



CITY OF URBANA
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY
COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, September 17, 2024
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

MINUTES

Members Present: Annie Adams, Susan Jones, Tommy Griscom (arrived at 7:07 p.m.), Audrey Ishii, Bruce Michelson, Sarthak Prasad, Nancy Westcott, Carmen Franks (proxy for John Zeman)

Others Present: Andrea Ruedi, Kevin Garcia

Members Absent: Qiushi Huang, Keenan Portis

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

Audrey Ishii called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Roll was taken. A quorum of members was present.

B. Changes to the Agenda

None

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. August 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Bruce Michelson motioned to approve the minutes, Susan Jones seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

**Tommy Griscom arrived to the meeting at 7:07 p.m.*

D. Public Input and Commissioner Communications

1. Audrey Ishii read the Mayoral Proclamation for Bike to Work Day, which is on September 18th. There are several sponsors for Bike to Work Day, including the bigger sponsors which are MTD, Carle, and the U of I.

E. Unfinished Business

1. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Discussion – Annie Adams

Annie read through the letter that will be sent to Mayor Marlin and Urbana City Council.

Audrey explained that we would be applying for Demonstration & Planning grants, not the Implementation grant. Carmen mentioned that the City now has a grant writer consultant and she could pass along the SS4A Grant information to them for them to analyze for prioritization.

Bruce motioned to send the letter on to the Mayor and Urbana City Council, Susan Jones seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

2. U of I 2024 Campus Bicycle Master Plan Update – Sarthak Prasad

Sarthak said that the U of I is updating the Campus Bicycle Master Plan. The plan was just sent out for public input feedback will be collected until October 31st. This has been sent to about 3,300 students who have registered their bicycles and 2,500 other students. It will be sent out to more people when time allows. The final draft of the plan can be downloaded at <https://go.fs.illinois.edu/2024BikePlanDraft>. This is a 10-year vision.

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

1. Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan – Andrea Ruedi and Kevin Garcia

The Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan is the community's vision of what the City should look like in the next 20 years and serves as the City's primary long-range planning document. The last time this was done was in 2005. The initial release was on August 14, 2024 and there are 6 community meetings that are happening as well.

Andrea went through the Imagine Urbana process which started in 2020. It is now in the phase of getting public input, having study sessions, and eventually will be recommended to Urbana City Council for approval. It is tentatively scheduled to go to City Council on November 4, 2024.

The 4 Big Ideas of Imagine Urbana are Urbana is a place for everyone, Urbana is both financially & environmentally resilient, Urbana is a city of connected neighborhoods, and Urbana embraces its culture vibrancy & character. Andrea went on to Big Moves/Little Moves, highlighting Big Move 6. Big Move 6 is Making Walkability the Default Setting. Kevin elaborated on this Big Move. In Plan Commission meetings, you may hear more discussion on this as time goes on. They want to use BPAC for their feedback and guidance for this Big Move. Project leads for Big Move 6 are the Planning Division, the Grants Management Division, and the Public Works Department.

2. Carmen Franks had the following updates in John Zeman's absence:

- a. Carmen will be replacing John as the Public Works representative on BPAC.
- b. EQL Sidewalk locations - Philo Road and Church Street
- c. EQL Street Lights - Bids were opened on September 6th and a contract was awarded to Champaign Signal & Lighting
- d. ITEP projects in design are Florida Avenue and Bakers Lane paths
- e. Lincoln Avenue Corridor Study – RPC and the City will present the study to City Council on November 12th.
- f. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – RPC will present the complete draft to the Plan Commission on October 17th. Members of BPAC are invited to this meeting. The complete draft will be presented to City Council on November 12th.

G. New Business

1. East Main Street Speed Limit Resolution – Audrey Ishii

Audrey referenced a picture from Examine Urbana under Transportation, showing the walkability problem on East Main Street by the spur, where there are no sidewalks. In January 2021, someone died while crossing the lane in this area. The resolution asks for the immediate implementation of 30 mph or less speed limit on East Main Street. Sarthak mentioned a numbering typo in the second paragraph; the last (4) should be a (5).

With the numbering correction, Bruce Michelson motioned to pass the resolution as written, Susan Jones seconded. Motion approved with a majority voice vote. Carmen Franks opposed.

2. Review of Schedule A of the Urbana Local Traffic Code, Increased Speed Limit in Certain Zones – Audrey Ishii

Audrey Ishii said that Bill Brown had previously done some research on speed limits. Any deviation from the 30 mph statutory speed limit has to go to City Council and pass an ordinance for a special speed zone. Audrey showed the Schedule A of the Urbana Local Traffic Code, bringing up differences between the Schedule A and what is actually on signage on specific streets.

H. Announcements

- a. Sarthak Prasad said that Bike to Work Day is on September 18th and Light the Night Event is on September 19th.

I. Future Topics

- a. Bruce Michelson mentioned keeping in mind about lithium ion batteries and safety as a big scale topic.
- b. Bruce also mentioned safety concerns for the increasing number of people loitering/panhandling on narrow medians at busy intersections. Bruce gave the example of the Five Points intersection. He said this should be addressed & asked if an ordinance needed to be done for this.

J. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.