

## Calendar Year 2011 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.**

Durham BPAC is fortunate to be served by many members who have great energy and passion for bicycle and pedestrian issues. In 2011, the average attendance at the monthly meetings was 78 percent of the membership. Adding monthly committee meetings, presence at outreach events, annual planning retreat, and other activities, the commitment of the entire group was strong throughout the year. This collective dedication and energy is reflected in BPAC's accomplishments during 2011.

We want to remind the City and County leadership that bicycle and pedestrian issues can influence other local government goals, such as sustainability and energy savings, and raising and maintaining property values (for example, national studies show that homes near trails maintain excellent value over time). As you formulate plans for alternative transportation such as bus, commuter rail, and light rail, please remember that there are many citizens who are willing and able to walk and bike to bus and rail stops and commute to work by walking or cycling.

With the completion of the new R Kelly Bryant Jr. Bridge over the Durham Freeway and the Third Fork Creek Trail, and the upcoming work on the American Tobacco Trail and bridge over I-40, Durham is providing outstanding new facilities for recreation and alternative transportation. We look forward to staying engaged with City and County government in making Durham a friendlier place for people who want to walk and bike.

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

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) was established in July of 2001. The BPAC Interlocal agreement was re-authorized in 2009 by the Durham City Council and Board of County Commissioners. The revised agreement adds members to BPAC representing Duke University and N.C. Central University. The agreement also creates liaisons to BPAC from the two elected boards.

With these new members, the Commission now consists of 14 appointed members from the City and County, and three members from existing City/County commissions – the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission, the Recreation Advisory Commission, and the Durham Planning Commission.



*Durham BPAC. Bottom row, from left: Erik Landfried, Greg Garneau, Jonathon Leach, Dan Clever, Jim Dunlop, Lou Goetz, Dwayne Taylor. Top row, from left: Dale McKeel (staff person), Lars Trost, Merry Rabb, Mathew Palmer, Ninna Gagnon, Toby Berla, Scott Carter; Not present: Teiji Kimball.*

Scott Carter served as Chair of BPAC in 2011. Ken Kaye served as Vice-Chair. In December, Scott Carter and Merry Rabb were elected to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair for 2012.

In 2011, BPAC had the following committees: Development Review (chaired by Dan Clever), Pedestrian Plan Implementation (chaired by Eric Landfried), Bike Plan Implementation (chaired by Greg Garneau) and Communications (chaired by Merry Rabb). A Transportation Department staff person, Dale McKeel provided staff support to the Commission.

Three new members joined BPAC in 2011 –Ninna Gagnon, Teiji Kimball, and Mathew Palmer.

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

- Randy Lawrence, Bikestation (January 2011)—discussed the work of the BikeStation company. The company offers turnkey design of bike parking, showers and bike repair/maintenance stations.
- Josh Allen, Watts Hospital-Hillandale Neighborhood Assn. (January 2011)—discussed background on the Club Boulevard neckdown project and the neighborhood association’s involvement in it. He said the primary goal of the Club Blvd. plan was pedestrian safety.

- Dennis Markatos-Soriano, East Coast Greenway Alliance (April 2011)—discussed his organization, the greenway, and that their headquarters recently moved to Durham.
- Laura Woods, Durham Planning (April 2011)—Discussed the schedule for updating the Durham comprehensive plan and BPAC’s involvement in reviewing the draft.
- Abbey Bucher and Ben Soltoff, Duke Student Environment and Sustainability Committee (April 2011)—presented their research on potential bike share programs for Duke and neighboring universities. They stated a preference for a pay system over a free system and are currently working with Alta Planning and Bixi, who have developed successful programs in other communities.
- Stacy Shelp, Shape Your World (May 2011)—introduced the Shape Your World campaign that looks at how state level policy interacts with local efforts to promote active living. The campaign raises awareness about health and the environment and runs through December 2011.
- Melva Henry, City of Durham (June 2011)—discussed the Northeast Central Durham Livability Initiative, a program that works with local groups and residents on four primary goals: Workforce and Economic Development, Safe and Healthy Environments, Coordinated Public Transportation, and Multi-Functional Community Open Space.
- Bo Glenn, Durham-Orange Transit (August 2011)—presented a history of transit initiatives in the Triangle, and specifically discussed the referendum on Durham’s November ballot for transit improvements.
- Kosok Chae, City of Durham Transportation (August 2011)—presented the Congestion Management Process and discussed efforts being made in gathering bicycle and pedestrian usage numbers.
- Mark Ahrendsen, City of Durham Transportation (September 2011)—discussed the funding for the ATT project and the bidding process. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by 2013.
- Helen Youngblood, Durham City-County Planning Department (September 2011)—presented the proposed changes to the Durham Trails and Greenways Master Plan.
- Ninna Gagnon and Mark Dessaur, Bull City Open Streets (December 2011)—discussed the Open Streets program goals and needs for the coming year, including more partners, political support, more funding, and desire to be part of a larger vision for biking and walking in Durham.

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

### *A. Development Review Activities*

- Reviewed 113 separate site plans (or 166 separate sets of comments, including re-reviews)
- Provided comments on 20 development plans
- Provided input on the update to Durham's comprehensive plan, especially inclusion of complete streets principles in the Transportation section
- Provided input on new Compact Design District

- Along with other committees, provided suggestions to the widening and realignment of Hope Valley Road (between Garrett Road and South Roxboro Road).
- Continued to provide representation on the Development Review Board

*B. Communication and Outreach Activities.*

- Participated in Durham Earth Day and operated free bike valet parking at the event
- Organized, publicized, raised funds for and implemented (with help from our partners) Bike Month events for Durham including:
  - Bike Month Kick-off with presentation of LAB Bike Friendly Community award, speeches, group bike ride and after-ride social event
  - Evening social event in south Durham (included bike mechanics from REI)
  - "Bike Bus" commuter convoy one morning of Bike-to-Work-Week
  - Evening social event at Alivia's Bistro (with live music)
  - Bike-to-Work-Week cyclists' breakfast at Mad Hatter Bakery (included mechanics from Bicycle Chain)
  - Durham Bike-to-the-Movies with "fun and funky" short cycling-related movies presented by Durham Cinematheque
- Ran Bike Valet Parking for New Belgium Brewery's Tour de Fat. Parked more than 185 bikes
- Helped staff an information table at the Festival for the Eno
- Participated in two Bull City Open Streets events
- Staffed an information table at an employee fair at Biogen Idec
- Assisted with a Bike Day at the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club as part of the North East Central Durham Transportation Scheme efforts
- Kept the BPAC web site up to date with BPAC minutes, letters and other documents and links, and posted blog entries of local interest
- Raised \$440 to help cover costs of updating and reprinting the Durham Bike & Hike map by soliciting donations for the map at any event where we were staffing an information table

*C. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Implementation.*

- Made recommendations to the Comprehensive Plan update
- Reviewed the Revised Sidewalk Corridor Rankings and Proposed Sidewalk Construction Priority List
- Made a recommendation regarding two West Ellerbee Creek Trail Extension and Greenway Connection planning options
- Participated in the NC 54/I-40 Corridor study
- Assisted with the introduction of sharrows to Durham City and County
- Participated in the identification of opportunities for new bicycle lanes on streets scheduled to be repaved with new bond funds
- Evaluated the new signage marking the Downtown Trail
- Recommended the routing of U.S. Bicycle Route 1 along the American Tobacco Trail into and out of downtown Durham

- Asked the Watts-Hillandale Neighborhood Association and the City Department of Transportation to reconsider the design of the Club Boulevard neck down project
- Provided input to the NCDOT to encourage the adoption of the Complete Streets Policy
- Participated in the first meeting of the new American Tobacco Trail stakeholders group
- Monitored the progress of the following local bicycle infrastructure projects:
  - Phase E of the ATT
  - Main Street road diet
  - Juliette Drive bicycle lanes
  - Morehead Avenue bicycle lanes
  - Briggs Avenue bicycle lanes
  - Duke University Road bicycle lanes
  - Blackwell Street bicycle lanes
  - Revere Road bicycle lanes
  - Washington Street bike lanes
- Provided input on the proposed closure of Pickett Road at Erwin Road

## **VI. Focus Areas for 2012**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission held its annual retreat on January 21, 2012. The retreat included a review of 2011 goals and accomplishments, and developed goals for 2012, which are attached.

## **VII. Closing**

The members of the Bicycle and Pedestrian 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,



Scott Carter  
Chair



*BPAC Annual Retreat, February 2011.*



*Durham Bike Month Kickoff Ride, May 2011 (Credit: Eunice Chang)*



*Pedicab carrying city councilwoman Cora Cole-McFadden on Durham Bike Month Kickoff Ride (Credit: Eunice Chang)*



*Cyclists Social in south Durham*

## **Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects Completed in 2011**

The following bicycle and pedestrian projects were completed in 2011:

### **Bike Lanes**

- Blackwell Street from Morehead Ave. to Lakewood Ave. (0.2 miles)
- Morehead Avenue between Chapel Hill Road and Anderson Street (0.6 miles)
- Juliette Drive between Greyfield Blvd / Kissimmee Ct and the American Tobacco Trail (0.7 miles)
- University Drive from Cornwallis Rd to Vickers Ave. / Enterprise St. (1.4 miles)
- Duke University Rd. / Chapel Hill St. from Swift Ave. to Kent St. (0.4 miles)

### **Shared Lane Markings (Sharrows)**

- Several private streets on the Duke University Campus
- West Chapel Hill Street from NC 147 to Kent Street

### **Pedestrian Signals at Intersections**

- Chapel Hill Road and Anderson Street
- Chapel Hill Road and Lakewood Avenue
- Duke Street and Morehead Avenue
- Hillsborough Street and Fifteenth Street
- NC 751 and Woodcroft Parkway (Third Fork Creek Trail)

### **Sidewalks**

- Hunt Street from Foster Street to Rigsbee Avenue
- NC 751 from Swarthmore Street south to existing sidewalk
- Washington Street from Trinity Avenue to Club Boulevard
- City Hall Plaza – Streetscape and ADA Improvements
- Numerous sidewalk and curb cut ramp repairs (Contract SW 19 – ongoing)
- Curb ramp installations (Contract SW 21 – ongoing)
- Sidewalks built as part of new development

### **Trail Projects**

- Third Fork Creek Trail

## 2012 BPAC Goals

### Overall Goals

- Request that the city and county allocate increased funding in the next budget to make Dale McKeel a full-time employee in the City's Transportation Department
- Move the retreat to the fall to prepare for the budget cycle
- Plan for the Durham Bicycle Summit
- Get Commission agenda out to public earlier to encourage more attendance / involvement
- Ask committee chairs to email committee reports to BPAC by the Saturday before the meeting.
- Ask each committee to document the strategic plan to outline what they are taking on.
- Seek opportunities for more regular appearances in front of Council and Board
- Work on initiatives that will enable Durham to advance to "Silver" status in the League of American Cyclists Bicycle Friendly Communities program
- Realign committee structure for the following reasons:
  - Overlap on plans and issues reviewed by Bike and Ped committees
  - Overloading of Communications committee, particularly at certain times of the year
  - Inability to sufficiently engage other Durham stakeholders with current structure
  - Objective from retreat to try to increase BPAC influence and effectiveness

### Bike and Pedestrian Plan Implementation and Evaluation Committee

#### Purpose of Committee:

- Monitor status and recommend updates to both plans
- Make recommendations on implementation of plans
- Make recommendations on evaluation of the plans and facilities (i.e., bike counts, crash data)
- Coordinate with the community engagement committee on community input

#### Goals for 2012

- Advocate for Durham-Chapel Hill connection
- Track progress towards implementation of Pedestrian Plan and Bike Plan
  - Share infrastructure progress with general listserv and population
  - Create a real time map of current bicycle infrastructure projects
- Update to the Bike Plan - Identify the critical bicycle transportation corridors in the City and County
- Investigate Bike Boulevards in Durham - definition, their value to the Durham cycling community, and a map of proposed routes
- Enhance connectivity between the campuses of Duke University and the City of Durham
- Determine strategies for increasing the number of cyclists in Durham
- Perform counts of cyclists to determine actual usage and trends
- Encourage existing, private businesses to install bicycle parking racks
- Update the existing Bike and Hike map
- Participate in the Triangle-wide pedestrian safety education and enforcement campaign
- Participate in NCDOT's Access to Transit project

## **Development Review Committee**

### Purpose of Committee:

- Review site plans and provide comments to Planning Department
- Make recommendations on development policy and ordinances
- Provide comments on selected development plans and zoning map changes
- Provide representation to the Development Review Board

### Goals for 2012

- Establish “standard review comments” list to facilitate plan reviews
- Create Plan Review “Tutorial”
- Increase membership on committee to share the load of plan reviews
- Participate in Comprehensive Plan revision
- Detail for Bike Parking

## **Community Engagement Committee**

### Purpose of Committee:

- Engage and facilitate input from Durham neighborhoods and stakeholders (i.e., schools, police) regarding bicycle/pedestrian policy and planning

### Goals for 2012

- Facilitate cooperation between stakeholders to enhance the connectivity between the campuses of Duke University and the City of Durham
- Work with the Transportation Committee of North East Central Durham to assist in the creation and enhancement of connectivity from the R. Kelly Bryant Bridge to downtown Durham, south to the ATT, and to NECD itself
- Help promote Bull City Open Streets to become a regular City-sponsored event
- Determine how to better participate in the Safe Routes to School program. Determine the roles that the City of Durham and Durham Public Schools can play in the Safe Routes to School program
- Enable BPAC to become more influential in civic planning and budgeting
- Coordinate thank-yous to City Council and County Commissioners on regular basis for their work in promoting walking and cycling in Durham
- Connect items of BPAC business (DevRev reviews, pedestrian and bike amenities planned) with the affected neighborhoods through listservs and neighborhood associations
- Engage business community in bike/ped initiatives
- Support the steering committee working to start a Durham bike coalition

## Education and Encouragement Committee

### Purpose of Committee:

- Facilitate local events (e.g., Bike to Work Week, bike valets, participation at festivals)
- Update the website and social media

### Goals for 2012

- Continue BPAC participation in events such as Bike Month, Earth Day, Eno Fest, Tour de Fat, Open Streets etc, and
  - Start planning for Bike Month in February
  - Participate in the first ever Bike to School Event on May 9, 2012
- Maintain BPAC communications media such as the web site/listserv/social media
  - Ensure that BPAC committee meeting announcements and agendas are posted to the listserv each month as a way of keeping the community apprised of what we are doing and as a way of recruiting additional community members to meetings
  - Map on the web site, updated perhaps quarterly, that would illustrate/track bike & ped projects in progress
- Connect BPAC activities with appropriate neighborhood group communications
- Sponsor bike rides that are low-speed, no-drop events with fun themes: a Christmas lights tour; a costume ride; and others that have been successful elsewhere
- Make BPAC and our web site a clearing house for cycling events and information. Add a calendar of events to the web site



*2011 Tour de Fat Bike Parade*