

SALT LAKE CITY

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 15, 2015 Meeting

Present from the Bicycle Advisory Committee were Denise Hunsaker, Elicia Cárdenas, Jason Stevenson, Ken Yonemura, Mark Kennedy, Scott Lyttle, Shaun Jacobsen and Todd Hadden.

Absent from the Bicycle Advisory Committee were David Brooks, Jason Hamula and Suzanne Stensaas.

Also present were Becka Roof, Amy Pufahl, Robin Hutcheson, Phil Sarnoff and Sgt. Lisa Pascadlo.

The meeting, held at the Transportation Division Office, 349 South 200 East, Salt Lake City, Utah, was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Scott Lyttle.

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests – Scott welcomed all attendees and everyone introduced themselves.

Public/Open Comment – Phil wanted to let everyone know that this Saturday the 20th, English author Carlton Reid would be speaking at the Impact Hub. He is the author of the book “Roads Were Not Built for Cars” and will be speaking from 5-6 p.m.

Approval of Minutes– **Motion:** Elicia Cárdenas moved to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2015 meeting with one correction. Jason Stevenson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements and Connections

Scott asked about doing a Committee safety class with Elicia. It was suggested that maybe in July they do this in lieu of a regular meeting. Elicia said she would send a few possible dates for this class and do it as a social event where Committee business would not be discussed rather than a formal meeting. Becka suggested they do a formal vote if this change was made. Denise participated in Open Streets handing out water and had a wonderful experience. Shaun read about a proposed handicapped ordinance. His understanding is that the BAC will also be looking at this proposal and sharing their input. He said he’s looking forward to it. Ken went to Open Streets and Tour de Brewtah. He said they were good events with a nice set up. Mark said the Bike Prom was a huge hit with good spectatorship. Scott attended the first day of Farmer’s Market which had a good turn out as well as Tour de Brewtah and Open Streets which were both great. Jason was out of town and sorry to miss those events. He said there have been a lot of recent bike thefts in the Sugar House area. Todd was in Denver and noticed that they have a lot of overpasses for pedestrians.

Check In with the Committee

Robin Hutcheson, SLC Transportation

Robin wanted to do an annual checkup with the Committee to see if there are any changes needed and to let them know what's going on in Transportation. She also wanted to thank them for all of their hard work. She hopes that they are able to give feedback regarding the last year and how they think the structure is functioning, if they are accomplishing what they want and starting to see the fruits of their labor. Elicia said she's very much enjoyed her time but feels like they move at a glacial pace both at meeting and on projects. She feels like they could be doing twice as much by using their time differently and is excited that the Committee is open to developing a common language and agreeing on how they talk about things. Shaun thinks they are a great forum and sounding board for Transportation which is why they aren't doing it at such a quick pace. Robin asked if there was anything specific that Transportation could have helped with to move their issues along faster. Elicia said she feels as though they are brought a lot of information but doesn't feel like there have been a lot of requests for them to take action on items. Scott said they would like more items like 600 East. Robin said it may feel like they are being given a lot of information and there isn't a lot of decision making but then all of a sudden there are a lot of decisions that need to be made. She said they have to use all of that information to make those decisions but feels like the City can be more responsive and give the Committee more tasks. Scott felt like their consultation on the bike map and resurfacing projects was helpful as well as the upcoming McClelland Trail project. Becka said some of the glacial pace that they are seeing is that they are seeing things at the pace that they happen. Some projects are in development for years before they are constructed. Elicia said that what she means is she feels like there are more projects in the works that they aren't seeing and could be looking at now. Robin will keep that in mind and there are many projects that she would like them to look at. Jason said they are still trying to find their roll and that they need to figure out how to inject some of their members into some of these projects. Robin said they have also begun getting other entities such as UDOT and UTA to give the Committee updates. Todd would like to see a school district representative on the Committee. Elicia would love to know more about what happens at TAB so Shaun is going to start giving them an update each month. Robin said that what is important to Transportation is safety and while that has always been the focus, it hasn't been easily tracked in past years. Transportation has now gained access to police reports so they can analyze and develop safety plans. There are already numerous improvements being made across the city and that is largely a reflection of the data they now have showing where improvements are needed.

League of American Bicyclists: Silver

Becka Roof, SLC Transportation

Salt Lake City again received a silver ranking with The League of American Bicyclists but was highlighted in their magazine. The League also shared with them a basic report card and will be giving the City more information regarding where they have made improvements and where there are still improvements to be made. Becka said there will be a further discussion at a future meeting, once the city has received their full analysis,

expected in July. The silver renewal lasts for four years but the City can re-apply if they feel they have reached gold status prior to that.

Sidewalk Bicycle Policy - workshop

Becka Roof, SLC Transportation, and all

Becka thanked the Committee for their patience on this issue. After the BAC sent it to TAB for review, TAB sent it to Transportation who wants to have a slightly broader discussion with the community before a proposal is put forward. As Transportation has engaged in this topic again, they really need to make sure they have a good definition of the problem from the committee, especially with regard to the potential conflicts with pedestrians. She split the Committee members into two groups with Shaun leading the group looking at rescinding the law and Elicia in leading the group looking at the opposite perspective. The groups then went into break out discussions.

Elicia's Group included Todd, Ken and Scott - Todd summarized the downtown central business district and the issue. You can't ride on the sidewalk in that area but the problem is the sidewalks are very nice and the roads aren't. The law is enforced arbitrarily so they said they need to come up with an idea of what the problem is, why it was enacted and who cares about it. It is Todd's theory that this ordinance was enacted when skateboarding was popular so they banned all wheeled vehicles at the time. Scott said he thinks the biggest problem is that they can't define it themselves, it's a stumbling block. He said there can be aggressive cyclists on the sidewalks creating collisions and conflict with small children and others which also creates bicycle crashes. In addition to the pedestrian/cycling collisions, blind driveways create a problem. Ken said it depends on how you want to look at things. You can look at it as transportation belongs on the road but if it's entertainment it belongs on the sidewalk. In Elicia's experience, taking kids on the sidewalk is a terrible idea. She said once they are between 8-10 they can judge distance and have better judgment which makes it better for them to ride on the road. With the current ordinance you can't ride Greenbike from the station to the road either because the stations are all on sidewalks. This might be confusing to tourists and as a tourist; they might feel safer on the sidewalk as it adds an element of safety for those who aren't familiar with the streets. Wheelchair users and handicapped people may be stakeholders as well. Todd's original solution was to let them ride on the sidewalk at a walking pace which he also feels would positively affect businesses in the area. If cyclists are racing by businesses then there would be a negative effect. Lisa liked the idea that there is infrastructure to do certain things and it was always intended for cyclists to be on the road and that the ordinance going away really changes nothing because there is a fallback citywide ordinance outlining how cyclists should ride on sidewalks where permitted. Elicia said the national data shows that there are more bicycle accidents on sidewalks than roadways. The issue of plans to increase the density downtown and how this will be affected as far as having enough room for pedestrians and cyclists was brought up. Several members of the group agreed with Ken's assessment regarding whether you're riding for transportation or entertainment.

Shaun's group –started with a discussion of a lack of knowledge of the law, which Becka pointed out is a separate issue than what the law should be.

Focusing on “what is the problem with no bicycling on the sidewalk” the group developed the following list:

- Sometimes it is more convenient / safer for the last 100' of a journey to ride on the sidewalk instead of crossing the street to get to a destination.
- Some people will only ride downtown if they can ride on the sidewalks due to concern for safety. Not being able to ride on the sidewalk limits who will choose to bicycle.
- Appropriate riding on the sidewalk might be characterized as “coasting” – that is something faster than walking but slower than fast riding. Discussion of kids who are literally coasting on scoot / strider bikes without pedals.
- GREENbike sends mixed messages with stations on sidewalks.
- Question: what should bicycling be on sidewalks in other business districts? Discussion of Cambridge, MA policy “bicycling at walking speed” in business districts.

Who wants bikes on sidewalks:

- GREENbike (the organization) – not sure
- People riding GREENbikes
- Tourists
- Police (they ride on the sidewalk)
- Visit Salt Lake
- Downtown residents – might be split
- People who need to ride a short distance against the flow of traffic – better to ride on the sidewalk than cross a busy street twice.
- Downtown schools? - not sure
- Downtown Merchants
- Families

Who is likely opposed

- Downtown residents
- Seniors

Construction Season Updates

Becka Roof, SLC Transportation

The City is going through the chip and slurry projects for this year. There are two streets she wanted to highlight for committee input, one is 600 West from North Temple to 900 South. The other one is 900 South between 200 West and 900 West which includes the railroad crossing / freeway bridge that currently has a very awkward approach to get onto the 9-Line bike path at 700 West. She asked to meet with the infrastructure workgroup for these projects for a field review, and asked if other committee members wanted to join. Todd Hadden asked to join both reviews, and Denise Hunsaker 900 South. A field review will be scheduled in the coming weeks. Becka also said the 200 West protected bike lane project is scheduled to start August 2.

Motion: Denise Hunsaker moved to adjourn the meeting. Todd Hadden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

(Due to technical difficulties, this meeting was not recorded.)