



March 19, 2019
7:00 PM

Committee Room
Second Floor, Durham City Hall

MINUTES

I. Call to Order, Introductions, Excused Absences 7:00

There was not a quorum. Chose to proceed with discussion, skipping voting items.

Present: Emily Egge, Amanda De Hoedt, Dan Clever, Gene Carlton, Michael Moorman, Aidil Ortiz (arrived at 8:20).

Excused absences: Jeremy Thornhill, Greg Stewart, Susanne Schmal, Ivona Piper, Julia Katz, Heidi Carter

Guests: June Turner, Jim Turner, Michelle Williams, Jim Williams, Tom Holmes, Carol Dodge, Moriah W., John Kent, Ed Rizzuto, Tom Ten Eyck, Gifford

II. Adjustments to the Agenda 7:05

-Addition of Rep. Jeffrey Elmore's bike registration bill, Removal of 2019 BPAC Goals, Agreement to skip items requiring a vote

III. Approval of Minutes from February Meeting 7:10

-Did not approve because there is no quorum

IV. Public Comments 7:15

-none

V. Presentations 7:25

Vision Insights - Ed Rizzuto

- Vision Insights is comprised of members from Durham's vision impaired community (including friends and family) and considers their priorities and interests. They are a social, advocacy, and support network.
- VIPs = Visually Impaired People
- Recent activity includes a January forum on crosswalk safety and design, meetings with GoDurham/GoTriangle, and art accessibility discussions with Parks and Recreation. They have been meeting with various policy makers for the past 18 months.
- They noted that voices from those with disabilities should have priority when making decisions that impact the disabled.
- Blindness has many definitions and the needs + abilities of VIPs differ greatly.
- Effective transit is HUGE.
 - Needs to be safe and accessible
 - Need more audible crosswalk signals, especially near bus stops and areas with high foot traffic (also listen for traffic patterns)

- Need more sidewalks and to fill in sidewalk gaps, especially leading to bus stops. Used North Durham as an example of many facilities (libraries, schools, etc.) not accessible via sidewalk.
- All forms of transportation should be available (taxi, bus, paratransit, friends/family); he mentioned they should be able to get into all of these
- They are especially advocating for improved paratransit services
- Paratransit (GoDurham/Triangle Access)
 - Many VIPs rely on paratransit in Durham
 - Durham has a Paratransit van system with 1,000 rides/day
 - This system is heavily overburdened and they have to turn people away
 - Other disabled communities use this service as well
 - Ridership expected to increase as the baby boomer population ages and develops diseases such as macular degeneration
- Taxis “archaic uber system”
 - Discounted ticket vouchers can be purchased downtown (ex: could buy \$50 in vouchers for \$25; not sure of exact pricing)
 - Riders can then pay the taxi driver with vouchers
 - There is a serious lack of availability of drivers
- Lyft/Uber Proposal
 - Vision Insights is advocating to the city council to add Uber/Lyft rides to GoDurham Access services and proposing other changes
 - Right now, rides can only be scheduled up to two weeks out. They want to be able to schedule further out to accommodate things like doctor’s appointments, which may be scheduled months in advance.
 - On the other hand, there is no spontaneity. Rides typically need to be scheduled about 2 weeks out. If they run into a friend at the gym and have a pick scheduled, they can’t call to reschedule so they can go grab coffee.
 - It is not reliable. The pickup might be anywhere from +/- 30 minutes from the scheduled time. They then have to pick up other riders, which can last up to two hours. Riders of GoDurham Access are chronically late, a top complaint amongst their employers.
 - Some riders have been left or skipped because the driver didn’t want to or know to get out of the van to let the rider know the van had arrived (many VIPs can’t see when it arrives or where it is parked).
 - Recently, it took Ed 3 hours to get home from Raleigh via GoTriangle.
 - Each van ride on GoDurham Access costs the city \$26 per person regardless of number of people. Riders pay ~\$2.
 - GoDurham/Triangle has applied for a grant to improve the access system. Legal concerns about this proposal at the state level related to worker rights of GoTriangle Access drivers, as there are concerns of lost jobs/wages in shifting to Lyft/Uber services
- Actively trying to find solutions
 - Meeting with transit officials
 - Workshopping how to interact with blind people

- Workshopping how drivers should interact with blind people
- Conducting “in-trainings” to develop cultural sensitivity to their community
- Light rail - Emily asked if there is a general consensus about light rail from Vision Insights
 - Ed said he would use it
 - Others mentioned that it is very limited to where it goes and wondered how would they get there in the first place
- Walking Trails (brought up by VI member Tom Holmes)
 - Signage is very important to them; specifically asking bikes to call out “On your left” to walkers. Also curious if they could have signage notifying people of a blind person in the area near mile marker 5.5 on the new section of Woodcroft Parkway
 - Member of public, John, noted that Durham ordinances prevent bikes from being ridden on sidewalks; Chapel Hill allows it but requires they go <7mph when passing a pedestrian. John felt that slowing down when passing is common courtesy that should be extended to pedestrians no matter where you are riding.
 - There has been discussion about setting a speed limit on the greenway

Club Boulevard Project for Safe Streets Academy (Charles Menefee)

- Smart Growth America gave Safe Streets Academy grant to Durham. This includes 6 distance trainings and 3 in-person workshops
- Includes \$8K in funding and \$8K of matched funding by the city (Durham is going over the cap)
- Topics they cover includes site selection, equitable engagement, project completion approaches, and measuring results
- Site selection phase considered Elizabeth Street, Fayetteville Street, and W. Club Blvd.
- They looked at crash lists, demographics, roadway trends, and land use patterns
- Ultimately decided on W. Club Blvd. There have been 4 pedestrian crashes (2 severe) and 2 bike crashes from 2007-2015. There have been 123 auto accidents (2 severe) from 2013-2018. There is a high “race/div?????” index in this area
- Focusing on bus riders and pedestrians
- They are doing site observation because people have been less willing to answer questions in-person
- They are considering road diets, improved bus shelters, and a z-crossing between bus stops on opposite sides of the street
- Madiha Malik, local artist, has created some design concepts for the crossing (they look very cool, in my opinion)
- Used intercept engagement
- Is the Z-crossing VIP friendly? Are there audible sounds? Cutouts? Tactile feedback?
- Consider using red lights instead of yellow lights

VI. Committee Reports 8:30

Education, Encouragement and Engagement Committee Report (Julia Katz)

-Last meeting focused on Bike Month. Had a planning meeting and want to reach out to

PB staff at the city to do a community event about the bike/ped project ideas were submitted to PB process. This could be our larger community meeting for May 21, 7-9pm which coincides nicely in Bike Month. BPAC would partner with PB staff at city to pull this off. Will brainstorm locations with EEE committee.

-Currently reaching out to various groups to see who wants to put their May events for Bike Month to put their events onto a calendar for shared promotion.

Development Review Committee Report (Jeremy Thornhill)

-Dev. Rev. needed to have a letter approved but without quorum we cannot vote on it.

Bike & Pedestrian Plan Implementation / Evaluation Committee Report (Michael Moorman)

-Spent most time on what needed to know about what other groups were doing so they can stay up to date with concerns and plans to evaluate road issues that come up in that context.

-Want to stay abreast of prioritizing state funded infrastructure that could impact local plans like Bike Boulevards.

-Wants to have a presentation on what the UNC Highway Safety Center and what kind of data they have that we can use.

Updates from Liaisons

- Duke University (Jeremy Thornhill) - Tom Devlin says that the bike storage program is moving forward and bike fix it stations will be added. Having a way to thank their bike riders to campus.

- Durham Open Space and Trails (TBD) - they are working on passing a second resolution on equitable engagement

- NC Central University (Cha'ssem Anderson) - are continuing to work on plans and estimates for funding to improve the crossing by the parking deck on Lawson

- Planning Commission (TBD) - none

- Recreation Advisory Commission (Gene Carleton) - there is construction on a park that shut down the ATT. Contractor was not supposed to do that and did not have a way to let trail users know.

Other Community Updates (All) - none

VII. Old Business 8:38

-Search for Transportation Director- Status Update (Emily Egge) - Have had 42 applicants. Search firm is now sending a prioritized list to the Transportation Staff. Are including a BPAC rep in the interview process.

-Motion by Aidil to extend the meeting for 10 minutes - Passed.

-2019 BPAC Goals Review and Approval (Emily Egge) - will discuss this in April.

VIII. New Business 8:55

Response to Expanding Housing Choices UDO proposal (Emily Egge) -

Equitable Engagement Resolution - Update & Potential Action (Aidil Ortiz)

IX. Announcements 9:15

- An NC rep is working on a bill to force riders to license their bicycle and BPAC can discuss it at the next meeting. Gene suggests we look at data from Oregon.
- Aidil gave an update on Hayti's Safe Routes to Parks technical grant.
- Need to recruit a student to BPAC from Durham Tech, Duke, or NCCU. There are new candidates that will join us in April and in May.
- Offers have been made to replace Brian's position (transportation planner II).
- Gene announced that if he gets a position in Arkansas, this may be his last BPAC meeting

X. Communication Priorities from Meeting and Committees 9:20

- none

XI. Adjourn 9:20

- Gene offered motion to adjourn and passed.