

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2016, 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

Aaron Buckley, Fort Collins Bike Co-op
Luke Caldwell, Natural Resource Advisory Board
Sylvia Cranmer, Chair, Colorado State University
Todd Dangerfield, Downtown Development Authority
Mark Houdashelt, Air Quality Advisory Board
Chris Hunt, Poudre School District
Chris Johnson, Bike Fort Collins, Director
Kelly McDonnell, Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition
York, Transportation Board

AT LARGE MEMBERS PRESENT

Cathy Busch-Kinkaid, At Large Member

ABSENT

Ragan Adams, Parks and Recreation Board
Annabelle Berklund, Transportation Board (alternate)
Bruce Henderson, Parks and Recreation Board (alternate)
Patrick McCarty, Vice Chair, At Large Member
Edward Reifsnnyder, Land Conservation & Stewardship Board
Greg Wells, Senior Advisory Board

CITY OF FORT COLLINS STAFF PRESENT

Tessa Greegor, FC Bikes Program Manager
Lt. Craig Horton, FC Police Services
Tim Kemp, City of Fort Collins Engineering/Capital Projects
Greg Oakes, City of Fort Collins Park Planning and Development
Paul Sizemore, FC Moves Program Manager

GUESTS and CITIZENS PRESENT

Aaron Fodge, CSU Alternative Transportation Manager
Nick Gomez (Citizen)
Evan Rau (Citizen)
Kristi Savig, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA REVIEW

The Chair introduced presenters for the two discussion items and two action items scheduled for the evening. Note the order of reports and information items has been changed slightly over past meetings. Discussion items were placed before action items for tonight's meeting to accommodate Greg Oakes' (Fort Collins Park Planning) schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

York made a motion to approve the minutes of August 22, 2016 meeting, with correction of Ragan Adams being present (rather than absent), and removal of a redundant paragraph at the top of page 7. The motion was seconded and approved by BAC members present. Two (2) members abstained who were not present at the August meeting.

FOLLOW-UP FROM PRIOR MEETING/FUTURE BUSINESS

The Chair referenced the updated 2017 BAC Work Plan that was included with the e-mailed agenda materials on September 22nd. No additional comments or changes were required by present members.

Later in the meeting Chair Cranmer shared with BAC members present the BAC's draft endorsement letter addressed to Jody Donovan in support of the CSU Transportation and Bicycle Safety Education Module as presented to the BAC on August 8, 2016. This draft was also reviewed by Aaron Fodge (CSU) prior to tonight's meeting. Additional text will be added regarding the City Council's interest in this CSU initiative. BAC members were asked to let Sylvia know by e-mail if there are any other changes needed.

BAC REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Transportation Board Report (York, FC Transportation Board)

York provided BAC members an overview of the Wednesday, September 21st Transportation Board (TB) monthly meeting.

- TB accepted the 2017 Work Plan and prepared a letter of Budgeting for Outcomes (BFO's) for Council.
- The TB's recommendations included moving up in priority the Transfort Sunday Service BFO (67.11), and the Bicycle Safety and Promotion Programs (3.22) offer.

Board Member Reports/Comments

Cathy Busch-Kinkaid (At Large Member) – Nothing to report.

YORK (Transportation Board) – York volunteered with bike counts project in September.

Kelly McDonnell (Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition) – Nothing to report.

Chris Hunt (Poudre School District) – Safe Routes to Schools collecting data on kids modes of transportation to school. Student bike transportation continues to integrate into school field trips.

Chris Johnson (Bike Fort Collins) – Budget Offers lobbied by Bike Fort Collins included Transfort Sunday Service (67.11), FC Walks (3.12), and the Infrastructure Enhancements for FC Bikes (3.11). Note: The White House published a report entitled "Housing Development Toolkit" in September 2016. The report provides practical

ways to ease land use and planning and zoning restrictions when it comes to housing development. This report is something to review and keep an eye on in future city planning.

Aaron Buckley (Fort Collins Bike Co-op) – Recent women bike classes had good attendance. The Tour de Fat event was a success with great volunteers.

Mark Houdashelt (Air Quality Advisory Board) – The AQAB’s Budget recommendations included Transfort Sunday Service (67.11) and the Travel Behavior Survey (3.23). There were several AQAB bicycle related offers that were ranked highly, but not included since the greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts were not understood to lessen. GHG report findings later pointed out this was not the case. GHG findings will be re-evaluated closer and prior to final BFO recommendations in the future.

Sylvia Cranmer (Chair, Colorado State University) – Over 300 participants participated in the Bike education event as part of annual CSU Welcome weekend (We Ride). The Campus is wrapping up the weekly (Thursdays) Bike to Breakfast events for the month of September.

Todd Dangerfield (Downtown Development Authority) – On Thursday, September 22nd, the Downtown Development Authority attended the Annual Governor's Awards for Downtown Excellence, in Pueblo, Colorado. During their travels, DDA staff stopped to view several buildings and a bike shop in Castle Rock, CO. Discussions with the bike shop staff addressed the store’s home grown bike share program and a need for revitalization. The Fort Collins Bike Share program overseen by Zagster was discussed. Todd asked if more specific usage/benefit numbers from Zagster could be provided at future BAC meetings.

Luke Caldwell (Natural Resource Advisory Board) – The board’s September meeting included discussion regarding the land bank program for affordable housing. Three parcels of land are being considered on the south side of Fort Collins. Luke had some concern over the distance of the affordable housing sites from city services.

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Longview Trail and Trails Update (Greg Oakes, City of Fort Collins Park Planning and Development)

The Longview Trail project is joint effort between Larimer County and the cities of Loveland and Fort Collins. Greg’s presentation and discussion centered around the design graphic depicting the proposed 4.4-mile-long trail between Loveland and Fort Collins, parallel to Shields Street. Review points related to trail design and discussion that occurred with BAC members and Greg during the meeting follows below.

Greg also shared information about other city trails being considered for the 2017-2020 planning period.

- The Poudre Trail - I25 underpass should be completed in 2020 after CDOT has finished bridge work.
- The Fossil Creek Trail BNSF Pedestrian Tunnel and connection west to east of Fossil Creek Trail is anticipated to be completed in 2017.
- Aaron Fodge (CSU Alternative Transportation Manager) added trail news of the Loveland Power Trail being worked on in 2017 and further south trails connecting to Berthoud. These trails could provide contiguous trail systems from Berthoud to Fort Collins.

Longview Trail Design Review/Discussion and Q and A

Greg laid out a ~42 ft. long color design graphic of the Longview trail for BAC participants to review. His main intent was to get the BAC’s input on the alignment of the route.

- Members mentioned the trail would be primarily used by commuters.
- Some easements into private property have been obtained. Setbacks are a max of 150’ from Shields.
- Wetlands issues in some areas. Planners have worked to keep impacts to a minimum of .5 acres total, using bridges etc. in these areas.

- Members considered total distance variances with straight versus curvy trail design. It was estimated that additional ¼ to ½ mile would be added with the curvy design. Opinions on a straight versus curvy trail varied.
- Cathy Busch-Kinkaid (At Large Member) liked the trail being a distance from the road and away from traffic noise, exhaust, etc.
- A soft surfaced 4' wide path will parallel the trail and support multi-use traffic, including horses.

Several of the trail cross sections and connections to other trail systems were reviewed.

- Longview's connection to Fossil Creek Trail on the east will be finished post 2017, after the BNSF easements and pedestrian tunnel are complete.

CDOT and Larimer County are funding the project. Completion is anticipated for May of 2018.

Q. Why the name Longview?

A. The area between cities is called Longview Farm Open Space.

Q. Will the Longview Trail be under winter grooming?

A. Greg believed it would, but didn't know its priority.

It was not known if a Bike Counter would be put on the trail.

Bicycle related 3 Foot Law Enforcement Technology – C3FT (Lt. Craig Horton, FC Police Services)

Lieutenant Craig Horton of the Fort Collins Police Services department provided a detailed description of the C3FT enforcement technology. The purpose of his presentation was to gain additional insights from the BAC regarding the benefits and applications for this new type of enforcement technology. Discussion and suggestions follow below.

C3FT enforcement technology – This sensor is a sonar device that helps officers to monitor and enforce driver safety when passing cyclists. (A minimum of 3 feet distance is required). The bike-mounted sensor can include a video camera to provide evidence for ticketing. Two officers are required; one riding a bike with sensor device, the other in a car to ticket vehicle drivers.

- Police Services have concerns with putting officers in dangerous situations while riding (patrolling) in areas where encroachment occurs most often.
- Craig felt the technology provides opportunity for public (driver) education.

Craig asked what the BAC community thinks about this tool.

- Austin, TX and Chattanooga TN are using the tool. Little known about value.
- Chris Johnson (Bike Fort Collins) felt the publicity and conversation starter effort of the tool is most valuable.
- Kelly McDonnell (Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition) asked what streets would be targeted with this tool. Craig felt FC Moves would have best suggestions for patrol areas. Again, the difficulty is putting the police officer/rider in jeopardy when using the tool.
- Luke felt the encroachment issues on the dam road etc. are infrastructure related. Others did not see this as an excuse for violation of C3FT.
- Todd Dangerfield (Downtown Development Authority) suggested this tool be shared with Larimer County for other higher prone encroachment areas (e.g. Carter Lake).
- Chair Cranmer mentioned that positive support of the tool should be publicized. Education must come hand in hand with enforcement of 3-ft rule.

Q. Could a safety class be required when a driver is ticketed?

A. Yes, the fine is cut in half if receiver attends a FC Bikes class.

Q. Can videotaping be used for “rolling coal”.

A. No, this is not the right use of the tool.

Other Police Services news:

The city is proposing to utilize an older SWAT van for bicycle safety outreach.

- Back of Van/Bus will display a graphic of 3ft law. Great tool to continue the conversation to promote the 3ft law.

BAC ACTION ITEMS

Shields and W. Elizabeth Underpass (Tim Kemp, City of Fort Collins Engineering/Capital Projects and Aaron Fodge, CSU Alternative Transportation Manager)

Tim and Aaron shared about the collaborative efforts underway to plan, design, and construct the Shields and W. Elizabeth underpass. The project is currently in the “public involvement and review” phase with CSU funded construction expected to begin in December of 2016 and complete before Fall 2017 term begins (pending ROW acquisition). BAC discussion centered on bike-related details of the design and concerns moving forward as design features relate to other underpasses in the city. Details of the presentation and BAC input follow below.

City staff requested that a BAC letter of recommendation for the proposed design be provided to the Transportation Board by mid-October. A motion was made to have the Chair draft and complete this letter of recommendation; including the design and implementation concerns summarized in the meeting minutes (below). The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The Chair asked that any additional BAC member concerns regarding the Underpass project be sent to her by e-mail before mid-October.

Key points of the presentation:

- Master Planning Studies, including the 2014 Bicycle Master Plan were considered. The project developed out of an Inter-Government-Agreement (IGA) with the City of Fort Collins and Colorado State University (CSU) to address congestion and safety concerns on the west side of campus. Goals of the project include increasing comfort and decreasing conflict points.
 - o Shields and W. Elizabeth is the second ranked priority intersection on the 2020 Bikeway Network.

Project Need – Reoccurring themes, Traffic Statistics* How do we safely move more people?

- o Intersection sees 50,000 vehicles / day (up 20% since 2009)
- o Peak Hour Volumes (170 bicyclists, 140 pedestrians)
- o More than 2,000 bicycles per day crossing Shields, (up 40% since 2009)
- o 184 Crashes from 2010-2015 (8 involving bikes/pedestrians)

*A BAC member suggested that these figures could be revised for more representative for presentation purposes. For example, using per capita statistics.

- The Underpass project is consistent with goals of the West Elizabeth Enhanced Travel Corridor Plan (ETCP) that goes to council next month.
 - o The West Central Neighborhood Plan led to the West Elizabeth ETCP.
 - o The Plan calls for an underpass connection to the Campus System. The Shields Underpass project is a primary intersection of the ETCP that connects Foothills campus with CSU’s main campus.
 - o Coordinated Multi-modal Corridor Master Planning
 - o IGA allows the opportunity for constructing the project

- Design and Graphic Renderings of the project were presented and discussed
 - o Angling of trails prior to underpass saved some Campus West parking spaces and avoided utility issues.
 - o Tim pointed out the turning lanes and revised mid-block crossing west of Campus West Shops. Traffic control details have not been finalized for this crossing. The design shown depicts a change in the crossing location; moved east of the southern Campus West driveway.
 - o Walk/Bikeway includes 12' wide ramps, 14' wide approaches, 14' wide and 9' high box.
 - o Westbound bike lanes would not continue up to the Shields intersection.
- BAC member pointed out likely circumstance that cyclists would consider taking sidewalk and interfering with pedestrians, rather than using street bike lane to turn south.

Other concerns were expressed related to pedestrians entering trail from stairways above underpass; design appears to have blind spots for cyclists. A BAC member suggested that vegetation on corner be removed to allow cyclists greater visibility of walkways entering underpass paths.

- The project is currently in the Public Comment and Review Process
 - o Comment and/or questions can be asked at the Colorado State Website (Source): <http://source.colostate.edu/construction-and-parking/shields-underpass-proposal/>
 - o The current voluntary Site Plan Advisory Review (SPAR) public approval process, ends soon with a November planning and zoning meeting.
 - o Property Owner Meetings and Design Revisions
 - o Multiple Open Houses, Neighborhood Meetings
- Communication and Outreach
 - o Project includes combined city and CSU logos, as well as communication outreach (e.g. Social Media, Websites).
- Schedule:
 - o December 2016 – August 2017 construction schedule contingent on getting right-of-way approvals by ~end of Oct or Nov. 2016.
 - o The Design/Build team is already in place to begin the construction immediately.
 - o A key focus of the project is to minimize bike and pedestrian inconveniences during construction.

Discussion/Questions and Answers:

Q. What is the plan for rainstorms and drainage?

A. Construction should divert most water into the street. Design includes water tight/drainage features.

Q. What would happen if intersection flooded, or tunnel was blocked?

A. A plan B will need to be developed. Focus could be to use other Shields crossovers if blocked.

Mark Houdashelt (Air Quality Advisory Board) wanted to reinforce the concern for bikes and pedestrians sharing lanes under tunnel; this will likely lead to serious injuries for pedestrians. Aaron mentioned that CSU may need to enforce a dismount zone or slow-down in the area.

Q. Will the crosswalk for westbound cyclists/pedestrians cause backups on Elizabeth?

A. This is highly possible. Aaron noted the benefit of less traffic hold up moving through the W. Elizabeth and Shields intersection should outweigh the time waiting for crosswalk backed up traffic.

Other crosswalk considerations discussed:

- Signal time evaluation
- Hawk signal could be connected with intersection light. A Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) provides an instant signal.
- York suggested that street signage be included addressing “do not block crosswalk or driveways”.

Will eastbound right turns on red be allowed? Concerns expressed will be looked at further (e.g. Radius of corner).

BAC member discussion included north/south Shields traffic, including concerns over the number of people jaywalking south of the Shields and W. Elizabeth intersection.

- Bike counts for this east/west trail approaching the intersection underpass are very high. Aaron felt the bikeway/walkway will be used and direct people away from jaywalking. This will be improved further with use of the Pitkin bikeway once Stadium and other construction along Pitkin are finished. The Pitkin bikeway will allow a straight shot through campus. Other Shields crossings, Pitkin Bikeway on south and Plum light on north, should discourage jaywalkers.
- High potential for pedestrians to use underpass.
- Bike counters will be used and data evaluated long-term.

Striping on westbound out of Moby parking, has not been finalized. A bike lane may be available westbound on north side of intersection also.

- BAC concerns were expressed regarding westbound lane usage versus westbound underpass usage and crossing Elizabeth to north side at crosswalk.

The Big Jump Application process (Tessa Greegor, FC Bikes)

“The Big Jump Project is a three-year effort to help 10 places achieve a big jump in biking – a doubling or tripling of people riding – by building a network of safe and comfortable places to ride and engaging the community. “

Tessa Greegor provided a brief video presentation of the People for Bikes – Big Jump application process. Applications are due by October 28, 2016. The BAC was asked to provide a letter of endorsement to the City, to include with the upcoming application. Tessa also noted that if selected as one of the 10 places, FC Bikes would see ongoing need for BAC participation as well as participation on the project leadership team. Award notifications are expected in January 2017.

The city plans to emphasize a focus area in Council District 6 to increase ridership. (This northwest Fort Collins community district is overseen by council person Gerry Horak. Much of the discussion regarding the Big Jump’s goal to double or triple people riding centered around existing biking population statistics and the community focus area chosen for the application. See below for discussion and comment details.

Chair Cranmer asked for BAC support for Chair to draft simple endorsement for Big Jump. Chris Johnson moved that a letter of support be drafted for Big Jump project and sent directly to FC Bikes (Tessa Greegor). The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Big Jump Presentation and BAC Discussion Details:

2-minute video presented on the People for Bikes (PFB, based out of Boulder) campaign effort. See <http://www.peopleforbikes.org/pages/the-big-jump-project-application>. Big Jump is a new initiative similar to Green Lane Project which the city applied for in 2014.

- Focused on using bikes
- Connecting standalone projects into one consistent project.

- Looking for 10 leading cities; 3-year program (Tessa mentioned that over 90 cities have expressed interest in applying thus far.)
- Looking to double/triple bike usage by 2020.
- Targets a focus area within a community where low-stress routes etc. exist.
- PFB provides technical support, study tours, training and peer exchanges
- Mini grants
- Recognition given to recipients as national leaders on cycling
- ~\$250,000 value annually for 3-year program

Tessa expressed that Fort Collins has exiting networks and current relevant projects in place (by 2019 target year), political support, and strong community support to meet the competitive application requirements.

Big Jump is looking for areas to increase community ridership. The city's application will include a community Focus area in Council District 6 (Gerry Horak's District, primarily northwest Fort Collins, bordered on south by Prospect road and east by College Avenue. District 6 includes Lincoln Middle School, Irish Elementary, Poudre High School, and Putnam Elementary. Census tracking data will be further evaluated for this area prior to the application's completion.

- Todd Dangerfield felt if the City's application focused on the northeast section of the city, we might be able to show more growth potential. The socio-economic benefits of this region would also be important.
- Chair Cranmer asked about the socio-economic benefits to the focus area selected. The Northwest region of the city would be good area to consider. Chair suggested that the socio-economic benefits be included in the city's application response.

Q. Are they looking for communities with projects in place?

A. Not necessarily, they are looking for planning improvements that are in place to reach increased ridership goals. Also looking at metrics like ridership etc.

Big Jump could be presented as Fort Collins making a jump from a Platinum to a Diamond Level Bike Friendly Community. The question was posed, How can we make our efforts go bigger?

Future projects/needs that could be supported with the Big Jump initiatives include:

- Old Town Neighborhoods plan (Mulberry and Shields corridor)
- Shields restriping plan (between Mulberry and Vine)
- West Elizabeth ETC

Q. Will Council need to support this application?

A. Ideally, written support needed (esp. District 6 council person Gerry Horak). Cities will need to show as much as \$50K/year that is focused in this area. This amount of funding already exists for FC Bikes.

Chair Cranmer noted that a brief letter of endorsement could be written to support the Big Jump project.

- The endorsement letter will also mention that the technical assistance obtained by Big Jump would benefit the cities goals for bicycling.
- If timing of draft letter allows, Chair Cranmer will provide final draft of endorsement letter for BAC members' review at the October 24th meeting.

STAFF REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff Report (Tessa Greegor, FC Moves and FC Bikes)

Bicycle friendly driver class will be offered on October 4th (sign up on FC Recreator website)

Bike Safety Week – September 19 – 23. FC Bikes staff and volunteers spoke with about 200 people and handed out helmets and lights.

Bike share – Phase II has begun. Two (2) new stations will be added at CSU, as well as stations at Foothills Mall and Swallow Max station. These stations will increase Zagster network from 71 to 91 bikes. Tessa will provide a presentation in October or November with numbers. York and Todd asked if Bike Share numbers could be provided on a consistent basis each meeting (station usage, advertising revenue).

No numbers available on Open Streets September 18th event yet.

Bike Prom Fundraiser – 8:00 p.m. October 8th, at the Downtown Artery.

Check out website for Bike Autumn events (<http://www.fcgov.com/bicycling/bikeautumn.php>)

- Handout for the Art Bike Tour was provided to BAC members present.

NEW BUSINESS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Planning Calendar)

Requests made that Bike Share data be provided on a consistent basis each meeting.

FUTURE ACTION ITEMS

None, other than drafts and/or completion of BAC support letters mentioned above.

ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:31 pm.