



**CITY OF URBANA  
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY  
COMMISSION MEETING**

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**DATE:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025  
**TIME:** 7:00 PM  
**PLACE:** 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Annie Adams, Carmen Franks, Qiushi Huang, Kevin Murphy, Sarthak Prasad, Sara Rand, Nancy Westcott, Susan Jones\*

\*Susan Jones entered the meeting at 7:01 pm

**Others Present:** presenters for New Business presentations (from MTD: Abby Kipping, Myra Stevens)

**Members Absent:** Bruce Michelson, Keenan Portis

**A. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Annie Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll was taken. A quorum of members was present.

**B. Changes to the Agenda**

none

**C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**1. August 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**2. September 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Kevin Murphy motioned to approve both sets of minutes together, Susan Jones seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

**D. Public Input**

none

**E. Unfinished Business**

**1. New Member Introductions**

Current BPAC members introduced themselves to the two newly appointed members. New members include Kevin “Kev” Murphy who is a representative of the Urbana School District and Sara Rand who is a pedestrian and public transit user.

**2. Vacancies: Youth member**

Carmen said that there are 2 applicants for the youth member vacancy, but neither live within the city limits. This has been vacant since October 2020 when the bylaws were amended to include a Youth Member. A discussion followed about changing the Bylaws to include students of Urbana School District 116 and also the possibility of having 2 youth members instead of 1.

Carmen Franks motioned to change the wording of the BPAC Bylaws Section 1B to read as “From time to time, the Mayor may appoint and City Council may approve the appointment of one (1) or

two (2) resident(s) of Urbana or non-resident student(s) at Urbana School District 116 to the Commission who has attained the age of 14 years, but who has not attained the age of 18 years...”; Sarthak Prasad seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

### 3. Vacancies: Chair & Vice Chair

There has been no BPAC Chairperson for several years. A Chairperson would need to be appointed by the Mayor. Carmen nominated Annie Adams. There was no opposition from commission members, so Carmen will discuss her suggestion with the Mayor.

If any member is interested in becoming the Vice Chairperson, they are to let Carmen know. This will be done at a future meeting.

## F. Reports of City Officials and Staff and Reports of Committees

Carmen Franks gave the following updates.

### 1. Shared Use Path projects

- Florida Avenue Shared Use Path – Plans are 90% complete and has cleared SHPO review. The work is planned for 2026. The City received an IDOT Local Projects Grant for about \$758,000, which makes the project fully funded now. Could still be pushed back to 2027 to align with the larger Florida Avenue roadway project.
- Bakers Lane Shared Use Path – Bidding for construction closed on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The low bid was about \$700,000 less than estimated. Feutz is starting construction this week. They intend to work through November, break for winter, then start again in April 2026. The Washington Street segment should be done in the summer of 2026, with all work completed by mid-August 2026 or possibly before.
- Perkins Road Shared Use Path – construction is mostly completed.

### 2. Roadway projects

- Country Club Road & Perkins Road – The design includes widening the south sidewalk to a shared use path. A new sidewalk will be added on the north side between Willow Road & Cunningham Avenue. The project will go out to bid this Friday (October 24<sup>th</sup>). The project is expected to be complete next year.
- Lincoln Avenue Corridor Study – no update since last month
- North Lincoln Avenue project from Wascher to Killarney – The SS4A grant is still under review by DOT. The concept plan is underway and the project should go out for bid in FY28.
- Florida Avenue project from Wright to Hillcrest – Intersection design details are getting reviewed by IDOT, specifically the Race and Vine Street intersections with Florida. After the review is done, the City would like to share the preliminary design with BPAC. A grant agreement is in discussion between us [the City] and IDOT. The project may be ready to present to BPAC in November.
- Illinois & Vine Street project – This is in the preliminary plan phase. The design may include lane reductions, turn lane changes, and crosswalk improvements.
- Traffic Signal Improvements – This is for updated audio devices and should be out for bid in early 2026.

### 3. Sidewalk Improvements FY25 – This is complete.

### 4. EQL Projects

- EQL Streetlights FY22 – This is complete. John [Zeman] has reached out to the designer about options to reduce the glare.
- EQL FY25 Program – This includes sidewalks, ramps, streetlights, & some traffic calming devices on Broadway, Kerr, and Cottage Grove. Design is underway.

5. Grants update
  - Local Projects Grant from IDOT – This was mentioned in the Florida Avenue Shared Use Path update.
  - Safe Routes to School grant – The application was due last week. It was not submitted for an infrastructure grant for permanent flashing beacons and speed feedback signs on sidewalks in school zones. However, this can be put into the Capital Improvement Plan and hopefully be started next fiscal year.
6. E-Bike Working Group: Carmen said there have been multiple complaints about Veo. The City will model our process for moving bikes out of walkways after what the U of I does. Sarthak mentioned that to get a Veo bike removed that is causing an obstruction, you can email [hello@veoride.com](mailto:hello@veoride.com).

## G. New Business

### 1. Presentation on C-U Safe Routes to School Project's Outreach & Survey Work [MTD]

Abby and Myra from MTD presented on the outreach and survey work that has been done for the Safe Routes to School project. A grant application was turned in last week for an infrastructure grant opportunity. They will know around August 2026 if they are awarded the grant. MTD has been without funding from the IDOT Safe Routes to School Program since 2019.

To prepare for the grant application they did Risk Watch assemblies and surveying work. The Risk Watch assemblies were held at Urbana schools and walking & bike safety were talked about during these assemblies. Surveying work that was done included parent attitude surveys, travel tallies, and bike rack counts. For the parent attitude surveys there were 83 responses. Some findings were about 20% of students walk or bike to school and a large number of parents don't see walking or biking to school as a safe activity with one of the biggest barriers being safety of intersections and crossings.

### 2. Presentation on IL Legislation & Lobbying related to e-bikes vs. e-motos [Cynthia Hoyle]

Cynthia introduced herself stating that she is a transportation planner focused on walking, biking, and transit supportive development.

Some bills that were passed during the last legislative session are:

- The Micromobility Fire Safety Act that takes effect January 1, 2026. This act includes safety standards for batteries.
- Senate Bill 2285 changed the definition of a bicycle to include bikes with more than 2 wheels.
- Senate Bill 1559 requires IDOT traffic studies following any crash involving a pedestrian fatality that occurs at an intersection of a federal or municipal highway. This bill also requires IDOT to public solutions and best practices to avoid future tragedies.

Micromobility is a new way to move around. Some examples of micromobility are segways, bike share, and scooters.

There are 3 legal classes of low speed electric bikes and no e-bikes can legally go over 28 mph.

Cynthia went over some Illinois bike laws as follows:

- You must have a permanently affixed label stating the class of the e-bike.
- They cannot be operated on sidewalks.
- They are allowed on bike paths unless otherwise restricted by local authority.
- You must be 16 or older to operate a Class 3 e-bike
- No one should knowingly tamper or modify the speed capability of an e-bike.

There is a difference between e-bikes and e-motos. E-motos look like bikes but their motors are much bigger and can go up to 40 mph. These are not e-bikes, although they are sometimes marketed as such.

Some solutions that were listed for e-bikes and e-motos are:

- State legislation should pass a law that regulates e-bikes and e-motos that clearly distinguishes between the two and establish drivers license and insurance requirements.
- Regulate retailers and restrict them from advertising e-motos as e-bikes and include repercussions for those who don't comply.
- Better education which could include offering incentives to schools, developing curriculum and standards, and including device content.

### **3. Event Planning: Day of the Dead Bike Ride; “Repair & Ride” Event with UPD**

Annie Adams said that they are working with the Park District for the Repair & Ride event that will be held in April 2026. There are 3 Urbana police officers that know how to repair bikes. Another thing that could be part of this event is a bike rodeo with basic riding instructions.

The Day of the Dead Bike Ride is scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup> at Chrystal Lake Park. There will be a bike rodeo, bike safety tips, and helmet fitting.

\*\*Nancy Westcott motioned to extend the meeting by 10 minutes, Kevin Murphy seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

## **H. Announcements**

Annie Adams announced that the Witch's Ride will be on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. They will be meeting at the Co-op parking lot, and the ride will be about 5 miles long.

Kevin Murphy announced that there are rolling applications for biking across the country with Illini 4000 for cancer research.

1. Walk Tails at Sola Gratia Farms on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm
2. Witch's Ride – no date yet, but probably October 26<sup>th</sup>

## **I. Future Topics**

1. ADA Transition Plan Update
2. Spending BPAC Budget
3. Springfield Avenue in front of the Grainger Engineering Library

## **J. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.