

Minutes

City of Winston-Salem Bicycle/Pedestrian/Active Mobility Advisory Committee

February 8th, 2023, 9:00am – 12:00pm

3rd Floor Conference Room

Bryce A. Stuart Municipal Building

100 E. First Street

Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Voting Members Present

Michael Hosey

Greg Errett

Donna Jones

Amy Easter

Carol Hoover

Sharon Nelson

Staff Present

Matthew Burczyk, City of Winston-Salem DOT

Hunter Staszak, City of Winston-Salem DOT

1. Public Comments
 - No public comments

Action Items

2. Consideration of the January 11th, 2023 Bicycle/Pedestrian/Active Mobility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (Sharon Nelson, Chair)
 - MOTION: Carol Hoover
 - SECOND: Amy Easter
 - FOR: Unanimous
 - AGAINST: None

Information Items

3. Statement of Purpose and Opening Remarks (Sharon Nelson, Chair)
 - Sharon Nelson shared that Keith Davis is no longer a member of the BPAMAC.
 - Sharon Nelson prompted each member of the BPAMAC and Staff shared how they see connectivity in their day-to-day life and a word describing how they apply the work from the committee into the world.
 - When discussing the committee's purpose, Sharon Nelson introduced reasons "Why" – highlighting the following key themes: safety, accessibility, community, influence, educate, elevate, lifestyle, health, solutions, delivery, hope, and inform.

- After some discussion, the committee set a vision statement of: “We envision a healthy and active community where walking, biking, using a wheelchair or public transit is the easiest and safest way for anyone, anywhere in Winston-Salem to get around. A city that prioritizes human safety, infrastructure maintenance, and ongoing innovation and progress.”
- Donna Jones raised a question about to what extent public transit is within the scope of the BPAMAC. Discussion then followed about the importance and relevance of the built environment for pedestrian access to transit stops.
- The committee then went on to discuss “how” to achieve the vision statement set. The following themes were identified: prioritization of human safety, infrastructure maintenance, ongoing innovation, policies and procedures, enforcement, education, resources, engagement, influence/advise.
- Various members voiced their concerns about maintenance of existing bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure and connected it to the importance of resources – both financial and staff – to achieve a state of good repair.

4. Review of Previous Work Program Accomplishments (Sharon Nelson, Chair)

- Sharon Nelson transitioned to the group’s accomplishments to date to help inform the development of the new work program’s goals.
- Carol Hoover shared that the group provided support and public input on the Walkable Winston-Salem Plan and reviewed and prioritized projects within the Bike Plan. Amy Easter later added that conducting an evaluation and producing project recommendations was a key part of the work of both plans. Matthew Burczyk further clarified that the recommendations then eventually made their way to Public Works for adoption.
- Carol Hoover noted that the BPAMAC surveyed state/regional bicycle and pedestrian committees to gain an understanding of their operations.
- Amy Easter raised that the BPAMAC has held educational sessions with staff from Planning, DOT, and the MPO.
- Matthew Burczyk shared that the BPAMAC successfully steered and maintained activity through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Amy Easter noted that the BPAMAC influenced the promotion of Bike Month and other City social media communications.
- Carol Hoover raised that the BPAMAC was involved with the Bicycle Friendly classification.
- Matthew Burczyk noted that the BPAMAC is a community hub for information on bicycle and pedestrian related activities and members play a vital role in communicating public events such as the Salem Creek Greenway Extension Public Input Meeting.
- Sharon Nelson distilled the discussion above into three major takeaways: (1) Created and established committee structure and defined role within the community. (2) Reviewed and provided input in community bicycle and pedestrian plans. (3)

Supported City efforts to improve community engagement in public input opportunities.

5. Development of the 2023-2024 Bicycle/Pedestrian/Active Mobility Advisory Committee Work Program (Sharon Nelson, Chair)
 - Discussion then transitioned into short and long-term plans and goals.
 - Michael Hosey noted the importance of establishing relationships and coordinating with groups that have shared interests to create more impactful messages for Council and other decisionmakers.
 - Discussion followed about the discussion a few BPAMAC members had with the Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership and how to work together to advocate for and enhance the walkability of the community.
 - The group proposed working on a list of community assets and organizations to identify partners to break down silos and enhance communication with.
 - Sharon Nelson initiated the conversation of inviting all members to state the groups each committee member belongs to. The group came up with a lengthy list.
 - Sharon Nelson then transitioned into the need to fill positions for members on the BPAMAC and suggested that the Committee look to the list they developed at the meeting as well as begin to identify underrepresented communities in the selection and recruitment of new members.
 - Sharon Nelson also discussed the need for succession planning, which lead to conversation about current members and terms of service
 - Sharon Nelson introduced Michael Hosey for a review of the conversation he had with the Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership (DWSP) regarding the DWSP's view of needs related to active transportation downtown.
 - ADA concerns related to sidewalk dining
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive between Patterson Avenue and Trade Street and the changing nature of the area north of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive resulting in more pedestrian crossings
 - Need for on-street parking management and curb management, generally
 - Long-term infrastructure needs for electric vehicles
 - DWSP has asked that the BPAMAC review a draft of the Downtown Plan
 - Michael Hosey also shared notes from his meeting with Visit Winston-Salem
 - Michael met with Visit Winston-Salem staff: Richard Geiger, President; Christian Schroeder, Director of Sales and Services; Paul Sheehan, Sports Development Manager
 - Visit Winston-Salem views downtown Winston-Salem as the premier asset for the community; they have concerns about ADA access limitations; they have an interest in the Liberty Street / Main Street two-way conversion
 - Visit Winston-Salem is promoting outdoor recreation in our region and sees the need for wayfinding

- Visit Winston-Salem in favor of micromobility transportation options if the program is managed appropriately
- Committee members discussed the need for walking audits to identify safety and access issues
- Carol Hoover noted Winston-Salem's low walkability rating and Hunter Staszak shared that the rating was likely related to Walk Score and how variable the city is in terms of built environment and walkability
- Sharon Nelson directed the conversation to a discussion of the BPAMAC's goals for the 2023 Work Program
 - Advocacy
 - Coordinating with outside organizations for coalition building, communication, and support
 - Ongoing efforts for gap assessment and succession planning for the BPAMAC
 - Advisory
 - Review and make recommendations related to the micromobility ordinance changes
 - Comprehensive Plan development with Planning and Development Services
 - Committee members discussed possible changes to the Unified Development ordinance related to sidewalk and bicycle parking requirements
 - Carol Hoover also raised the issue of the development of an ordinance addressing the use of electric bikes on streets and trails. Committee members then discussed the opportunity for such an ordinance and its relation to the existing shared micromobility ordinance
 - Amy Easter suggested reviewing the city budget proposal for its compatibility with the needs to improve walking and cycling infrastructure
 - Sharon Nelson mentioned the need for developing talking points to help with discussions with partner organizations
 - Donna Jones suggested the group needs to identify key organizations that can contribute to BPAMAC goals with their own resources
 - Sharon Nelson recommended creating a resource map to be able to view the landscape of possible partner organizations
 - Amy Easter suggested having the BPAMAC provide an official recommendation regarding proposed projects to act in an advisory capacity for all projects where bicycle/pedestrian expertise is needed

- Donna Jones addressed trail and transportation issues from other organizations and opportunities for the BPAMAC to provide feedback
- Sharon Nelson directed the conversation towards having BPAMAC members committing to get involved, attend public meetings, and develop relationships with public officials
- Sharon Nelson requested input on other project priorities for 2023
 - Matthew Burczyk shared information about the Greenway Wayfinding and Bike/Hike Map projects and opportunities to fund printing and construction
- Sharon Nelson asked for feedback on the proposed tasks
 - Amy Easter asked that the list be compiled for committee review
- Donna Jones asked about other upcoming conferences of interest for BPAMAC members
 - Piedmont Legacy Trails Summit March 10th
 - Year of the Trail in North Carolina – Carol Hoover suggested requesting a proclamation from the Mayor in support of Year of the Trail
- Matthew Burczyk suggested having a BPAMAC member attend Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee meetings
- Sharon Nelson suggested developing a plan for marketing
 - Matthew Burczyk suggested that the committee develop a list of priority messages and the timing of those messages and that staff will work with Marketing and Communications Department
 - Amy Easter suggested creating marketing items for BPAMAC members to wear to promote the committee

Next Meeting: March 8th, 2023, 9:00 – 10:00am via Microsoft Teams