

## Calendar Year 2015 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.**

BPAC began 2015 with the goal of making all of Durham's streets "complete streets," and engaged in a variety of activities in pursuit of this goal. The activities follow the holistic "5 Es" framework: Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Evaluation.

**Engineering:** The Development Review and Plan Implementation and Evaluation Committees continued to review and comment on numerous development and transportation plans throughout 2015, including comments on a revision to the Unified Development Ordinance and roadway resurfacing plans. The committees also worked with several citizens seeking specific improvements to important commute corridors in Durham.

**Education and Encouragement:** The Education and Encouragement Committee continued to focus on Safe Routes to School efforts at schools as well as adult education through targeted outreach at community events. BPAC members continued to assist with the statewide Watch For Me NC safety campaign, supplementing this effort by purchasing additional bicycle lights for bicyclists in need, and coordinated bicycle valet services for the Tour de Fat and other community events.

**Enforcement and Evaluation:** The Community Engagement Committee, along with Durham Interneighborhood Council, began important conversations with the Durham Police Department around tracking and improving crash rates involving bicyclists and pedestrians. DPD now provides reports twice annually to BPAC on these subjects. This work continues in the combined Education, Encouragement, and Engagement Committee.

Five new members joined BPAC in 2015 – Rebecca Board, Max Bushell, Frank Glover, Andrew Hutson, and Perry Whitted. BPAC continues to be served by members who have great energy, knowledge, and passion for bicycle and pedestrian issues. In 2015, the average attendance at the monthly meetings was 76 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.

In terms of notable infrastructure projects, the City added 4.6 miles of new bike lanes in 2015, mostly in conjunction with pavement projects. The community had an energetic discussion of one of these projects, the reconfiguration of a 0.7 mile stretch of Durham-Chapel Hill Boulevard. The City also built about 75 linear feet of new sidewalks (in addition to sidewalks built as part of development projects) and made repairs to 17,535 linear feet of sidewalk.

BPAC recommitted to pursuit of completing Durham’s streets at the end of 2016, and looks forward to assisting the City, County, and Durham community with making Durham a better place for people who walk and bicycle.

### **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 existing City/County commissions – the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission, the Recreation Advisory Commission, and the Durham Planning Commission.



*Durham BPAC Members at November 2015 Planning Retreat. Front row, from left: Kendra Bridges, Ivona Piper. Second row: Emily Egge, Gene Carleton, Jen McDuffie, Max Bushell; Third row: Esteban Bortiri, DeAnna Hall. Back row: Andrew Jacobson, Frank Glover, Randy Best, Cliff Conklin, Dale McKeel (Transportation Dept.)*

Erik Landfried served as Chair for the first six months of 2015, with Kendra Bridges serving as Chair for the rest of the year. Randy Best served as Vice-Chair during Erik Landfried's tenure, and Jennifer McDuffie during Kendra Bridges' tenure. Dale McKeel provided staff support to the Commission. Don Moffitt served as the liaison from the Durham City Council and Ellen Reckhow served as the liaison from the Durham County Commissioners.

In 2015, BPAC had the following committees:

- Development Review (chaired by Jeff Bakalchuck and co-chairs Emily Egge and DeAnna Hall)
- Bike and Pedestrian Plan Implementation and Evaluation (chaired by Randy Best)
- Community Engagement (chaired by Kendra Bridges)
- Education and Encouragement (chaired by Jennifer McDuffie)

In July, the latter two committees merged to form the Education, Encouragement, and Engagement Committee. Jen McDuffie chaired the new committee for the remainder of the year.

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

- January: Dale McKeel and Ellen Beckman provided project status updates on bicycle and pedestrian projects, gave an overview of how sidewalks are built, gave an overview of existing plans, and discussed planning activities underway and scheduled (SASI, bicycle and pedestrian plan updates).
- February: no meeting was held due to adverse weather.
- March: (1) Jessica Brock and Neill Sherron of Longfellow Real Estate Partners gave an overview of the Durham innovation District concept and plans, a multi-use project planned for the downtown/Central park area in cooperation with Duke and Measurement, Inc. (2) Dale McKeel provided a report on parameters around sidewalk development in the County.
- April: (1) Asst. Chief Ed Sarvis and Captain Brian Reitz of the Durham Police Department provided a presentation on the investigation process into bicycle and pedestrian crashes, with specific focus on a recent investigation. (2) Erik Landfried provided an overview of the newly formed Durham Complete Streets Coalition, the complete streets concept, and relevance to Durham.
- May: Pete Nicholas of the Transportation Department provided an overview of roadway restriping and road diet/reconfiguration as opportunities to provide bicycle accommodations.
- June: No Presentation.
- July: (1) Lindsay Smart of DCHC MPO provided a presentation on the draft MTIP and 2040 MTP amendment. (2) Asst. Chief Ed Sarvis and Captain Brian Reitz of the Durham

Police Department provided the first semi-annual report to BPAC regarding bicycle and pedestrian enforcement, metrics, and education.

- August: (1) Mark Ahrendsen and Marvin Williams, of Transportation and Public Works, respectively, provided an update on sidewalk projects and the development and construction process. (2) Dale McKeel provided an update on bicycle and pedestrian projects in the project pipeline.
- September: Wesley Parham of Transportation provided a presentation on streetlights.
- October: Dale McKeel, assisted by Kendra Bridges, provided a presentation on Durham projects to be submitted to the statewide SPOT 4.0 project funding prioritization process.
- November: No presentation due to Annual Retreat.
- December: Dane Summers of Code for Durham provided a presentation on a Bike Safety App in development and requested feedback.

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

### *A. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Implementation*

- Reviewed and commented on resurfacing lists for Durham and state roads.
- Reviewed and commented on Durham Orange Light Rail plan and discussed trail connections and bicycle and pedestrian access.
- Provided comments and recommendations on reconfiguration of Bus 15/501, with letter approved by full BPAC. Coordinated speakers for City Council meeting.
- Reviewed and commented on Sandy Creek Trail extension, sidewalk development in Durham County, Walk Your City sign installation, Latta/Infinity/Roxboro project, and Fayetteville Road improvements.
- Engaged with community members requesting assistance with two projects, resulting in letters sent by BPAC to the City and/or State DOT.
- Reviewed connections from neighborhoods to the American Tobacco Trail, and other gaps that can be filled in the bicycle network.

### *B. Development Review Activities*

- Provided 159 sets of comments on site plans, including initial reviews and re-reviews
- Provided 49 sets of comments on development plans
- Reviewed and commented on a variety of projects: Rosedale subdivision, rezoning applications, UDO changes, proposed new zoning classification in RTP.
- Held training session on development review process for new committee members and new co-chairs.

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

- Engaged in Bike Month through attendance and volunteering at a variety of events. Requested and received \$300 to support Bike Month events.
- Increased the number of schools holding Walk to School and Bike to School events from 6 schools to 12 schools
- Provided PSA to be used at Bike to the Ballpark events at the Durham Bulls games promoting safe bicycling and driving near bicycles.
- Discussed Memorial Policy with community members at committee meetings and BPAC monthly meeting.
- Coordinated placement of Watch for Me NC educational banners in a dozen locations throughout Durham.
- Participated in Watch for Me NC press conference in Durham with statewide and local organizations.
- Requested and received \$500 for bicycle lights and reflective tape to supplement Watch for Me NC lights (to be distributed by Police Department).
- Discussed and began work on defining and acquiring data needed to understand full picture of bicycle and pedestrian safety and enforcement in Durham.

*D. Community Engagement Committee (January to June 2015)*

- Engagement with Durham Police Department: discussed metrics and activities to further goal of decreasing bicycle and pedestrian crashes, educating the public, and collecting data both internally, with the Interneighborhood Council, and with DPD staff. Initiated semi-annual reporting from DPD at BPAC meetings.
- Coordinated comprehensive comments on bicycle and pedestrian topics for Coffee with Council meetings, and recruited participants to share those comments with Council at the meetings. Requests achieved include new staff position in bicycle and pedestrian and bicycle and pedestrian plan updates being funded.
- Discussed and publicized Mayor Bell's sign on to the US DOT Mayor's Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets. Sent a letter (approved by BPAC) to Mayor Bell outlining our support and suggested strategies to improve Durham.
- Merged with Education and Encouragement Committee in July 2015 to streamline activities, and in light of less focus on event planning for BPAC as a whole.



*Walk to School Day Activities at Eastway Elementary*

## **VI. Focus Areas for 2015**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission held its annual retreat on November 14, 2015. The retreat included an overview of BPAC for the new BPAC members, a review of 2015 goals and accomplishments, and developed goals, outcomes, and activities for 2016, 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,

Kendra Bridges, BPAC Chair

## **Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects Completed in 2015**

### **New Bike Lanes / Shoulders**

- North Pointe Drive from Broad St. to Guess Rd. (0.8 miles)
- Fifteenth Street from Hillsborough St. to Main St. (0.2 miles)
- S. Roxboro St. from Hillside Ave. to Umstead St. (0.35 miles)
- Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd. from University Dr. to Nation Ave. (0.7 miles)
- Guess Rd. from Carver St to Prison Camp Rd. (1.75 miles)
- Briggs Avenue from Lawson St. to Person St. (0.8 miles)

### **Bicycle Parking**

- 12 new bike racks installed by the City of Durham
- Numerous bike racks installed as part of new development

### **Pedestrian Signal Improvements at Intersections**

- Hillsborough Rd. and LaSalle St.
- Anderson St. and Erwin Rd.
- Vickers St./E. Forest Hills Blvd. and University Dr.
- Shannon Rd. and University Dr.
- Miami Blvd. and Raynor St.

### **Pedestrian Lighting Projects**

- 350 new streetlight installations

### **Sidewalks**

- 17,535 linear feet of sidewalk repaired
- New sidewalk on Cameron Avenue (constructed by Duke University)
- New sidewalk on Rigsbee Avenue (approximately 75 linear feet)
- Sidewalks built as part of new development

### **Traffic Calming**

- 12 speed humps installed on a total of five streets
- 5 speed humps removed from Duke Homestead Road

## 2016 BPAC Goals

### **Goal Statement**

All Durham streets should be safe for everyone regardless of whether they are walking, using transit, biking, or in a car. All Durham streets should be "complete streets" and designed for everyone - from small children to senior citizens, from runners to wheelchair users - to use and enjoy. We call on the Durham City Council and staff to put in place everything necessary (policies, plans, public processes, staff and funding) to start making all Durham streets "complete." Further, we call for this effort and investment to focus on areas with the most need for multi-modal accommodations, recognizing that communities of color and lower income areas are often disproportionately hindered by lack of sidewalks, safe crossings, bike lanes, and other amenities that make up complete streets.

### **Outcomes and Activities (Committee Lead in Parentheses):**

1. Communicate our goals by maintaining an active dialogue/presence with City Council and County Commissioners, by presenting at work sessions and Coffees with Council, sending timely emails, and speaking directly with elected officials. **(Full Commission)**
2. Increase education and awareness regarding rules of the road and safe use for all users in Durham by developing and implementing targeted outreach/event participation goals for BPAC, and collaborating with Bike Durham and Durham Complete Streets Coalition as appropriate. **(Full Commission)**
3. Increase the safe use of walking and bicycling as transportation modes for children and adolescents by increasing the number of schools in Durham participating in National Walk and Bike to School Days to 15 and encouraging Durham Public Schools to add a Bicycle Education curriculum to all DPS elementary schools at the 4th grade level. **(Education, Encouragement, and Engagement Committee)**
4. Improve the connectivity of the bicycle and pedestrian network in Durham by:
  - A. Participating in the update process for the City/County's Bike and Ped plans, including update to bike/hike map if applicable. **(Bike and Ped Plan Implementation Committee)**
  - B. Identifying key connectivity gaps and collaborating with other commissions and jurisdictions to address them. **(Bike and Ped Plan Implementation Committee)**
5. Improve the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians by working with Durham Police Department to increase enforcement and education, through: use of metrics to track improvements, educational presentations by officers in schools, and officer in-service on bicycling-related laws. **(Education, Encouragement, and Engagement Committee)**

6. Ensure that appropriate bicycle and pedestrian accommodations are included in new and maintained in existing development and transportation facilities by:
  - A. Reviewing and providing feedback on all transportation projects in Durham, including, but not exclusive to, specific ped/bike projects, road widenings and reconfigurations, intersection improvements, road repaving projects. **(Bike and Ped Plan Implementation Committee)**
  - B. Reviewing and providing feedback on new site/corridor plans for compliance with UDO and adopted plans with regards to bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. **(Development Review Committee)**
  - C. Participating in the planning process for large transportation projects such as the Durham-Orange Light Rail and “Fix the Loop” project, advocating for consideration and inclusion of appropriate bicycle and pedestrian accommodations as part of these projects. **(Development Review Committee)**



*The reconfiguration of Durham-Chapel Hill Boulevard in 2015 provided room for on-street parking, bus stop pullouts, and buffered bicycle lanes*

**2015 Attendance Report**  
**Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission**  
**January 1, 2015 -- December 31, 2015**

Member Name	Appointed By	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov Retreat	Nov-15	Dec-15	Percent of Meetings Attended
Andrew Hutson	City	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	P	A	EA	P	P	60%
Andrew Jacobson	City	P	-	EA	P	P	P	P	EA	P	P	P	P	P	83%
Clifford Conklin	County	EA	-	P	P	P	P	EA	P	EA	P	P	P	P	75%
Cynthia Fisher-Richardson	County	EA	-	A	A	A	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	0%
Damon Thomas	City (NC Central Rep)	P	-	P	EA	P	EA	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	25%
DeAnna Hall	City	P	-	P	P	P	EA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	92%
Dwayne Taylor	County	EA	-	EA	P	A	P	P	P	**	**	**	**	**	57%
Elise Bielen	Planning Commission	P	-	EA	A	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	33%
Emily Egge	City	P	-	EA	P	P	EA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	83%
Esteban Bortiri	City	---	---	---	---	---	P	P	P	P	EA	P	P	P	88%
Erik Landfried	City	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	**	**	**	**	**	100%
Frank Glover	County	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Gene Carleton	Recreation Commission	P	-	P	EA	P	EA	P	EA	P	EA	P	P	P	83%
Ivona Piper	County	P	-	P	EA	P	P	P	P	EA	P	P	P	P	83%
Jeffrey Bakalchuck	DOST	P	-	EA	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	50%
Jennifer McDuffie	County	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	EA	P	P	P	92%
Kendra Bridges	City	P	-	P	P	P	EA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	92%
Linda Huff	Planning Commission	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	P	P	EA	EA	EA	EA	33%
Malcolm White	County	EA	-	A	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	0%
Mary Ross	City	P	-	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	100%
Max Bushell	County	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Perry Whitted	DOST	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	P	P	EA	P	P	P	83%
Randall Best	County (Duke)	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Rebecca Board	County	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	P	P	P	EA	EA	P	66%

<b>Total Percentage of Meetings Attended</b>	<b>76%</b>
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P = Present  
A = Absent  
EA = Excused Absence  
--- = Not a member at the time of this meeting  
\*\* = No longer a member of the Commission