

# Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting Summary

Wednesday September 13, 2023 – 1:30 PM

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## Members/Alternates & Visitors in Attendance

Rick Behrens, WyCo Bike-O  
Noel Bennion, City of Riverside  
Brian Shields, City of Overland Park  
Ian Blair, HDR  
Bryce Reynolds, HDR  
Charles Soules, Smithville  
Iain Blair, HDR  
Nicole Brown, JCDHE  
Jean Carder, City of Louisburg  
Patrick Cierpiot, #SaveOurBLVDs, Kansas City, USA  
Tim Duggan, Phronesis  
Bobby Evans, City of KCMO  
Jan Faidley, City of Roland Park  
Leslie Herring, City of Westwood  
Michael Kelley, BikeWalkKC  
David LaRoche, FHWA KS Division  
Brett McLubbin, City of Shawnee  
Andrew Ngui, City of KCMO  
Michael Park, City of Lee's Summit  
Eric Rodgers, BikeWalkKC  
Rodney Riffle, JCPRD  
Sarah Rose Shafer, UG  
Mayra Toothman, City of Smithville  
Nick Ward-Bopp, JCPRD  
Bailey Waters, City of KCMO  
Doug Wesselschmidt, City of Grandview  
Ron McLinden, Citizen/Pedestrian  
Art Gough, Citizen

## MARC staff in attendance

Beth Dawson  
Alicia Hunter  
Rachel Krause  
Martin Rivarola  
Patrick Trouba  
Selina Zapata-Bur  
Josh Woody

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions (Matt Davis)**
- 2) **Vote: Approve July 12, 2023 Meeting Summary:** Eric Rodgers moves to pass the summary, Michael Kelley seconds, no comments, motion passes.

### 3) **Presentation: Northeast KCK Heritage Trail (Tim Duggan, Phronesis)**

- i. Landscape architect with Phronesis. One of 3 teams to pursue a green infrastructure network around Jersey creek in NE KCK as part of the Heritage Trail Project. Located north of Minnesota to Fairfax, west to 27<sup>th</sup> St.
- ii. Brief introduction to project given, with watershed map, project outline, and purpose of the green infrastructure network given. Plan based on 4 pillars, people/history of KCK, mobility, environment/environmental justice, economic development/equity.
- iii. Project is using a watershed-based approach, with three phases: reviewing existing conditions, identifying nodes and corridors, and then utilizing green infrastructure network opportunities, plan is to leverage 4 pillars into strategies for all three phases.
- iv. Prioritization and implementation discussed, with water quality issues, how to leverage basic solutions into all 4 pillars, including commuting investment, rather than simply replacing infrastructure.
- v. Created guiding principles and goals, with holistic nature of green infrastructure highlighted with diagram, including de-pave roadways/road diets, conveying runoff/use overland flow, and collecting subsequent runoff to create city amenity in the form of ponds/parks.
- vi. From this process came the preferred Trail route, connecting the Quindaro townsite to Kaw point. Looked at 3 phases, including Heart trail, focused around Sumner Academy, River Trail from the Heart Trail to Kaw Point, and a Town Trail which connected Quindaro historic Quindaro Townsite.
- vii. Have begun work on phase 1, has started "1a", with groundwork and pursuing of \$400,000 federal grant, and \$60,000 from Sunflower foundation, currently in design development designed to be catalyst for future development and other green infrastructure.
- viii. Influenced by KCMOs parks and boulevard network at a much smaller scale. Also looked into deep dive on consent decree analysis, and reinforced realities of funding/proposal differences between geographic areas/watersheds.
- ix. Showed diagram of nodes + corridors along flow around trail. This process led to 5 projects becoming a priority.
  - a. Big 11 Lake innovation hub
  - b. Quindaro blvd: ridgeline to riverfront
  - c. Kay Pont Park: riverfront restoration
  - d. Jersey Creek Park: linear park restoration
  - e. Railroad Trail- linear park restoration
- x. Jersey Creek diagram- Discussed process, initial actions, thoughts, and plans for process. Build capacity in community non-profit managing and maintaining infrastructure.
- xi. For individual sites, exploring outdoor classrooms, amphitheater seating, rain garden, pervious pavers, nature outlook, trail signage, site amenities.
- xii. Proactive about involving community, sees a large opportunity for replicating jobs, and turning initial investment into long term success.
- xiii. Patrick Cierpiot: Please do not narrow 5th street or Quindaro BLVD as part of these plans for NEKCK. We have wonderful cycling roads, and 5th street, and quindaro BLVD are the best ones we have, right now.
- xiv. Tim Duggan: No plans to do that.
- xv. Art Gough Q: What Street Jersey Creek on?
- xvi. Tim Duggan: 12<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> on Parallel Pkwy.
- xvii. Patrick Cierpiot: Path is very sunny, trees south of the rec path would be helpful.
- xviii. Tim Duggan: Absolutely right, groundwork has received thermal cameras, and we will be taking thermal readings to ensure correct temperatures, trees will be included in landscaping.
- xix. Matt Davis: Will there be public meetings?
- xx. Tim Duggan: 18 months of public meetings on Heritage Trail, we have been working with stakeholders directly, and hosted 2 community meetings. This is really about

implementation. Hopefully this is well maintained and a success and can get more funding outside municipality.

#### 4) **Presentation: Wyco Bike-O – Bike Month in Wyandotte County (Rick Behrens)**

- i. Long time cycling advocate in KCK, worked for UG for levee trail work. Today talk about getting more people bicycling in KCK with Wyco Bike-O project.
- ii. Started in September 2022 with bicycle friendly workshop in KCK. Anna Tang headed the workshop. Two teams came out of effort. Rosedale/County Line and Butts on Bikes which is now Wyco Bike-O.
- iii. The idea is more Cyclists = More infrastructure. Lee Trotter is the main advocate. Monthly meetings since December. Have been planning for bike month in May. 5-15 people at the meeting, including advocates, agency reps, UG reps, and others.
- iv. Opportunities opened, scholarships to National Bike Summit. Could apply for \$1500 community spark grant.
- v. Activities: Youth Competitions, weekly family rides, Bike Disco, Bike Repair Tent and Giveaways, 80 helmets and & 110 Bikes.
- vi. Family rides continue every week, Bike Disco on 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays, Reconvene to Plan for 2024 at the end of the year.
- vii. Patrick Cierpiot: “League of American Wheelman” ranking is bogus, should not be considered. Doesn’t account for roads, traffic, or animals. KCK is not bad for cycling, it is not true, and it pains me.  
Michael Kelley: Thank you, Rick, so much for your support and building cycling in KCK, look forward to working with you to make KC a safer and better place for bicycling.  
Art Gough: Idea of a bike month, weekly rides appealing, anything similar for “walking” for pedestrians?  
Rick Behrens: Not in our purview, some churches do something like that, nothing similar that they know of.  
Matt Davis: In October, there is event called “Walktober” doesn’t include KCK, in KCMO, could be worth expanding out into neighboring cities. Put on by Jackson County Parks/ KC Parks.

#### 5) **Presentation: RideshareKC rebranding as WAY TO GO (Rachel Krause, MARC)**

- i. Just revealed rebrand on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Regional Rideshare Program founded in 1980 to find carpool matches. Has expanded to all sustainable transportation options. Has always previously had name “rideshare” in title.
- ii. Asked, “how can we best serve the region”, launched process to solve this. Surveys, interviews, employer roundtables, and commuter roundtables.
- iii. Key themes identified were:
  - a. Public Perception. Many residences are overwhelmed and don’t know where to go, confused with RideKC or ride sharing apps.
  - b. People want more access to opportunities
  - c. Employers are interested in sustainable transportation options, want to retain employees, reach net zero environmental goals
  - d. Roundtables showed business leaders want to work together
- iv. Process led to new name: WAY TO GO
- v. New vision: WAY TO GO envisions a region where sustainable transportation options are the best way to connect people.
- vi. 4 primary objectives identified. Reducing emissions and congestion, increasing the usage of existing transportation solutions, helping KC areas employers maximize success and employee satisfaction, and fostering a culture around sustainable transportation.

- vii. List of services listed with business partnerships, consulting, education, commuter support, and community building. Including employer consulting, building relationships with EDCS/Chambers of Commerce, creating Trip Planner App, Guaranteed Ride Home, Customer Service Line, Education, and various community building programs including Green Commute Challenge.
- viii. Created new app. User friendly, better more positive experience. People can see all transportation options in one place. Can find carpool matches, bike matches, etc. Can earn points using an app that can be used for discounts at local businesses. Trip logging helps get data.
- ix. New website to cover all transportation in the region. WAYTOGOKC.org
- x. Green Commute Challenge created as an event to promote green commuting, earn points carpooling, biking, walking, scooting, busing, streetcar. The winner gets an e-bike. Create an account on my.waytogokc.org or the WAY TO GO app.
- xi. Bailey Waters: How are the winners decided for the challenge?
- xii. Rachel Krause: Based on number of trips not distance, and then bonus points for being first time user, advocate, etc.
- xiii. Michael Kelley: First week of October is national week without driving. Encourage everyone you work with to participate somehow. Doing outreach.
- xiv. Leslie Herring: This is a great program, Is KU Med a consultant you have reached out to? With regard to trip logging/benefits for businesses, is that for walking and biking?
- xv. Rachel Krause: Yes, and yes it includes walking, biking, and working from home in some cases.
- xvi. Leslie Herring: Would be happy to get that out in our newsletter if you need anything in a form for public consumption.
- xvii. Art Gough: Have you tried coordinating school pickup/drop-off?
- xviii. Rachel Krause: Software provider requires riders 18 or higher unfortunately.
- xix. Bailey Waters: What is the app called?
- xx. Rachel Krause: Way to Go KC
- xxi. Ron McLindon: Coincidentally, 30 years ago we organized a transportation fair to close street for 3-4 years except to buses to build awareness for alternative options.
- xxii. Rachel Krause: Yes, that was also called Way To Go, that is what help inspire project
- xxiii. Andrew Ngui: What is the plan to onboard drivers?
- xxiv. Rachel Krause: Historically, there have been more carpool passengers than drivers. We are encouraging employers to offer incentives to be drivers.

#### 6) **Presentation: Updates to the Complete Streets Policy (Patrick Trouba, MARC)**

- i. Process to date engaged MARC committees in July/August. Held two workgroup meetings where volunteers gave feedback on new draft policy. Now updating MARC committees about what stakeholders have said so far, and on direction of the Policy.
- ii. Some outreach feedback
  - a. Safety should be priority for complete streets
  - b. Contrasting opinions: Some are nervous around the use of mandatory (“shall”) policy language, others think “shall” language has a place; “context sensitivity” should not be used as an excuse to neglect modes.
  - c. Interest in the use of design guides.
  - d. Thinking and planning ahead to when new streets are built in undeveloped areas.
- iii. Key question heard was “What does the Policy owe residents of the region/project sponsors” answer is that it owes residents safe streets, and it owes sponsors clear expectations.

- iv. Working on changes: simplified organization, major river crossing policy, complete streets network assessment. Challenges include including green infrastructure in policy, articulating the needs and safety of different users without tying the hands of project sponsors in design.
  - v. Updating committees on progress through September, additional meeting in early October
  - vi. Seeking approval from TTPC in November MARC board in December.
  - vii. Ron McLindon: Another function of a street is to provide access to adjoining properties from public properties, it is often hard to get from public sidewalks to private property, bias towards vehicles rather pedestrians.
  - viii. Art Gough: Can we require or incentivize developers to connect sidewalks to properties?
  - ix. Bobby Evans: Strong Language is what gets this done, developers do the minimum they possibly can, they want to follow guidance to the letter. Urge not to walk back strong language.
  - x. Patrick Cierpiot: How can “complete streets” be a valid concept when our most wonderful BLVDs like Gilham and armour were declared “incomplete”? The federal grants have ruined the road for cycling and clogged the sidewalks for pedestrians. And KCK passed its “complete streets” ordinance during covid closures so the public is right to be suspicious.
- 7) **Presentation: Updates to the Congestion Management Policy (Selina Zapata-Bur, MARC)**
- i. Working on draft policy and toolbox updates, seek board approval by end of year
  - ii. Input provided, easier to read, mapping, better defined policy goals
  - iii. 8-step congestion management process unchanged
  - iv. Revisions on clarifying what steps in the process apply to each agency
  - v. SOV Capacity Project Exemption
    - a. Turn lanes and auxiliary lanes for distance of one-half mile facility classified as minor collector
    - b. Bottleneck Exemption
    - c. Transit priority lanes exempt
  - vi. Opportunity to create story map to focus on local project using congestion management strategies from toolbox. Is external facing
  - vii. Website refresh, quick links to provide in-depth info on specific topics.
  - viii. Eric Rodgers: For TTPC, would it be possible to present a redline version, to see what the exact changes will be between versions?
  - ix. Selina Zapata-Bur: Yes. We will have one more work group session.
- 8) **Other: MO and KS STP Priorities Committee appointments**
- a. Sarah Shafer motions to nominate Bailey Waters as alternate Missouri Alternate BPAC representative, Michael Kelley Seconds, motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Eric Rodgers motioned to nominate Emily Randle Primary and Michael Kelley alternative for Kansas representative, Bailey Waters second, motion passed unanimously.
- 9) **Next meeting: November 8, 2023**