volume of cyclists.
- Patrick suggested the speed limit could be reduced in zones of highest bicycle concentrations.
- The roadway needs to be designed in a way to slow down speeds in this area.

Ragan Adams mentioned that the quick vehicle accelerations are of concern going in and out of the Campus West area.

- Q. Has it been discussed to reduce the number of curb cuts and access points in this project?
- A. Amy said they are looking at options for access and turn options in and out of these areas.

Q. Ragan asked about reviewing the pros and cons of the Laurel Street project and how these buffered lane changes might provide planning guidance for the Elizabeth corridor.

A. The Laurel Street protected bike lane project is still ongoing. Additional evaluation planned for spring 2016.

York (Guest, Alternate from Transportation Board) mentioned CSU's plans to connect people to campus across Shields. Amy concurred that both the City's and CSU's potential Shields crossing designs are being reviewed in parallel at this time.

- This may include an underpass at Shields and Elizabeth.
- Shields crossings are also being looked at Pitkin (on East) and Springfield (on West).

Chair Cranmer mentioned the planter buffers (Protected Bike Lane treatment) are possible structures that would encourage slower traffic calming. Amy agreed that these could act in this way.

- Chris Johnson added that if access driveways exist, the planter buffer might make this further complicated. A shared lane (bikes and vehicles) would also not allow this type of structure.

A few members felt a lower speed and pavement sharrows together might give the best access for both bikes and vehicles. City staff mentioned that a shared lane is not preferred given the speeds and traffic volumes.

Q. Is the paint the City is considering going to be slippery when wet?

A. Amy said various types of paint are being considered.

Q. Where are roundabouts being considered?

A. City Park, Ponderosa, Overland are possibilities.

Ragan went on to express concerns for funneled traffic and potential accidents in roundabouts. Amy expressed that education would need to be addressed. Chair Cranmer felt that with the high turnover of student populations and visitors, that having roundabouts will be a constant confusion for new residents in the area (City Park and Elizabeth).

- Greg Oakes (Transportation Board) liked roundabouts as a means to keep traffic flowing.
- The City will be doing a rigorous analysis of these areas and design.

Q. How would pedestrians maneuver through roundabouts?

A. Similar to existing roundabouts (e.g., Remington and Laurel)

The third Stakeholder Committee meeting is scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6-8 pm.

Amy encouraged BAC members to attend the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Alternatives Open House, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1709 W. Elizabeth Street for further review and discussion.

Online Survey – coming soon (early 2016)

### **2015 Bicyclist and Pedestrian Counts (Amy Lewin/Tracey Lipfert)**

Amy Lewin and Tracey Lipfert of FC Moves updated BAC members and guests on the September 15, 17, and 19<sup>th</sup> pedestrian count process and analysis results.

Their presentation recapped the following details about the project:

- The project started in 2014 and follows guidelines of the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation (NBPD) to better understand behavior and trends, and to support planning and prioritization of improvements.
- The Count Review identified total counts on-streets and trails, as well as helmet use and gender identification.
  - 26 count locations were monitored by volunteers and automated traffic counters on Tuesday, September 15; Thursday September 17; and Saturday September 19.
  - Bicyclists, Walkers, Runners/joggers, and other categories were counted
  - Intersection count details included lane usage and directional changes

Tracey distributed an Infographic and bar-graph plots summarizing the 2015 Bicyclist & Pedestrian Count analysis. Highlights of the 2015 study included:

#### 2015 Trail Count Highlights

- Highest 2-hour Count Locations (Bicyclists):

Mason Trail @ Spring Creek Trail (esp. Weekday counts), Spring Creek Trail @ Creekside (esp. Weekday counts), and Poudre Trail & Lee Martinez (esp. Saturday's counts)

- Highest 2-hour Count Locations (Pedestrians):  
Poudre Trail & Lee Martinez (Weekend, 12-2pm), Spring Creek Trail @ Creekside (Weekday 5-7pm), and Spring Creek Trail @ Edora Park (Weekday 7-9am)
- 99% of the dogs observed were on leash
- E-Bikes made up less than 1% of the trail users counted.
- Of all users, 66% were male and 34% were female (This ratio is similar to past years)
- Of all cyclists, 60% were wearing helmets (Trail helmet use much higher percentage than intersection helmet counts) (Helmet use trending the same as past few years)
- Trail users averaged 72% cyclists, 28% pedestrians or other

#### 2015 Intersection (on the streets) Count Highlights

- Highest 2-hour Count Locations (Bicyclists):  
Laurel & Mason (esp. Weekday 5-7pm), with 430 bicyclists counted here this averages 1 bicyclist every 20 seconds. This intersection had the highest 2-hour count for all time periods/days, with the exception of the weekend count.  
Springfield & City Park also had high counts.
- Of all users, 66% were male and 34% were female (This ratio is similar to past years)
- Of all cyclists, 39% were wearing helmets (Helmet use trending the same as past few years)

#### Automated Trail Counter Validation

- Quite a bit of discrepancy was observed between volunteer counts and the automatic trail counters. The infrared sensors picked up a significantly less counts than observers. York mentioned that groups of riders were often counted as one. The discrepancies are so large that Tracy and Amy were not sure how to explain. Cross checks only identified the group monitoring issues (e.g. sensors required 2 second gap to isolate individual riders). The City is working with CDOT in evaluating counter type technology.
- BAC participants appreciated the counter comparison.

#### Next Steps

- Sharing/reporting data
- Automated counter validation
- Use 24 hr. automated counter data
- Next Year's Count
- Add Travel Surveys at schools

Discussion of these results focused primarily on the observed male/female and helmet use statistics.

Q. What do participants feel about the no change in percentage of male and female riders?

Q. What do participants feel about the no change in percentage of helmet usage?

A. York felt that the age of helmet users follows parents and children. Students do not often wear helmets, or choose the direct routes.

A. Chris Johnson mentioned that it isn't just the number of students, but also socio-economics of groups at counted locations.

Chair Cranmer mentioned that increased population (including students) may also be skewing these numbers.

Ragan Adams wanted to further address education opportunities. Are efforts being made to encourage helmet use working? These count results should be shared with educators, pointing out that the statistics are not changing.

## STAFF REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tessa shared a postcard graphic of the bicycle intersection changes at the Prospect Crossing intersection from Heatheridge Road to Lynnwood Drive. She asked for BAC members input as part of Low Stress Network planning. Contact Tessa at [tgreegor@fcgov.com](mailto:tgreegor@fcgov.com) with comments.

Upcoming Bike Winter Activities Include:

- Light up the Night Events – December 7<sup>th</sup>
- Winter Bike to Work Day
- Holiday Lights by Bike – December 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:45-9:00 PM at 281 N. College Ave.

Check out the City's Web site for more details: <http://www.fcgov.com/bikewinter/>

## MEMBER REPORTS

**Lee Swanson (Downtown Development Authority)** – Nothing to report.

**Joe Halseth (Natural Resource Advisory Board)** – Nothing to report.

**Ragan Adams (Parks and Recreation Board)** - Nothing to report.

**Greg Oakes (Transportation Board)** – Greg noted that the last Transportation Board meeting (November) was very engaging. The Mountain Vista Plan (Anheuser-Bush area) was presented. The initial phases of this Plan could be of interest to BAC since it has a large bike component to it. Street standards amendments in the Mountain Vista Plan are now reflecting current Bike Master Plan recommendations.

**Chris Hunt (Poudre School District)** – Chris was excited that all PSD Elementary schools have been given a grant opportunity for Bike fix it stations. He did not see why any school would pass up the opportunity for local bike fix-it station. These stations will provide another opportunity to encourage schools to serve as community centers year around.

**Cathy Busch-Kinkaid (Member at Large)** - Cathy appreciated the trails update presentation.

**Chris Johnson (Bike Fort Collins)** – Bike Fort Collins met recently with CDOT on road signage. Larimer County agreeing to post “3 feet to pass” signage. Bike Fort Collins will also be sponsoring a Community Night at Pour Brother's Community Tavern on December 16<sup>th</sup>. All of the tips generated between 6:00 and 8:00 pm will be donated to BFC.

**Kelly McDonnell (Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition)** – Kelly had nothing to report for the Coalition; however she did encourage additional participation on Bike to Work day, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Odell's will host the FC Bike Library and Brave New Wheel from 4:00-6:00 PM, December 9th. All of the bike raffle proceeds benefit the FC Bike Library.

**Mark Houdashelt (Air Advisory Board)** – Nothing specific to report. He later encouraged BAC members to attend the Climate Action Plan open house, December 14, 2015

**Patrick McCarty (Member at Large)** – Patrick, Sylvia Cranmer, and Tessa Gregor all attended the Regional Bike and Walk Conference at UNC (Greeley) on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Patrick and Sylvia both appreciated the interesting speakers, including Mark Fenton. A portion of the conference that interested Chair Cranmer was the walking tours, where groups of participants went on an “observational” walk/tour as an educational opportunity to observe community design and their surroundings. Cable Channel 14 taped these presentations. Tessa will let us know their availability for viewing at a future meeting.



**Sylvia Cranmer (BAC Chair)** – Chair Cranmer wanted to speak for Joy Childress (CSU) regarding future CSU planning meetings regarding bike and pedestrian access to new campus stadium. BAC members are welcome and invited to participate in these meetings if available. She also encouraged attendees to visit the new Bike Co-op location on North College Ave.

#### **NEW BUSINESS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

##### Planning Calendar

- Tessa invited the BAC members to play more of a role in suggesting presentations/topics for future BAC meetings.

Ragan encouraged BAC members to subscribe to receive email notifications regarding City board and Commission agendas and minutes. See the City web page: <http://www.fcgov.com/cityclerk/boards.php>

- Consider the opportunities to share resources and informative presentations

York noted that BAC members input was welcomed for upcoming 2016 Transportation Board Planning. Greg Oakes added that the Climate Action Plan will also be a part of 2016 planning.

- Mark Houdashelt encouraged Transportation members present, that they may want to attend upcoming Air Advisory Board meetings.

An email should be coming soon regarding the December 14<sup>th</sup> holiday social gathering for BAC members.

The Climate Action Plan Open House is also scheduled for Monday December 14, 2015 5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

The December 28<sup>th</sup> meeting has nothing on the agenda. Do not plan on a December meeting unless Tessa sends you an email.

#### **ADJOURN**

The motion to adjourn at 8:11 was seconded and was unanimously approved.