



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 28, 2022 • 5-7 p.m.

By computer at www.fastplanning.us/keepup/zoom

By telephone at: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 879-1598-7897

1. Call to Order

Dr. Nathan Belz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

*Nathan Belz, Chair

Olivia Lunsford, Vice Chair (absent**)

*Susan Bissell

*Travis Naibert

*Jim Richardson (**absent**)

*Peter Stern

*Larry Zervos

**Jackson Fox

**Deborah Todd

Stan Justice

***BPAC Representative**

****FAST Planning Staff**

3. Approval of the April 28, 2022 Agenda

Motion: To approve the April 28, 2022 Agenda. (Zervos/Stern).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

4. Approval of the March 31, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the March 31, 2022 Meeting Minutes. (Bissell/Zervos).

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Staff /Working Group/Chair Reports

- The State Transportation Alternatives Program for which the State accepts project nominations statewide will be issuing a call for project nominations this fall 2022. They are allocating \$500K to FAST Planning under that program non-competitively because, at this time, we are the only population category with 50,000-200,000 people. This will help with projects that are nominated to us and projects that are already in the queue.
- There will be a new federal discretionary grant program called Safe Streets for All. In addition to projects, they are also looking for communities to submit grant applications for production of a local safety plan. This could be a bike and pedestrian related plan to come up with plans and non-infrastructure programs that would reduce fatalities and injuries for vulnerable users. The notice of

opportunity has not yet been published for the program. Mr. Fox is planning to apply for FAST Planning and has signed up for the preapplication webinar that will take place the first week of May.

6. Public Comment Period:

Stan Justice: Thank you all for serving as usual. You do a great job. Just again I would like to talk about the various paths and not just my favorite one, the Skarland Trail at the intersection of Yankovich and Ballaine Road, but just around the Borough. Sure, this was a tough year. But I suggest that a tough year is the time to make the list. Ask all the fat bikers, skiers, walkers, and runners where they found paths blocked by piles of snow. Make the full list like we did with the broken pavement where we had pictures of broken paths and came up with a list of the various projects. Do the same where paths get buried. I know people mentioned the Birch Hill path is beautiful in the summer, but it was buried all winter. It was unusable the entire winter. I noticed all these places where the plowing did not get beyond the white line. The plowing got to the white line and that was as far as they could go. On the Skarland path they went to the white line then they went on to the end of the pavement and they went like ten feet off the road just to make sure the path was thoroughly buried. I thought something needed to be done. In one of my crazy moments, I thought they should make a law. They should take a cue from the Texas abortion law and deputize the citizens to bring the law to them. I would be out there with a sign trying to picket the loader off. That is just a funny and will probably never happen. But thanks for serving.

7. Old Business

a. Prioritization of Non-Motorized Projects

• *Review of Project Scoring Criteria and Prioritization of Short-Term Project List in Non-Motorized Plan and Sidewalk/Path Nominations to FAST Improvement Program*

Mr. Fox explained that project scores were tabulated and prioritized. The project scoring results were included in the meeting packet. Mr. Fox explained that he would like suggestions from the BPAC members about how to make the scoring process easier in the future. The BPAC members commented about their individual experiences and thoughts on the scoring process. It was agreed that the scoring and ranking of the projects was acceptable to them.

b. *Joint SMTF/BPAC Meeting on Winter Maintenance (Debrief)*

Dr. Belz stated that he thought it was a good meeting, he got a lot out of it, and everyone walked away feeling positive.

Mr. Fox stated that he agreed that it was a good meeting. Mr. Fox stated that it was very informative, and they all learned about some of the challenges. Mr. Fox stated that it was very clear that the Borough, State, and two Cities had no dedicated maintenance funding for these non-motorized routes. There were also issues with staff shortages and equipment that got torn up during this latest winter snow event. Mr. Fox thought we could be a good voice to help them help us.

Dr. Belz stated that we had a very extreme winter season with the back-to-back events we had in December. Dr. Belz explained that they also had staff shortages. Dr. Belz stated that they could build a list of the key trail access points, so the maintenance personnel knew where they were located. Dr. Belz stated that he thought they had a very good dialogue, and he learned a few things as well.

Mr. Zervos commented that he appreciated the folks that came and thought they were well prepared. Mr. Zervos explained that priority list they created and provided to them did not get used but that was understandable considering the winter we had. Mr. Zervos stated that he learned a lot about the problems they faced this winter. Mr. Zervos stated that he was glad he got to be there and hoped they could have dialogue like that in the future. Mr. Zervos stated that he also hoped that next year they would use the priority route map.

Dr. Belz explained that he was a little disappointed that they did not use the routes they set as priorities. Dr. Belz stated that he wanted to know if some of those timelines they set were achievable to make sure that people who rely on those routes exclusively could do that.

Mr. Stern stated that he enjoyed the meeting and thought there was a lot of good exchange that took place. Mr. Stern asked for clarification about Mr. Netardus' presentation about bundling projects for repair by DOT. Mr. Stern stated that when they asked Dan Schacher of DOT about that, he said no. Mr. Stern stated that he was puzzled about the response to that. Mr. Stern was also concerned about the impact of the design of the GARS project and the impacts those types of projects might have on the maintenance priority routes in the future. Mr. Stern stated that he thought meeting twice a year with the Task Force might be a good idea.

Mr. Naibert stated that he enjoyed the meeting and thought they were well prepared. Mr. Naibert stated that they did not make excuses and explained they had staffing shortages. Mr. Naibert stated that he thought they might need a bigger budget but was not sure if we were in a position to advocate for that but should do whatever we could to help them in the future.

The BPAC Committee agreed to put the maintenance priority route map on the May agenda.

8. New Business

a. FFY23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Plan & Transportation Alternatives Program Funding

Mr. Fox explained that FAST Planning is developing a new TIP (Transportation Improvement Program). Mr. Fox explained that the TIP is the fiscally constrained, short-range funding program for the next four years for where we invest the transportation dollars we receive. Mr. Fox explained that this process is being done concurrently with the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan that lists all the projects that we think our transportation network needs over the next 20 years for all users, both motorized and non-motorized. Mr. Fox explained that FAST Planning will be working on a needs plan and a series of meetings will be held to produce new candidate projects that we would like to see for our area as well as submitting the ones in the list we prioritized. Mr. Fox explained that with the development of the TIP, we are bringing forward the revised scoring criteria to the Technical Committee in May and call for project nominations will be issued in June.

b. Bicycle & Pedestrian Accommodations During Summer Construction

Mr. Fox explained the meeting packet contained maps of DOT and FAST Planning projects that will be under construction this summer (2022) as well as projects that were under construction last year and will be completed this summer. Mr. Fox shared the interactive construction map located on the DOT website at:

<https://akdot-cy2022-projects-akdot.hub.arcgis.com/>

9. Other Issues

Mr. Stern asked Mr. Fox if there was a tentative date set for the bike/pedestrian counts.

Mr. Fox stated that he would be sending out a call for volunteers by email and social media.

10. Committee Member Comments

- No comments.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. (Stern/Zervos). The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m. The next BPAC meeting is Thursday, May 26, 2022, 5-7 p.m.

Approved: 
Nathan Belz, Chair
Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Date: 07/23/22