

## Calendar Year 2017 Annual Report

### I. Mission.

The primary purpose of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) is to advise the City Council and the Board of County Commissioners on bicycle and pedestrian issues.

### II. Executive Summary.

In 2017 BPAC worked to improve its effectiveness by performing a gap analysis of the work of BPAC and other bicycle and pedestrian groups in Durham to identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership. BPAC also worked to support Durham's Vision Zero program. Many of BPAC's activities follow the holistic "5 Es" framework: Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Evaluation.

Engineering: The Development Review and Plan Implementation and Evaluation Committees reviewed and commented on numerous development, transportation, and trail plans throughout 2017, including the Bike + Walk Implementation Plan, the Durham Belt Line Trail Master Plan, and various roadway resurfacing plans, including the South Roxboro Street plan. The committees authored several BPAC letters seeking specific infrastructure improvements to policies and infrastructure in Durham, and organized a meeting with City staff to discuss improvements to the accommodation of pedestrians and bicyclists in construction areas.

Education and Encouragement: The Education, Encouragement, and Engagement Committee and continued to focus on Bike Month events, Safe Routes to School efforts, and adult education through targeted outreach at community events. The committee developed and printed a Crash Card to assist cyclists and pedestrian collect information following a vehicle crash. BPAC members continued to assist with the statewide Watch For Me NC safety campaign and coordinated bicycle valet services for community events such as Centerfest.

Enforcement and Evaluation: The Education, Encouragement, and Engagement and Plan Implementation and Evaluation Committees participated in Durham Vision Zero activities and began looking at tactical urbanism approaches in Durham. BPAC continued working with the Durham Police Department regarding bicyclist and pedestrian safety issues, and provided feedback on bike share and bus stop planning.

Membership: Three new members joined BPAC in 2017 – Rawlins Clarke, Amanda De Hoedt, and Aidil Ortiz. BPAC continues to be served by members who have great energy, knowledge, and passion for bicycle and pedestrian issues. In 2017, the average attendance at the monthly

meetings was 78 percent of the membership. Adding monthly committee meetings, presence at outreach events, the annual planning retreat, and other activities, the commitment of BPAC members was strong throughout the year.

In terms of notable infrastructure projects, the City added 1 mile of new bike lanes in 2017 and built about 5000 linear feet of new sidewalks (in addition to sidewalks built as part of development projects) and made repairs to about 7000 linear feet of sidewalk. Durham's first pedestrian crossing featuring a HAWK signal was completed in 2017.

### **III. Structure of BPAC**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) was established in July of 2001. BPAC consists of 17 members. Seven of the members are appointed by the City Council and seven are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The remaining three members are liaisons from other City/County commissions – the Recreation Advisory Commission, Durham Planning Commission, and Durham Open Space and Trails Commission (seat currently vacant).



*Durham BPAC Members (April 2018). Front row, from left: Andrew Jacobson, Jeremy Thornhill, Julia Katz, Emily Egge, Aidil Ortiz. Second row: Akram Al-Turk, Dean Mason, Amanda De Hoedt, Ivona Piper, Rawlins Clarke. Third row: Michael Moorman, Cha'ssem Anderson, Frank Glover. Not pictured: Gene Carleton, Rebecca Board.*

Max Bushell served as Chair for the first seven months of 2017, with Jeremy Thornhill serving as Chair for the rest of the year. Andrew Jacobson served as Vice-Chair. Dale McKeel provided staff support to the Commission. Jillian Johnson served as the liaison from the Durham City Council, and Ellen Reckhow and Heidi Carter served as the liaison from the Durham Board of County Commissioners.

In 2016, BPAC had the following committees:

- Development Review (co-chaired by Emily Egge and DeAnna Hall)
- Bike and Pedestrian Plan Implementation and Evaluation (chaired by Andrew Jacobson)
- Education, Encouragement, and Engagement (chaired by Jennifer McDuffie for the first four months and by Julia Katz for the remainder of the year)

#### **IV. Presentations Made to BPAC**

- January: (1) Bryan Poole of Durham Transportation discussed four projects that are underway to provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities on portions of Morreene, Hillandale, Carpenter-Fletcher, and Cornwallis roads. (2) Dale McKeel of Durham Transportation discussed the status and options for launching a bike share program in Durham.
- February: (1) Terry Bellamy and Larry McGlothlin of Durham Transportation discussed Vision Zero. (2) Bryan Poole of Durham Transportation provided a status update on the Bicycle and Walk Implementation Plan Update. (3) Ben Kittelson of the Durham Budget and Management Services Department provided an overview of the City's budget development process and conducted a survey of BPAC members.
- March: Katie Rose Levin of Durham Tree Advocates discussed the activities of the organization and the importance of trees in creating a walkable and bikeable community.
- April: (1) Joy Mickle discussed the importance of converting the downtown loop to two-way traffic pattern. (2) Bryan Poole of Durham Transportation gave an overview of the recommendations in the draft Durham Bike and Walk Implementation Plan.
- May: DOST chair Brian Buzby discussed the work and priorities of the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission (DOST) and how DOST and BPAC could collaborate.
- June: Captain George Zeipekkis, Central District Commander of the Durham Police Department, provided the semi-annual report to BPAC regarding bicycle and pedestrian crashes and education, community outreach, and enforcement activities.
- July: No presentations.
- August: Mary Kate Morookian of GoTriangle discussed the status of the GoDurham and GoTriangle short-range transit plan updates.
- September: (1) Kevin Lewis and Jorge Salazar of GoTriangle discussed bus stop improvements in Durham. (2) Maureen Devlin of Durham Transportation discussed the Durham Bike Share Feasibility Study.

- October: Andy Henry of the DCHC MPO staff and Rachel Gaylord-Miles of WSP consultants discussed the NC 98 corridor study.
- November: John Goebel of the Durham Parks Foundation discussed the work of the Durham Community Trail Watch.
- December: (1) Mary Kate Morookian of GoTriangle provided an update on the GoDurham and GoTriangle short-range transit plans. (2) Chris Nafekh of GoTriangle provided an update on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit project.



*BPAC recommended improvements to connections between neighborhoods and trails, such as this connection between Dallas Street and the American Tobacco Trail.*

## **V. BPAC Accomplishments and Activities**

### *A. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Implementation*

- Participated in the Durham Bike and Walk Implementation Plan to help determine what bicycle and pedestrian projects that are most critically needed.
- Performed field review of potential trail, bicycle boulevard, and pedestrian/bicycle safety projects.
- Reviewed and commented on resurfacing lists for Durham and state roads including the Carver Street, Main Street, and S. Roxboro Road bike lane proposals.
- Reviewed and commented on studies and proposed construction projects, including the widening of NC 54, NC 98 corridor, University Drive-Hope Valley Road roundabout, Roxboro-Latta-Infinity Road intersection, and US 15-501-Garrett Road interchange.

- Reviewed connections from neighborhoods to the American Tobacco Trail, and other gaps that can be filled in the bicycle network.
- Advocated for improvements to the intersection of Swift, Main, and Pettigrew streets with the N.C. Railroad to improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders.

*B. Development Review Activities*

- Provided 81 sets of comments on site plans, including initial reviews and re-reviews.
- Provided 42 sets of comments on development plans
- Requested that City and County staff review and improve the policies and practices regarding street and sidewalk closures near work zones and development projects.
- Held training session on development review process for new committee members and revised the site plan review checklist.

*C. Education and Encouragement Committee (From July: Education, Encouragement and Engagement Committee)*

- Developed and printed a Crash Card to assist cyclists and pedestrian collect information following a vehicle crash.
- Worked to improve BPAC's effectiveness by performing a gap analysis of the work of BPAC and other bicycle and pedestrian groups in Durham to identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership.
- Distributed educational materials to drivers in parking garages in downtown Durham.
- Proposed changes to Durham City Code to allow bicyclists to ride on sidewalks.
- Engaged in Bike Month through attendance and volunteering at a variety of events.
- Helped support Walk to School and Bike to School events.
- Partnered with the Durham Community Trail Watch to educate the public by using education stations on trails in Durham.
- Organized bicycle valet parking and information sharing at community events.

**VI. Focus Areas for 2018**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission held its annual retreat on January 20, 2018. The retreat included an overview of BPAC for the new BPAC members, a review of 2017 goals and accomplishments, and developed goals, outcomes, and activities for 2018, which are attached.

## **VII. Closing**

The members of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission appreciate the opportunity to serve the City and County of Durham. We remain committed to our charge of assisting the elected boards in making Durham a better place to walk and bicycle. We hope that you will call upon us whenever our advice or expertise is needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Thornhill, BPAC Chair



*In 2017 BPAC requested that City and County staff review and improve the policies and practices regarding street and sidewalk closures near work zones and development projects (photo from Portland, OR).*

## **Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects Completed in 2017**

### **New Bike Lanes / Shoulders**

- Slater Road bike lanes from Emperor Blvd to Miami Blvd/NC 54 (0.65 miles)
- Murray Avenue from the Ellerbe Creek Trail to Herring Blvd (0.35 miles)

### **Bicycle Parking**

- 9 new bike racks were installed by the City of Durham
- Numerous bike racks installed as part of new development

### **Street Lighting Projects**

- 463 new streetlight installations

### **Completed Pedestrian Improvements at Signalized Intersections and Other Locations**

- Broad Street and Northpoint Drive (Pedestrian signals)
- Duke Street and Morehead Avenue (Audible signal)
- Duke Street at Corporation Street (HAWK Beacon)
- Elba Street Crosswalk (Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon)
- Ellerbe Creek Trail at Guess Road (HAWK Beacon)
- Green Street and Broad Street (Pedestrian signals)
- Gregson Street and Club Boulevard (Curb extension)
- Holloway Street and Raynor Street (Pedestrian signals)
- Lighting of West Ellerbe Creek Trail tunnel under I-85
- Markham Street at Onslow Street (Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon)
- Markham Street at Sedgfield Street (Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon)
- Morehead Avenue and Kent Street (Pedestrian signals)
- Northpoint Drive at Costco/West Ellerbe Creek Trail Crossing (Pedestrian signals)
- Pilot Street and Fayetteville Street (Audible signal)
- Roxboro Street and Horton Road/Denfield Street (Pedestrian signals)
- Roxboro Street and Lakewood Avenue/Mangum Street (Pedestrian signals)
- Roxboro Street and Seven Oaks Road/West Point on the Eno Entrance (Pedestrian signals)
- Woodcroft Parkway and The American Tobacco Trail Crossing (Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon)

### **Sidewalks**

- New sidewalk on NC 55 between Riddle Rd and Cecil Street (about 5000 linear feet)
- Miscellaneous sidewalk repairs throughout the City (about 7000 linear feet)
- Numerous sidewalks built as part of new development

### **Traffic Calming**

- 11 new speed humps were constructed in 2017.

## **2018 BPAC Goals**

### **Outcomes and Activities (Committee Lead in Parentheses):**

1. Communicate BPAC's goals by:
  - a. Maintaining an active dialogue/presence with City Council and County Commissioners, including activities such as presenting at work sessions and Coffees with Council, sending timely emails, and speaking directly with elected officials. (Full Commission)  
*Goal: Have an impact on at least 3 policy or infrastructure changes.*  
*Goal: Present the annual report to the City Council and County Commissioners.*
  - b. Enhancing BPAC's online presence to help facilitate better dissemination of information to the public and provide an easy and understandable way for the public to provide comments to the BPAC. (Education, Encouragement, and Engagement Committee)  
*Measurement: Number of social media posts and listserv e-mails sent by BPAC representatives to disseminate information. (Add footnote of channels – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Bike Listserv, Google Spreadsheet list)*  
*Goal: At least once a week or 50 posts a year.*
  
2. Clarify BPAC's role as an advisory commission that serves the entire Durham community by:
  - a. Developing tool to target audiences for event participation and outreach (EEE)  
*Measurement: Completion of template with initial content*
  - b. Using the tool when conducting outreach and tracking outreach. (EEE)  
*Measurement: Tracking sheet on the tool signifying people are using it.*
  - c. Developing a list of existing channels for people to provide input  
*Measurement: Completed List*
  - d. Promoting existing channels to provide input  
*Measurement: Inclusion the list and channels in our outreach.*

3. Improve the connectivity of the bicycle and pedestrian network in Durham by:
  - a. Participating in the update process for the City/County's Bike and Ped plans, including updating the bike/hike map. (Bike and Ped Plan Implementation Committee)
  - b. Identifying key connectivity gaps and collaborating with other commissions and jurisdictions to address them. (Bike and Ped Plan Implementation Committee)
  - c. Participating in the update of the Durham Comprehensive Plan. (Bike and Ped Plan Implementation Committee)
  
4. Improve the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians by:
  - a. Partnering with the Durham Department of Transportation and other city and county departments on Vision Zero (Full Commission)  
*Measurement: One BPAC member attending at least one of the full Vision Zero committee meetings.*
  - b. Working with Durham Police Department to improve safety of bicyclists and pedestrians through use of metrics to track improvements and biannual attendance and presentations by officers at BPAC meetings. (Education, Encouragement, and Engagement Committee)
  
5. Ensure that appropriate bicycle and pedestrian accommodations are included in new and maintained in existing development and transportation facilities by:
  - a. Reviewing and providing feedback on all transportation projects in Durham, including, but not exclusive to, specific ped/bike projects, road widenings and reconfigurations, intersection improvements, road repaving projects. (Bike and Ped Plan Implementation Committee)
  - b. Reviewing and providing feedback on new site and development plans for compliance with UDO and adopted plans with regards to bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, increasing the number of plans reviewed by 10 percent over 2017. (Development Review Committee)
  - c. Participating in the planning process for large transportation projects such as the Durham-Orange Light Rail and "Fix the Loop" project, advocating for consideration and inclusion of appropriate bicycle and pedestrian accommodations as part of these projects. (Development Review Committee)