

Calendar Year 2019 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 2019 BPAC worked to improve its effectiveness by prioritizing its work on the frameworks of Vision Zero, Complete Streets, and Mobility Justice. BPAC held two public-facing meetings to solicit feedback and get the word out about BPAC moving forward. The May meeting was held at NC Central University and was focused on Participatory Budgeting. The October meeting, held at E.K. Powe Elementary School, focused on discussions from the national Untokening event that was held in Durham in 2019. Additional BPAC activities are discussed throughout the annual report.

Membership: Seven new members joined BPAC in 2019 – Dwayne Atkins, Ariana Bevilacqua, David Fellerath, Cecilia Gonzales, Ed Rizzuto, Tricia Smar, and George Tait. BPAC continues to be served by members who have great energy, knowledge, and passion for bicycle and pedestrian issues. In 2019, the average attendance at the monthly meetings was 79 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.

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.



Durham BPAC Members (April 2018). From left: Javiera Caballero, Ed Rizzuto, George Tait, Gifford, Aidil Ortiz, Michael Moorman, David Fellerath, Emily Egge, Susanne Schmal Dan Clever, Cecilia Gonzales, Dale McKeel, Amanda De Hoedt, Tricia Smar.

Emily Egge served as Chair of BPAC during 2019, with Amanda De Hoedt serving as Vice-Chair. Dale McKeel provided staff support to the Commission. Jillian Johnson and Javiera Caballero served as the liaison from the Durham City Council, and Heidi Carter served as the liaison from the Durham Board of County Commissioners.

In 2019, BPAC had the following committees:

- Development Review (chaired by Jeremy Thornhill and Dan Clever)
- Bike and Pedestrian Plan Implementation and Evaluation (chaired by Frank Glover and Michael Moorman)
- Education, Encouragement, and Engagement (chaired by Julia Katz)

IV. Presentations Made to BPAC

- January: No presentations.
- February: Elmo Vance of the NC Department of Transportation presented on US 70 Project U-5720.
- March: (1) Ed Rizzuto provided comments from the Vision Insights Support Group, and (2) Charles Menefee, City of Durham Transportation Department Intern, presented on the Club Boulevard Project for the Safe Streets Academy.
- April: Dan Gelinne provided a presentation discussing the work of the UNC Highway Safety Research Center.
- May: Robin Baker and Justin Henderson of the City of Durham Finance Department provided an overview of Participatory Budgeting.
- June: Ellen Beckmann, City of Durham Transportation Department, provided an update on the Move Durham project.
- July: No meeting.
- August: Tom Devlin, City of Durham Transportation Department, provided an overview of the Way to Go Durham Transportation Demand Management Program
- September: Evan Tenenbaum, City of Durham Transportation Department, provided information on proposed updates to the Shared Active Transportation program.
- October: BPAC member Aidil Ortiz provided an overview and recap of the Untokening, followed by an introduction of questions, discussion within breakout groups, and discussion takeaways.
- November: Nia Rodgers and Jessica Kemp of the City of Durham General Services Department provide updates on three trail projects: Durham Belt Line, Third Fork Creek Trail Extension, and R. Kelly Bryant Bridge Trail.
- December: John Tallmadge presented Bike Durham's proposal for a Low Stress Bicycle Network.



Members of BPAC prepare to ride in the Durham Holiday Parade.

V. BPAC Accomplishments and Activities

A. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Implementation

- Discussed and commented on the US 15-501 Reimagining study.
- Advocated for the need for a sidewalk connection from Fayetteville Road to Solite Park as part of the Fayetteville Road widening project, and the safety of the crossing of Fayetteville Street for American Tobacco Trail users.
- Reviewed list of city-maintained streets that will be resurfaced this year and made recommendations for possible bicycle lane striping.
- Reviewed and commented on studies and proposed construction projects, including the Cornwallis Rd bridge over the NC Railroad near Miami Blvd, conversion of US 70 to a freeway,
- Attended NC Road Safety Summit.
- Advocated for traffic signals that are audible signals for visually impaired people.

B. Development Review Activities

- Provided 55 sets of comments on site plans, including initial reviews and re-reviews.
- Provided 38 sets of comments on development plans
- Held training session on development review process for new committee members and the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission, and revised the site plan review checklist.
- Proposed revisions to the Unified Development Ordinance related to the need for off-site pedestrian improvements reasonably proximate to the new development, and design standards for bicycle parking.
- Reviewed and wrote a letter regarding the requested street closure of Oregon Street between Campus Drive and Erwin Rd.

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

- Worked to ensure that equitable engagement outreach strategies are utilized for current and future Durham transportation projects.
- Used Twitter and Facebook to provide updates on BPAC’s work and bicycle and pedestrian activities in Durham, including publishing BPAC committee member profiles on Facebook.
- Revised the BPAC logo.
- Ordered and distributed BPAC branded bicycle bells.
- Applied for 50 youth bicycle helmets through the NCDOT initiative and fitted helmets on children at community events.
- Jointly with Bike Durham applied for and received funding through the Durham 150 grant that was used to support work to more deeply connect with Black and Brown communities in Durham with the explicit goal of improving equitable distribution of resources impacting our community as it relates to biking and walking.
- Jointly with Bike Durham planned and engaged in Bike Month through attendance and volunteering at a variety of events.
- Helped support Walk to School and Bike to School events.
- Organized bicycle valet parking and information sharing at community events such as Earth Day, Durham Bowls, and Centerfest.

VI. Focus Areas for 2020

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission held its annual retreat on January 18, 2020. The retreat included a review of BPAC frameworks, discussion of BPAC’s role in the Comprehensive Plan Process, a development review training and group exercise, and development of 2020 BPAC Guiding Principles, 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,

Emily Egge, BPAC Chair



As part of the BPAC Retreat in January 2019, BPAC members split into three groups to do bike/walk audits on three sections of the Fayetteville Street corridor.

2020 BPAC Guiding Principles

BPAC is a resident advisory commission dedicated to ensuring our elected officials and government departments have access to community input that will impact priorities and projects related to bicycle and pedestrian mobility.

Our feedback is guided by the principles of creating **Safe Mobility Networks; Complete Mobility Networks; and Equitable Mobility Networks.**

To each of these principles, we apply the values of **Collaboration and Partnership; Environmental Stewardship; and Economic Responsibility**

BPAC Values: through all of our work, it is important to center these values.

- **Collaboration and Partnership:** Mobility does not function in a vacuum, so neither can we! We will strive to work with likely partners and across disciplines, departments and commissions to provide comprehensive solutions that enhance, do no harm, are not in accidental conflict.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Mobility methods have a tremendous impact on our environment. As we focus on outdoor mobility, we have a vested interest in ensuring the development of our mobility infrastructure and tools (i.e., vehicles) first do no harm, and ideally improve the state of our environment.
- **Economic Responsibility:** On a macro level, transportation and transit projects carry a huge price tag and require significant staff time. BPAC commits to challenge and empower our public officials to ensure our collective time and tax dollars are responsibly spent.

On a micro level, we are all reliant on mobility to get us to where we work and where we spend. Transportation tends to be a significant household cost (20% or more?). Good mobility = more \$ saved and more \$ spent locally.

- Side thought- though the focus is on moving people, there is also need to move goods/services in a way that enhances the safety of people.

Guidelines overview and goals:

- **Safe Mobility Networks:** That safety in reaching our destinations is valued over speed, resulting in **zero** deaths or serious injuries due to transportation-related crashes. We are inspired by the Vision Zero Network, and support our Transportation Department in applying those concepts appropriately in Durham. In 2020, that means:
 - Continue to support application of lessons learned and connections made from Untokening Conference.

- Invite Planning Department staff and Untokening organizers to present to BPAC on both local outcomes/applications, as well as national trends and priorities.
 - Understand current status of Vision Zero implementation in Durham, and areas we can support momentum.
 - Invite Transportation Dept Vision Zero staff to present to BPAC on status and areas we can support.
 - Development Review Committee: review UDO & Public Works Reference guide policies and standards to ensure they enforce Safe standards, making recommendations to Planning and Public Works Departments. Particular 2020 focus on intersection treatments.
 - PIE Committee: review UDO & MPO & Public Works Reference guide policies and standards to ensure they enforce Safe standards, making recommendations to Planning, Transportation & Public Works Departments. Particular 2020 focus on traffic calming measures.
- **Complete Mobility Networks:** That our mobility network is viewed holistically, so we can all get where we need to go, whatever our method of transportation. We embrace the concept of Complete Streets planning, and will continue to encourage and support Durham and North Carolina's efforts to incorporate this system into road project planning and into actionable policies and ordinances. In 2020 that means:
- Actively participate in the Comprehensive Plan Process by:
 - 4 identified liaisons attending each Commission meeting
 - Beginning in Feb, dedicated agenda time at BPAC meeting for report out and collecting feedback.
 - Liaisons will build working partnerships with other commissions, to align and coordinate input where relevant.
- Actively participate in County Transit Plan Process:
 - Connect with GoTriangle to create engagement
 - Support requests for City/County Plan
- DevRev: Review updated NCDOT Complete Streets Implementation Plan and Public Works Reference Guide for consistency with UDO and Comprehensive Plan.
- PIE: Review UDO, MPO Transportation Plans, Public Works Reference Guide, NCDOT Complete Streets Implementation and NACTO guidelines for effects on promoting an infrastructure consistent with a safe mobility environment for all alternative modes of mobility.
- Break down silos between departments - complete planning = complete network = less expense
 - DevRev: Coordinate with compatible commissions to share our process, and build liaison relationships.
 - Planning Commission through development plan comment coordination

- Commissions & aligned groups through Development review process [DOST, BikeDurham LIN, EAB]
 - Build working partnerships with:
 - Aligned groups: Bike Durham, etc., through E3 & events
- **Equitable Mobility Networks:** That all residents can get to where they need to go safely (physically and mentally), regardless of age, race, gender, identity, ability or mode of transportation. We recognize the systemic infrastructure that has given us an inequitable network today, and that a solution must be rooted in addressing both the acute and chronic effects. In 2020 this means working with NIS, Planning and Transportation Departments to align, support and enhance Equitable Engagement Blueprint.
 - Engagement Activities (voices in planning):
 - Host 2 public non-standard BPAC meetings to encourage participation and input from more diverse mobility perspectives on diverse membership;
 - DevRev: Bring more diverse mobility voices into Reviews and UDO commentary through participation in Development Review process.
 - Conduct BPAC development review training
 - Outreach to other commissions for trainings
 - Solicitation of committee membership/participation
 - GOAL: 5-7 individuals consistently reviewing plans (1 per month); avid pedestrian included
 - Outcome

2020 Presentation Schedule - recommendations

- Untokening: national perspective and local implementation
- Vision Zero Team: where are we, and what can we do to help?
- Transit Plan update - connect with GoTriangle, how do we participate, what does engagement look like?
 - Benefits & challenges of City/County transit plan/transportation Dept.
- Historic Fayetteville St plan - presentation on historic context
- Comp Plan: update? Or use public meeting to gather feedback?