



Calendar Year 2020 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.

This report is an overview of the work the BPAC has been doing in calendar year 2020. In 2020 BPAC continued to prioritize its work on the frameworks of Vision Zero, Complete Streets, and Mobility Justice. BPAC activities are discussed throughout the annual report.

Membership: Three residents were appointed to BPAC in 2020 – Jay Johnson, Jazmyn Joyner, and Shyla Napier. In 2020, the average attendance at the monthly meetings was 69 percent. BPAC members also participate in monthly committee meetings, community and engagement events, the annual planning retreat, and other activities.

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

Emily Egge served as Chair of BPAC during 2020, with Amanda De Hoedt serving as Vice-Chair. Dale McKeel provided staff support to the Commission. Javiera Caballero served as the liaison from the Durham City Council, and Heidi Carter served as the liaison from the Durham Board of County Commissioners.

In 2020, BPAC had the following committees:

- Development Review (chaired by Dan Clever)
- Bike and Pedestrian Plan Implementation and Evaluation (chaired by Michael Moorman)
- Education, Encouragement, and Engagement (chaired by Susanne Schmal)

IV. Presentations Made to BPAC

- January: Shared Active Transportation Program Update and Ordinance Revision (Evan Tenenbaum and Dale McKeel, Durham Transportation Department)
- February: Transit Emphasis Corridors (Brian Taylor, Durham Transportation Department)

- March: No meeting due to Covid-19
- April: No meeting due to Covid-19
- May: No meeting due to Covid-19
- June: Move Durham Update (Ellen Beckmann, Durham Transportation Department)
- July: Shared Streets Update (Dale McKeel, Durham Transportation Department)
- August: Shared Streets Update (Aidil Ortiz, SpiritHouse and Dale McKeel, Durham Transportation Department)
- September: Barriers to Walking and Biking in Bragtown (Alexis John, Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services Department) and Replacing the Durham Freeway with a Boulevard (Siobhan Nelson, UNC City Planning student and Fred Broadwell, Durham resident)
- October: Triangle Bikeway Study (Dale McKeel, Durham Transportation Department)
- November: Durham County Transit Plan Update (Brooke Ganser, City-County Planning Department)
- December: Updates on Various Transportation Projects (Dale McKeel, Durham Transportation Department)

V. BPAC Accomplishments and Activities

A. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Implementation

- Discussed and commented on the US 15-501 Reimagining study.
- Advocated for the need for a sidewalk connection from Fayetteville Road to Solite Park as part of the Fayetteville Road widening project, and the safety of the crossing of Fayetteville Street for American Tobacco Trail users.
- Reviewed list of city-maintained streets and requested bicycle lane striping on Meridian Parkway and other streets.
- Requested that the Public Works Department provide paired curb ramps at each corner as often as possible, and that missing truncated domes on curb ramps be repaired in a timely manner.
- Reviewed and commented on studies and proposed construction projects, including the Move Durham study, the US 15-501 Reimagining study, the Freeway and Street-based Transit (“FAST”) Network Study, Kelly Bryant Bridge Trail design, the Third Fork Creek Trail design, Duke and Gregson Street bicycle facilities (following waterline replacement), Cornwallis Rd bicycle and pedestrian project, and the Woodcroft Parkway Extension design.
- Expressed dismay over NCDOT’s funding shortfall that stopped work on several bicycle and pedestrian projects in Durham.
- Advocated for traffic signals that are audible signals for visually impaired people.

- Met with residents in the Bragtown community to discuss various bicycle, pedestrian, and access to transit safety concerns, including discussion of the preferred side of the street for proposed sidewalk on Club Boulevard near Glenbrook Drive.
- Met with members of DOST to discuss the development review process.

B. Development Review Activities

- Provided comments on site plans, including initial reviews and re-reviews.
- Provided comments on development plans, including initial reviews and re-reviews.
- Held training session on development review process for BPAC members at the annual retreat.
- Updated the site plan review checklist.
- Requested a buffered, protected bike lane on Chapel Hill Street as part of the redevelopment of the old police headquarters building.
- Revised plan review workflow to align with the Planning Department's new site plan system.
- Reviewed and commented on revisions to the Unified Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed the site plan for the proposed development in the former Brame property on Washington Street adjacent to the future Durham Belt Line Trail.
- Reviewed and wrote a letter regarding the requested street closure of Oregon Street between Campus Drive and Erwin Rd.
- Met with residents in the Bragtown community to discuss proposed developments along Old Oxford Rd and Carver St.

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

- Worked to ensure that equitable engagement outreach strategies are utilized for current and future Durham transportation projects.
- Used Twitter and Facebook to provide updates on BPAC's work and bicycle and pedestrian activities in Durham, including publishing BPAC committee member profiles on Facebook to help the community get to know BPAC members better.
- Participated in the Durham Comprehensive Plan Update process.
- Discussed how BPAC could build relationships with officials and residents regarding important issues in the community and support both safe bicycle, pedestrian, and transit transportation options and safe, affordable housing.
- Applied for 25 youth bicycle helmets through the NCDOT initiative and distributed through Bike Durham and the Durham Bike Co-op to children residing in Durham Housing Authority properties.
- Jointly with Bike Durham planned and engaged residents in physically distanced and virtual Bike Month activities despite the pandemic.
- Met with Leslie Tracey of the Transportation Department to discuss the status of implementing Vision Zero in Durham.
- Received updates on the Durham Transit Plan Update and Participatory Budgeting.

- Participated in planning for the virtual NC BikeWalk Summit and was a financial supporter. Two BPAC members, Ed Rizzuto and Aidil Ortiz, were presenters at the Summit.
- Promoted White Cane Awareness Day (the National Federation of the Blind) through social media.
- Applied for an awarded a bicycle fixit station from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (tentative plan is to install at Holton Center).

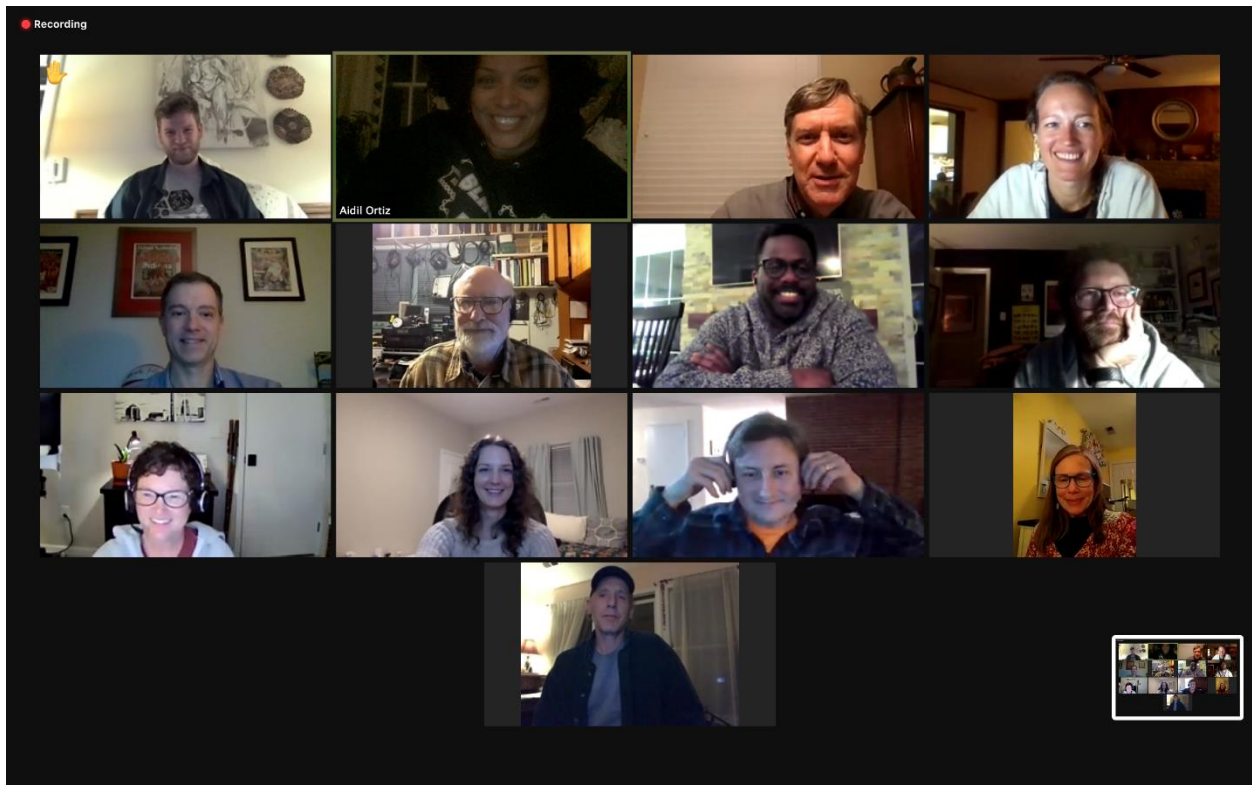
VI. Focus Areas for 2021

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission held its annual retreat on February 20, 2020. The first half of the retreat was for BPAC members and included a BPAC guiding principles refresher, review of 2020 accomplishments, and discussion of priorities for 2021. The second half of the retreat included members from other commissions – Recreation Advisory Commission, Open Space and Trails Commission, and Environmental Affairs Board – and provided a time to discuss the work and priorities for each group and discuss opportunities for the boards and commissions to collaborate in 2021.

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 and safer place to walk and bicycle. We hope that you will call upon us whenever our advice or expertise is needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Susanne Schmal, BPAC Chair



BPAC Members March 2021. Top row: George Tait, Aidil Ortiz, staff liaison Dale McKeel, Emily Egge. 2nd row: Mike Shepherd, Michael Moorman, Tony Patterson, David Fellerath. 3rd row: Susanne Schmal, Amanda De Hoedt, Dan Clever, County Commission liaison Heidi Carter. 5th row: Ed Rizzuto. Not shown: City Council liaison Javiera Caballero.

Attendance Report
Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
January 1, 2020 -- December 31, 2020

Member Name	Appointed By	Retreat	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Percent of Meetings Attended
Aidil Ortiz	City	P	EA	P	NM	NM	NM	P	EA	P	P	EA	P	P	70%
Dan Clever	City	P	P	P	NM	NM	NM	P	P	EA	P	P	P	P	90%
Emily Egge	City	P	P	P	NM	NM	NM	EA	P	P	P	P	P	P	90%
Jay Johnson	City	---	---	P	NM	NM	NM	EA	P	EA	EA	P	EA	EA	38%
Jazmyn Joyner	City	---	---	---	NM	NM	NM	EA	EA	EA	EA	EA	EA	EA	0%
Shyla Napier	City	---	---	---	NM	NM	NM	EA	EA	EA	P	EA	EA	EA	14%
Vacant	City (NCCU Rep)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	N/A
Amanda De Hoedt	County	P	P	P	NM	NM	NM	P	P	EA	EA	P	P	P	80%
Cecilia Gonzales	County	P	P	EA	NM	NM	NM	P	P	---	---	---	---	---	80%
Ed Rizzuto	County	P	P	P	NM	NM	NM	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Michael Moorman	County	P	P	P	NM	NM	NM	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Susanne Schmal	County	P	P	EA	NM	NM	NM	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	90%
Tricia Smar	County	P	P	P	NM	NM	NM	EA	---	---	---	---	---	---	75%
George Tait	County (Duke Rep)	P	EA	EA	NM	NM	NM	EA	EA	EA	P	P	P	EA	40%
Vacant	DOST	---	---	---	NM	NM	NM	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	N/A
Vacant	Planning Comm.	---	---	---	NM	NM	NM	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	N/A
David Fellerath	RAC	P	EA	EA	NM	NM	NM	P	P	P	P	P	P	EA	70%

Total Percentage of Meetings Attended	69%
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P = Present
A = Absent
EA = Excused Absence
NM = NO MEETING
--- = Not a member at the time of this meeting
** = No longer a member of the Commission