

Meeting Summary
Vanderbilt University Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
October 3, 2023, 2 - 3:30 PM
Teams Meeting

Attendees:

Student

Brady Scheiner, Undergraduate, VSG Public Safety and Transportation Committee Co-Chair

Levi Schult, Graduate, Graduate Student Council

Jonathan Lifferth, Graduate Student

Faculty

Dr. Amanda Hellman, Director, Fine Arts Gallery

Staff

Adam McKeever-Burgett, President, University Staff Advisory Council

Chris Meyers, Dean of Students, Law School

Research / Post Doc

Dr. Ishita Dash, Post-Doc, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

Dr. William Barbour, Research Scientist, Institute for Software Integrated Systems

Identity Centers

Vee Byrd, Associate Director, Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center

Dr. Rory Dicker, Director, Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

Ex Officio

James Moore, University Landscape Architect, Campus Planning & Construction

Robert Grummon, Team Leader Capital Projects, Campus Planning & Construction

Lynn Maddox, Neighborhood and County Liaison, Government & Community Relations

Catherine Buttrey, Assistant Director, Student Access

Others

Lindsey Ganson, Assistant Director, Transportation and Mobility

Anna Dearman, Walking & Biking Manager, Nashville Department of Transportation

BPAC Administrator

Matthew Cushing, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner, Transportation and Mobility

Minutes

1. Introducing Office of Transportation and Mobility

- a. Matthew Cushing started the meeting, welcomed the committee to the first Vanderbilt University BPAC Meeting, and reviewed the agenda for the day. This included an overview of the Transportation and Mobility Office, and MoveVU goals, situating the goals in land use planning and Transportation Demand Management strategies, balancing incentives and disincentives to shift transportation demand. This programming includes items like the daily parking program, but also includes infrastructure planning, such as that relevant to the Walk and Roll Loop, Campus Greenways, West End Neighborhood Transformation.

2. Partner Projects

- a. 31st Avenue Resurfacing –
 - i. Anna Dearman informed the committee that 31st Ave North between West End and Park Plaza is currently under construction for a pedestrian safety project. This area was on the city's "high injury network." As part of engagement for the Vision Zero project, there were lots of comments about creating a bikeway on this corridor. As such, NDOT will be piloting a protected bikeway over a few weeks in October and tested configuration through end of October, before installing a final striping pattern in November. The pilot bike lanes will re-allocate one vehicular lane in each direction to accommodate bike lane. There will be an engagement event on 10/18 to collect feedback on designs, and an online survey online will be posted soon. Anna turned the floor to committee questions/feedback.

The committee expressed excitement about the project, especially for commuters coming from the West or North. Questions were asked about the scope of pedestrian improvements, which include pedestrian improvements, medians, pedestrian refuges, flashing beacons. Anna commented that the [project website](#) includes link to [design plans](#) for pedestrian safety component of work in the area. Anna also showed the [interactive projects viewer](#), and discussed how the project interacts with others in the area.

The committee asked about the project limits, and whether there was consideration of connecting to Natchez Trace, or to the planned Walk and Roll loop on the edge of campus.

Committee commented on need to separate bike lanes with bollards or other infrastructure, to avoid becoming a parking lane. Anna commented that parking is maintained in the current configuration, as well as having channelizers on site to help delineate the bike lane. Anna commented that the parking creates some design challenges, especially where the current parking has a “lip” between the concrete, as running the bike lane here requires cyclists to roll over the lip. Requested that committee comment on this as they test it.

3. Setting up the BPAC

a. Purpose of the BPAC

Matthew discussed the purpose of the BPAC, which is largely to consolidate and strengthen active transportation user voice on campus, by providing feedback on projects, identifying infrastructural and programmatic needs needs, prioritizing the annual bike/ped work plan project prioritization, and sharing initiatives with representative groups.

b. Committee Introductions

- i.** Each member of the committee introduced themselves and explained their relationship to campus bicycle and pedestrian issues.

c. Committee Decision Points

i. Meeting Location – In Person, Remote, Hybrid?

- 1.** The committee expressed an interest in having in person meetings, with some having a strong preference. Some members did express having a likely reduction in attendance if only online. Administrator committed to exploring hybrid options for next meeting, and re-assessing next steps as meetings continue

ii. Frequency of Meetings

- 1.** Committee review proposed plan to meet 4 times a year, roughly quarterly, scheduled next meeting for 11/13/23 at 2-3:30pm. Administrator will need to doodle poll for meetings after winter breaks

iii. Attendance from Additional Parties

- 1.** Administrator expressed how this group generates interest from outside parties. Committee express that formality in governance would be most needed if formal voting occurs in future, but expressed some concern about 3rd party conflicts of interest. Additionally, there were comments that too large or open of a group makes meetings impractical and

disorganized, so suggested external attendance only when formally on agenda. Committee suggested that external comments are still important, but this could be accommodated by creating a place to submit comments on website. Regarding record keeping, committee commented that video recordings can make committee less candid, but that posting minutes of proceedings feels appropriate.

4. Review of Bicycle and Pedestrian Initiatives

a. Bike Rack and Amenities Map

- i.** Matthew reviewed updates to the bike parking map, which was previously a static PDF. The new interactive maps was modernized and placed online, and allows clicking, zooming in, and live updates based on facilities data. Further, Click, zoom in, live facilities map (so updates pull live). New map has pictures and contextual data on all bike racks, showers, and fix-it stations.

b. Bike Rack Survey

- i.** Matthew described that taking photos of all bike racks for the map update was a convenient time to survey bike parking on campus, and he showed resultant data to committee, including where parking capacity is highest on campus, where utilization was highest, and where racks were most full. Discussed findings that, West End Neighborhood has less bike parking than other areas despite being newer construction. Also discussed finding that garage under Kissam has ~100 covered bike parking spaces. The Peabody campus and Highland Quad noted for high utilization

Committee commented that high Peabody utilization may be because Peabody is easier to get to than areas near West End. They also commented that this may have to do with all the stairs around the historic core. Additionally, it was commented the Peabody may have more bikes because first year students are live at Commons, and many get bikes when they realize how far they have to go.

The Committee asked about the process for getting new bike racks.

c. Dockless Bike Share

- i.** Matthew provided details on the expansion of the City's dockless bike share pilot onto campus over the summer, in the context of exploring future options for bike share on campus. Showed 9 designated parking locations and slow zones, and described that city pilot is limited to 25 bikes in total. Preliminary ridership shows Sarratt/Rand, Branscomb, Rec. Center were most popular locations.

Committee commented that cost of rides seems too high, and that they don't often see the bikes, likely due to low deployment numbers.

d. Event Recap

- 1.** Matthew provided an overview of Bike to Work Day, Dismount Zone Tabling, and Bike Safety Lunch and Learn events

Committee had significant feedback on dismount zone event, which highlighted 19th Ave and Scarritt Place as alternatives to riding through

dismount zone. Committee commented that some infrastructure would need to be updated for this to work well, such as changing turn lane markings at intersection, and adding bike lanes. Commented that many cyclists wouldn't feel comfortable sharing road with cars. Administrator discussed long-term vision of testing some tactical urbanism projects in the area to see if those improvements are viable. Committee asked about parking, Administrator commented that likely covering lost parking revenue would have to be part of project budget. Committee also commented on high level of pedestrian traffic at 21st/Scarritt intersection, and need to make sure any improvements don't cause pedestrian conflict. Committee also commented that some scooters, or larger bikes, are impractical to dismount.

5. Looking Forward

- a. Bicycle Friendly University Goals**
 - i.** Matthew described the feedback report received from the League of American Bicyclist in 2021, renewing the University's Bronze Bicycle Friendly University rating. Matthew explained how he is hoping to engage the committee on this in future meetings to help prioritize goals. He commented that we don't have a pedestrian feedback report, but need to make sure pedestrian issues don't slip through the cracks.
- b. Construction Closure Policy / Complete Streets Policy**
 - i.** Matthew also commented how he would like to engage the committee in formalizing some policies around construction closures in future meetings, with lessons learned from ongoing large construction projects on campus.