



CITY OF COLUMBIA
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
October 16, 2017
4:30 PM
Richland Library – Main Branch, Room 213, 1431 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201

**BETHANY BELL • BRIAN FAULKNER • CHRISTINA GALARDI • DEBRA BLOOM • ERNEST GRIGG •
FRITZ HAMER • GENE BELL • JANE DOWNEY • JOHN GREEN • JULIE HARTWELL • KEITH GOSSELIN •
SCOTT THORPE**

PRIOR TO ENTERING THE MEETING, PLEASE TURN ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (CELL PHONES, PAGERS, ETC.) TO THE SILENT, VIBRATE, OR OFF POSITION.

- I. Mr. Gosselin called the meeting to order at 4:30. Members present included: Bethany Bell, Brian Faulkner, Christina Galardi, Debra Bloom, Ernest Grigg, Fritz Hamer, Gene Bell, Jane Downey, John Green, Keith Gosselin, Scott Thorpe. City staff: Dana Higgins, Leigh DeForth, John Fellows. Invited guests: Matt Kennell from City Center Partnership and Meredith Atkinson from Vista Guild.

- II. The consent agenda was approved following a motion by Mr. Green and a second from Mr. Faulkner.
 - a. [September 18, 2017 minutes](#)

 - b. [2017 Strategic Plan Updates](#)
 - i. [Group A reports](#)

III. REGULAR AGENDA

- a. Business Association input: This month leaders from downtown business associations were invited to share their top concerns regarding bike and pedestrian issues in their communities in preparation for the BPAC quarterly report to Columbia City Council.

Meredith Atkinson spoke first and identified three major bike/pedestrian concerns for the Vista.

1. Encouraging visitors to park and “stroll” through the Vista. Ideally this would mean less street parking and more garage parking. It also means supporting safer bicycling routes.
2. More beautification efforts to increase bike/ped activities. Examples include: the Lincoln St. tunnel facelift and the plan to remove herbie curbies from sidewalks with dumpster enclosures.
3. Facilitating Vista & Main Street connectivity.

Matt Kennell from City Center Partnership also identified three bike/ped concerns for the downtown community.

1. Using Lady St. as a walkable/ridable corridor between Main St. and the Vista.
2. More wayfinding tools (currently in the RFP stage).
3. More parking garages.

When asked by Mr. Gosselin about the associations support for a regional bus system both Kennell and Atkinson agreed that this was not a high priority. Atkinson further indicated it was a low priority for the Vista community. Kennell agreed and offered that Sumter St. transfer station improvements are necessary to improve commuter bus use.

However, a discussion ensued from the question about the Soda Cap bus routes and schedules. Soda Cap buses provide free transportation between Five Points, Main St. and the Vista. There was general agreement that the Soda Cap system is good idea but the schedule and routes need refinement. There also needs to be additional promotion to encourage more mainstream ridership.

Mr. Kennell also indicated that the City Center Partnership would like to see more improvements based on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. He indicated that new businesses are drawn to downtown when they see that it is a walkable area with public spaces. He identified new projects the association supports such as:

1. Sumter St. corridor improvements.
2. Intersection improvements at Blanding & Laurel.
3. Intersection improvements at Main and Taylor.
4. Beautification of the north end of Main St.

Mr. Kennell identified the following downtown bike/ped concerns.

1. Parking in the Main St. medians.
2. Bicycles on Main St. sidewalks.
3. Downtown parking deserts

b. Departmental Updates:

- i. Parking: unable to attend**

IV. OTHER BUSINESS: 2018 Open Streets is scheduled for April 22.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 following a motion from Mr. Faulkner and a second from Ms. Bloom

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- October 19, 2017: [Carolina Crossroads Reasonable Alternatives feedback due](#)
- October 2017: National Walking Month
- October 2017: National Community Planning Month
- November 8, 2017: Handlebar Happy Hour, Publick House, 2307 Devine Street, 6pm
- November 13, 2017: BPAC Meeting, 4:30 pm, Room 213 Richland Library Main