



**January 17, 2023**  
**7:00 pm**

**Virtual Meeting Via Zoom**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92349600233>

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**I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions, Excused Absences, Equity and Land**

**Acknowledgements - 7:01 pm**

*Present:* Deniz Aydemir, Michael Moorman, Scott Carter, Ed Rizzuto, Aidil Ortiz, Susanne Schmal, Kai Monast, Mike Shepherd, Landon Baucom, Brian Hawkins, Tyler Dewey, Heidi Carter, Ryan Phillips

*Excused Absences:* Cesar Castro, Dan Clever, Javiera Caballero

*Absent:* James Barnes, Monica Green

*Staff:* Dale McKeel, Hannah Reynolds, Erin Convery, Robin Young

*Guests:* Paul Harvin, Tonia McRae, Leah Daniel, Dave Connelly

**II. Adjustments to the Agenda - 7:07 pm**

- Ed Rizzuto brought up the fact that he cannot go through the chat to know who is here. We introduced ourselves verbally and will continue to do so moving forward.
- Erin Convery was added to the agenda as a speaker.

**III. Approval of Minutes – 7:13 pm**

- Motion to approve made by Mike Shepherd, seconded by Ed Rizzuto. Motion to approve November and December minutes was approved.

**IV. Public Comments – 7:15 pm**

- Commuter rail study has been posted. Aidil encouraged everyone to go in to review.
  - o <https://www.readyforrailnc.com/feasibility/>
  - o There are two upcoming open houses for anyone interested to attend. Locations are listed on the site.
- Paul Harvin asked if there were existing plans to add flexiposts or other protection to the repainted Erwin Road bike lane.
  - o Erin Convery answered. The City does plan to install vertical delineators after completion.

**V. Presentation(s): 7:24 pm**

- *Erin Convery, City of Durham Transportation Planning Manager* presented on the potential connection between ATT and the Durham Rail Trail.
  - City staff has identified a potential funding opportunity through the Bloomberg Initiative for Cycling Infrastructure in the form of a grant for this connection.
  - Capital Broadcasting is also cooperating and looking into this as an option.
  - <https://bloombergcities.jhu.edu/bici>
  - Erin made a request for BPAC to work with the City on this grant application and asked for letter of support for the grant.
  - Paul Harvin asked what the potential connection would be if the grant was awarded.
    - The connection would be repurposed parking on the side of Blackwell St. to create a separated facility all the way up Blackwell to the back of the Old Bull building. It would then flow up the south side of Pettigrew Street.
    - The rail trail would then have to get to Pettigrew Street, but there are assurances that it would be linked up should the connection from the ATT be funded.
  - The scope of the letter would be the importance of connecting those trails and not the approval of any particular route or a specific request for money (although that is the end goal).
  - The grant initiative is bike focused, but the connection will serve pedestrian traffic as well and will be a multi-modal connection between the trails.
  - Landon Baucom asked if we would be able to incorporate language in the letter in regards to connecting East Durham with some of the other facilities that have been separated. This would be in line with our values and in what the rail trail is trying to accomplish.
  - Aidil Ortiz made a motion to support a letter showing BPAC's alignment with this initiative, Michael Moorman seconded it. Motion approved.
  
- *Hannah Reynolds, City of Durham Bike & Pedestrian Planner* gave a welcome introduction
  - Will be replacing Dale McKeel as the staff liaison with Durham BPAC.

## VI. **Committee Reports** – 7:54 pm

- Education, Encouragement and Engagement Committee Report (*Susanne Schmal*)
  - There was a follow-up from December conversation with Aspen and Tricia Smar.
  - Discussion about traffic calming and connection gaps survey – Aidil will help with this and EEE can help review, etc.
    - Another supporting role - Meeting with stakeholders as BPAC meeting(e.g., emergency responders, city, etc) –frame as learning session
    - Budget request for Vision Zero FTE
  - Survey to follow up on interest
  - Bicycle helmet initiative again, want to apply to get helmets and will be following up.

- Deadline is Feb 3.  
<https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/BikePed/Pages/Bicycle-Helmet-Initiative.aspx>
  - We have funds left after last couple years. There are a couple of conferences coming up that are of interest to BPAC. Anyone interested in attending the League of American Bicyclists or the Main Street Conference should let EEE know.
- Development Review Committee Report (*Michael Moorman*)
  - There was discussion about the need for some place for people aware of hazardous conditions to send that info in or report it. Something analogous to One Call. Also the same premise with traffic calming and areas with the need for connections between communities.
  - Letter for US 70 corridor study was reviewed. Deniz spoke about this and went through letter up for proposal. Letter involves trying not to turn US 70 into a “highway” and to consider alternatives.
    - Suggestions were given on revisions to the letter during conversation from Dale, Susanne and Landon.
    - Motion to approve the letter, with tweaks included, was made by Landom Baucom, seconded by Susanne Schmal. Motion approved.
  - Letter reviewed from Dan Clever in regards to responses from our previous letters to Marvin Williams at Durham Public Works Department (regarding re-pavement of MLK). Also reviewed letter on Erwin Road addressed to Sean Egan, City of Durham.
  - Motion to approve both of the rebuttal letters, with slightly improved language on MLK letter, was made by Michael Moorman, seconded by Scott Carter. Motion approved.
- Bike & Pedestrian Plan Implementation / Evaluation Committee Report (*Michael Moorman*)
  - Updates included in Dev Rev update above.
- Updates from Liaisons:
  - Durham City Council - (*Javiera Caballero*) – no updates
  - Durham Board of County Commissioners - (*Heidi Carter*) - no updates
  - Duke University – (*Tyler Dewey*) - Approval received in the last week to bring in consultants in order to update the campus mobility plan.
  - NC Central University. No current representative, in progress.
  - Comprehensive Plan – (*Ed Rizzuto and Aidil Ortiz*) There is a plan to present to the public in the next few weeks. Public will be informed of the plan and get more feedback. Plan is ready to present to the County Commissioners sometime after March.
- Other Community Updates – none

VII. **Old Business – 8:40 pm**

- BPAC Bylaws Update (Dale McKeel) – We are going to review these prior to the next meeting with a plan to review further and potentially adopt soon.

- BPAC Retreat Planning –
  - o Format – sentiment was to do an earlier portion at home virtually then meet up for lunch and outdoor portion in person later in afternoon.
  - o We need a group to organize logistics: outdoor activity, food and agenda. Tyler, Ed and Susanne volunteered to help out with this.
  - o The group discussed some ideas for outside activities at the retreat.
- Review of Presentation Topics for Upcoming Meetings
  - o Ed Rizzuto – suggested learning more about Go Durham Connect.
  - o Susanne Schmal – meeting/presentation with First Responders in Durham.
  - o Landon - brought up master greenway plan from 2011 involving Person County Rail Trail and trail moving out the Hwy 70 corridor. Asked about a possible overview of old, present, future greenway projects and the status.
    - <https://nc-durham.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/3445/Durham-Trails-and-Greenways-Master-Plan-2011-PDF?bidId>

VIII. **New Business** - 9:01 pm

- Bicycle Friendly Community Application (*Hannah Reynolds*) – postponed to next meeting.
- BPAC 2022 Annual Report (*Dale McKeel*)
  - o Review of the report during meeting.
  - o Pictures of bike events at school and holiday parade to be forwarded by Susanne.
  - o Susanne made a couple edits to the EEE report.
  - o Motion to approve, with small changes and new photos, made by Scott Carter, seconded by Tyler Dewey. Motion approved by BPAC.
- BPAC Member Screenshot – Aidil took this while we were meeting.
- Syncing up City and County Commission Member Benefits – kicking this to the next meeting.

IX. **Announcements and Updates** - 9:08 pm.

- Deniz – this is Dale’s last meeting with us, Hannah will be our new full-time liaison.

X. **Communication Priorities from meeting and Committees** – 9:11

- a. Commuter Rail open houses.
- b. Letter for funding of trail connection, communicated to commission
- c. Funding discussed by EEE on conference possibilities.

XI. **Adjourn** – 9:13 pm.