

Fairhope Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 5/4/2021

Committee Member Attendees: Gary Gover; Chris Knight; Rosalie Stromme; Bill Hall; Chris Riley; John Kavanagh; Jason Small; Katie Bolton

Committee Member Absentees: Michelle Melton

Guests: Corey Martin; Meredith Montgomery; Charlene Lee; Jessica Walker

Meeting called to order at 4:02pm by Bill Hall.

Motion carried unanimously to approve 4/6/2021 minutes.

Ethics Training: All committee members have completed this online required Ethics Training seminar.

Bike Valet at the Arts & Crafts Festival: Valet service had improved social media advertising creating 87 stored bikes over the weekend (11 on Friday, 56 on Saturday and 20 on Sunday).

Bike-to-School Program: Meredith Montgomery, Program Manager, provided a short recap of this program's history which began in May 2017. It is a monthly event on the 1st Friday of every school month meeting at 7:35-7:45. Attendance has ranged from 30-60 children with advertising on its FaceBook page one week before each monthly event. Meredith has had raffles and gifts to keep anticipation and excitement levels high. Meredith is moving out of Alabama therefore this Program Manager position will need to be filled.

*****Action item**: At the next committee meeting, members will discuss possible candidates for a new Bike-to-School Program Manager ***

Safe Routes to School Program Census Project: Charlene Lee from the Eastern Shore Trailblazers provided an overview of this nationwide project. There are 4 best practices in every area to make this program successful:

- a) Paid staff to run the program;
- b) Broader community support for various disciplines (i.e. health dept, police dept, school principals, etc)
- c) Effective policies in place;
- d) Sufficient funding.

In the 2020 State Report Card for this plan, Alabama scored only 55 out of 200 total points. Charlene is spearheading a new Baldwin County Support Task Force to expand our county's commitment to the Safe Routes to School Program which she hopes will include representation from MPO, FEEF, Chamber of Commerce, Trailblazers, City of Fairhope Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee, Health/Medical field, Walking School Bus, etc.

*****Action item:** At the next committee meeting, members will discuss possible volunteers for this new Task Force.***

Infrastructure Wish List: This Wish List was compiled to address specific places in Fairhope for recommended P&B improvements; the entire master Wish List can be accessed on the P&B Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OqJketWWPva9H6mFoZPACC4cVzEhyQei>.

*****Action item:** Bill Hall to compile a final list of the top priority items as ranked by committee member inspections noted on the Wish List and submit the priority list in one memo to Richard Johnson (rather than individual 311 tickets). ***

*****Action item:** Chris Riley will contact Richard Johnson to paint pedestrian striping from Tamara's restaurant to the Provisions store similar to the striping found in front of Ace Hardware. ***

*****Action items:** Jessica Walker stated that the following two items on the Wish List will be completed by Memorial Day:

1. Bike Racks to be reinstalled by Fly Bar on De La Mare.
2. Pier Street Bicycle Repair Station will be installed.***

Bicycle Friendly & Safe Community Application Update:

Bill Hall, Jessica Walker, Michelle Melton and Councilman Robinson met to discuss this application and it was agreed that it is unrealistic to have this application completed in time for an August 2021 submission. It was agreed that it might be possible to target a February 2022 or August 2022 submission however Jessica Walker indicated that the City of Fairhope would first need to develop a Master Plan regarding pedestrian and bicycle usage. This would require three items which are not currently funded:

- a) Outside consultant company to prepare a Master Plan; (sample 2014 Master Plan can be found for City of Gulf Shores at following weblink --- <https://www.gulfshoresal.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1539/Master-Bicycle-and-Pedestrian-Plan?bidId=>)
- b) Hiring a Fairhope Bike Program Manager or assign this additional responsibility to an existing city employee's workload.
- c) A Bicycle Safety Law on record for the City of Fairhope is a requirement for this application process; we do not currently have such a law.

Connecting America's Active Transportation System Act S.3391/HR.5696:

This committee agreed to send written support of this bipartisan measure dedicating \$500 million in federal funds annually for grants to local, regional, and state government entities for walking and biking networks.

*****Action item:** Michelle Melton to provide a copy of the letter she sent supporting passage of this measure from this committee to Alabama congressmen. ***

Nichols Avenue Crossing: Gary Gover drafted a memo to Mayor Sullivan recommending further consideration of certain traffic safety aspects of the "Nichols crosswalk" concept. The committee indicated approval of the message.

*****Action item:** Gary Gover will sign and send this memo.***

Triangle Property Grant: We are still waiting to hear from ADECA re application.

Fels to Pier Sidewalk Expansion: No further action taken.

Roadway Striping: Gary Gover drafted a memo to Mayor Sullivan reporting that some striping paint on roadways in Fairhope is slippery for traffic when wet and recommended action. The committee indicated approval of the issue.

*****Action item**: Gary Gover will sign and send this memo.***

Next scheduled meeting: June 1, 2021 at 4pm – Museum Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Stromme, Secretary