CollaAGENDA & MEETING MINUTES
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
City of Charlottesville
Thursday, October 1, 2026; 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
City Hall Basement Conference Room, 610 E Market St
Option to join remotely via Zoom

Introductions [5:00 PM, 5 minutes]

Guinevere Higgins
Jen Fleisher
Natalie Oschrin
Kevin Sarp
Henry Vega
Peter Ohlms
Ben Chambers
Tommy Safranek
Mike Goddard
Jen Hendrick
James Van Vranken
Paul Miller
Professor Andrew Mondshein + numerous undergrad and graduate planning students
YY Ahn
Zahara Colla

Amendments to the Agenda and Meeting Minutes [5:05 PM]
Request to add 5min to discuss updates at Belmont and Avon

Public Comment [5:05 PM, 10 minutes]

Paul Miller: following up on July email and meeting with Public Works re: Locust Ave traffic calming. Street painting is happening. Lines appear brighter.

YY Ahn: What is the plan for addressing pedestrian safety on the Corner? Is there a plan to coordinate with UVA?

Tommy: 14th St small area plan is underway but paused bc of utilities project underway.

Ben: When W Main plan gets underway the corner will be included, and will be included in the Mobility Plan.

Peter Ohlms: UVA VP is interested in doing more here.

Questions for Staff [5:15 PM, 15 minutes]

Peter Ohlms: Avon and Belmont, met with Kelsey (resident) and Kyle (SRTS coordinator) on site this morning. Talked about the possibility of curb extensions with flex posts in the near-term, Amanda Poncy shared that the City has drawings for curb extensions, just need money for needed improvements. Building a proper concrete setup + curb ramps is important but may not happen quickly.

Ben Chambers: One small detail to correct: not a step of us finding the $ to do the flexposts. SRTS money can be used for signage and QBs, why Kyle was brought in for this area. He'll work with the traffic engineer to get this done ASAP.

Peter Ohlms: This is similar to E. High + Hazel where SRTS improvements have helped a lot.

Henry Vega: I live nearby, are there future plans for the whole corridor? The speeds change dramatically and people race up. Creating a choke point at the school means ppl will speed up. I've had to punch cars bc they don't stop. Whole street is dangerous. I haven't heard of a plan for the corridor.

Ben: The answer is the mobility plan. For big corridors like Monticello Ave there are several others that have similar issues. We'll spend a couple years planning for this.

Peter Ohlms: But Monticello and Rialto already has curb extensions, the work has been done. And it's still not working.

Henry Vega: In terms of how to repair how the streets break up the neighborhoods. Avon feels like it separates downtown, monumental to cross Avon. Knitting the city back

Guinevere: What is the status of the striping of Roosevelt Brown?

Ben: Staff will figure out what went down and get to the bottom of why it's all weird

Guinevere: When will 5th St Road Diet and East High Demo Project finally happen?

Ben: Due to staffing issues, these have been pushed back.

Staff Programming Update [5:30 PM, 5 minutes]

Tommy: Bike Valet at Party for the Planet upcoming tomorrow. Barracks-Rugby Walk on Sunday, leaving from Crow Rec Center. Gentry Lane is a project happening with the school, as a school

street. Only school uses. Gentry as part of the school is actually a driveway, not a street. For the preschool center it's even more important to make the street safer. Will walk through accessibility on the neighborhood walk.

Natalie: Will random bicyclists be able to use it?

Ben: Yes. And also need to put busses there, won't make sense when the Dairy Rd bridge gets replaced next year.

Tommy: Wrapped up Loop De 'Ville, biggest and best yet, 700+ ppl on the trail. Half of folks live in the City, half live in the county, 100 live elsewhere. Get ppl on the trail is the main goal. Projects for biking and walking are slated for the trail. Next week we have an internal meeting about neighborhood walks. One of the most important things we can do, but you have to come out. We're all passionate about our own neighborhoods, but the more we learn about other neighborhoods, issues, projects and have the perspective of our entire community the better. Come! Tell your friends. Will do small outreach events with Parks & Rec around Halloween.

Ben: Sat bike rides, also a crosstown bike bus. W Main will be under construction for years so we want to give ppl guidance for how to ride. Recognizable east-west route. Showing ppl in person how to take alt routes, will start Tuesday mornings. Party for the Planet is recognizing ppl in the community to recognize their work. BPAC is getting the award for advicacy. This is the meeting where this happens. We hope you'll come and celebrate. There will be free t-shirts, Bike Cville, bright and loud. You'll find us easier. Also have a few sweatshirts.

BPAC priorities for NDS [5:35 PM, 15 minutes]

Mike Goddard: lived in the city for 30 years, used to be a bike punk, less so now. I really do care about these issues. Would love to close the roads and make it a bike / ped paradise, for some parts of the city, but I also acknowledge that I works in public works and have seen how it's frustrating from both sides that priorities are brought forward and then run into the realities of all sorts of things that slow down projects. I hope to be able to push them from this side, but I don't want to understate how much I believe in BPAC and would like to join more of these meetings, not every one. It's important work and it's hard to be patient. Sometimes the delays are unavoidable and sometimes not, and it's important to know which. Been in the position for 2 weeks, so I'll say a lot of I don't know

Peter Ohlms: A previous head ogf NDS met with Belmont folks about alleys which would be great for biking and walking. Paper streets and alleys.

Mike: A lot of informal spaces that serve as throughways, not always an option, I have no answers on this but have the beginnings of an epiphany on this topic. I recognize what you recognize. It's fertile and underutilized. I don't want to say more because I need to talk to people in legal, some

belong to the city, some don't, some have easements. Topic about missing middle housing and how we can encourage that growth and how those alleys can serve as access to make those possible.

Josh Carp: The city is beginning it's 5yr comprehensive plan. How are we doing? The comp plan has implementation goals and metrics for trans and other topics and we need to measure them. I don't know if we're recording those. Can't find them if we are. Let's get the metrics we said we'd collect. In the comp plan table the owner is NDS, PW, and BPAC (but no one at BPAC is paid to do this). It's the most important doc in city planning.

Mike: Fair question. The city at-large has recognized that we're not taking care of those metrics. We went so far as to hire a person to keep our metrics up to date.

Jen Hendrick: Just had a convo about this, we're not measuring. We have plans, we have goals, we have success measures, but we never circle back and don't measure. City stratplan, mobility plan (how do we structure that?), comp plan is the other one that needs to be better. Measures and metrics are being reported on to the community. So we know impact and know where we're not meeting the mark.

Tommy: Should be able to do an easy job with the bike stuff.

Josh Carp: I mention it bc staff come to BPAC for ppl to yell at you, it would help to have a way to look back and know where progress has been made or not. It's hard to know what to know what to ask for if we don't know what we've done.

Mike: I've heard a lot of times that we just need to do this one thing and then it'll be solved. It's not that simple. I look forward to blue skies.

James Van Vranken: mention of roadblocks and delays that are sometimes avoidable and sometimes not. I'd like more transparency, more reporting, metrics. Getting a clearer insight into the process such that if someone is interested in a project they can know when it's scheduled, why it's been delayed, etc. so much frustration digging and digging to find the answer and sometimes that's reasonable and sometimes not. Some staff feel that because there's a delay ppl will be mad at them. Most of us are reasonable and won't flip out. So much more frustration at the opacity than delays.

Natalie: If a project is delayed, we name the original due date and the new due date, so we don't keep kicking the due date and you know the trajectory and why it was pushed.

Mike: More clarity: one of the big challenges from both sides of past and new positions is that the handoff from folks who plan and come up with new ideas and the people who put them on the street. There are challenges with implementation that we on the procurement and planning side don't have. Some of those are best of intentions where workforce is hard to come by, some of them

have something to do with philosophy. Some ppl in NDS doing trans planning are also advocates. Public Works tends to have a different set of concerns. Connection between those things can be challenging. Sometimes for good reasons, sometimes not. I won't have all the answers, except until we hand off to public works. That's where Jen comes in, her mission is to make sure there's one voice of the city. Not NDS or PW, but the City. huge distinction that we haven't spent enough time on.

Paul: data, all these students have inspired me to see if we could pull in interns and data science ppl. Building on your point, within the first 6mos of Sam and James joining the City we walked Martha Jeff about the importance of working across siloes, however many years ago I walked with them, they both agreed we need division heads to work with one another. Massive opportunity and we should be more vigilant about crossing divisions to get stuff done. Even my little project I'm passionate project it's such an easy no brainer of a project, but it's been a 20 year conversation. Can we please at a leadership level be realistic about crossing into each other's siloes for efficiency and effectiveness.

Mike: There's good things to share. I've been with the City 11 year, over many city managers. James and Sam care. I've seen their efforts to bring us all together. It's hard work. The challenge and difficulty are real to get ppl to work across divisions. Again, I know that's a long time to work 20 years on a projects, but there are good reasons.

Guinevere: We need to advocate for more than just money in the CIP budget. We ned to ask for staff positions for project managers.

YY: I work at school of data science, we have a faculty member working on code, well versed on data science and engineering and many students who need projects for their classes. Can be a connection.

Status of the City's dashboard of public projects [5:50 PM, 30 minutes]

Jen: 5 new city goals for city council, a cornerstone of goalsetting this year. When ppl set their goals for the years we made them tag what city council priority they aligned with.

Natalie: Two-pronged approach to communication: ppl didn't have enough info to give feedback or know where to find info. This is important internally as well.

Jen: Mike moving from PW to NDS is a critical bond. Wanted to come talk about the strategy team and what we do. Created in Feb 2026. We focis on strategic planning and performance management. Setting goals and making sure they align with priorities, data-driven and accountability. Responsible for city's stratplan and also work with all depts on their plans. Urban Forestry plan. Bring performance lens to everything: tracking, measuring, reporting.

We have a ton of data in the city, we sit on top of that to make it visible and transparent. We don't have a lot of that right now. What my team will do. 5-year comp plan isn't being tracked and reported.

Continuous improvement: looking at data, setting performance measures, how can we be doing teh work better? Three key activities:

1. Creating the city's 3-year stratplan, effective July 1 2027, including metrics, goals
2. Developing external dashboards that reflect goals. Good open data portal, but it doesn't really tell you anything about what we're doing or making progress.
3. CIP project info: and progress on Connect Charlottesville, timelines, deliverables, and a lot more we could be putting out. Not very visible or telling a story, not just CIP projects
4. Evolving our 311 system / MyCville to increase internal effectiveness. It's not great. Intention is great — put in issues and requests and communicate with city. We knew it needed care and feeding, no one was managing it. Internally it was the wild west. Every dept was doing it differently in responding to requests and community. We';re in the middle of fixing it and relaunch in Nov. change things around. Email Jen with comments on survey that went out. We're going to reorganize so requests go to the right place, new categories. Not user-friendly, people hate using it, will redo this. Internally make the workflow work better. Good system and great way to hear from the public.

Welcome to send feedback to hendrickj@charlottesville.gov

Jen Flesisher: Almost more important to have the backend work first and foremost. It works for people, but needs to make sure that the right ppl are receiving the right requests.

Natalie: Car parked in bike lane: When can we have a traffic officer go and cite the person?

Jen Hendrick: Traffic person is my best person. He's on it. He's getting on it. But he's getting all the tickets. Bottleneck. Couldn't respond to some things like flexposts and dead animals. If a vehicle is in the way it'll actually go to him, construction goes to PW, etc. Tommy gets all of them bc he's bike / Ped coordinator.

Peter Ohlms: But is MyCville the answer for 11am on a Sunday? Only report during work hours?

Jen Hendrick: they won't be responded to until business hours.

Tommy: Veo field techs get real-time notifications.

Jen Hendricks: true emergencies need to go to 911 or police non-emergency line. Also need a FAQ and system guide.

James Van Vranken: Is a transportation proijects dashboard or a sidewalks dashboard part of your city dashboard project?

Jen: We'll want to pull together dashboards for collections of projects. CIP construction meeting, getting more transportation. Involving multiple depts. Report on that portfolio of work in logical ways, tying project management to plans, etc.

Mike: Also to have things make sense for residents and not just staff. So it shouldn't be CIP if it's coming from another pot of money.

YY: Will the data from MyCville be open, historical data for analysis?

Jen: Good question. I don't klnow the answer. We have struggled with the Q of how much data we want to put out for residents. No conclusion yet. We have historical data for analysis. We have anonymous users and you can sign up for it. We do have data on tickets we're getting, how long it takes to get through tickets. Important to abide by goals. Trends over time, important for determining what categories we can retire.

YY: It may be useful to report on traffic calming and cross ref with crash data.

Jen: Yes, getting info on traffic calming is important.

Announcements / Other Business [6:20 PM, 5 minutes]

- **BPAC officer elections will be held in January! If you're interested in serving as Secretary, Chair, or Vice Chair (or co-Chairs), please indicate your interest at our Nov or Dec meetings.**

Dr Bruce Appleyard speaking at UVA on Oct. 12:
https://www.arch.virginia.edu/events/street-conflict-power-and-promise

Save the date for a special happy hour social with Dr. Appleyard on Oct 13 — more info forthcoming.

Oct. 22 VDOT info session on Avon St. at Monticello HS 5-7pm:
http://vdot.virginia.gov/projects/culpeper-district/avon-street-multimodal-improvements/

Week Without Driving! Oct 1 - 8. Don't have to stop driving, just try!
https://livablecville.org/weekwithoutdriving

VDOT plans for Greenbrier Drive and S. Pantops Dr. for bike lanes: Any info online about this?

Agenda Items for next BPAC Meeting [6:25 PM, 5 minutes]