



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

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**DATE:** Tuesday, August 20, 2024  
**TIME:** 7:00 PM  
**PLACE:** 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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**AGENDA**

- A. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- B. Changes to the Agenda**
- C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**
  - [1. April 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes](#)
  - [2. July 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes](#)
- D. Public Input and Commissioner Communications**
- E. Unfinished Business**
  - [1. Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) Grant Discussion - Annie Adams](#)
  - [2. UIUC Campus Bicycle Update - Sarthak Prasad](#)
- F. Reports of City Officials and Staff and Reports of Committees**
- G. New Business**
- H. Announcements**
- I. Future Topics**
- J. Adjournment**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

The City of Urbana welcomes Public Input during open meetings of the City Council, the City Council's Committee of the Whole, City Boards and Commissions, and other City-sponsored meetings. Our goal is to foster respect for the meeting process, and respect for all people participating as members of the public body, city staff, and the general public. The City is required to conduct all business during public meetings. The presiding officer is responsible for conducting those meetings in an orderly and efficient manner. Public Input will be taken in the following ways:

All City meetings are broadcast on Urbana Public Television and live-streamed on the web. Details on how to watch are found on the UPTV webpage located at <https://urbanaillinois.us/uptv>

## **Email Input**

Public comments must be received prior to the closing of the meeting record (at the time of adjournment unless otherwise noted) at the following: [citycouncil@urbanaininois.us](mailto:citycouncil@urbanaininois.us). The subject line of the email must include the words “PUBLIC INPUT” and the meeting date. Your email will be sent to all City Council members, the Mayor, City Administrator, and City Clerk. Emailed public comments labeled as such will be incorporated into the public meeting record, with personal identifying information redacted. Copies of emails will be posted after the meeting minutes have been approved.

## **Written Input**

Any member of the public may submit their comments addressed to the members of the public body in writing. If a person wishes their written comments to be included in the record of Public Input for the meeting, the writing should so state. Written comments must be received prior to the closing of the meeting record (at the time of adjournment unless otherwise noted).

## **Verbal Input**

Protocol for Public Input is one of respect for the process of addressing the business of the City. Obscene or profane language, or other conduct that threatens to impede the orderly progress of the business conducted at the meeting is unacceptable.

Public comment shall be limited to no more than five (5) minutes per person. The Public Input portion of the meeting shall total no more than two (2) hours, unless otherwise shortened or extended by majority vote of the public body members present. The presiding officer or the city clerk or their designee, shall monitor each speaker's use of time and shall notify the speaker when the allotted time has expired. A person may participate and provide Public Input once during a meeting and may not cede time to another person, or split their time if Public Input is held at two (2) or more different times during a meeting. The presiding officer may give priority to those persons who indicate they wish to speak on an agenda item upon which a vote will be taken.

The presiding officer or public body members shall not enter into a dialogue with citizens. Questions from the public body members shall be for clarification purposes only. Public Input shall not be used as a time for problem solving or reacting to comments made but, rather, for hearing citizens for informational purposes only.

In order to maintain the efficient and orderly conduct and progress of the public meeting, the presiding officer of the meeting shall have the authority to raise a point of order and provide a verbal warning to a speaker who engages in the conduct or behavior proscribed under “Verbal Input”. Any member of the public body participating in the meeting may also raise a point of order with the presiding officer and request that they provide a verbal warning to a speaker. If the speaker refuses to cease such conduct or behavior after being warned by the presiding officer, the presiding officer shall have the authority to mute the speaker’s microphone and/or video presence at the meeting. The presiding officer will inform the speaker that they may send the remainder of their remarks via e-mail to the public body for inclusion in the meeting record.

## **Accommodation**

If an accommodation is needed to participate in a City meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at least 48 hours in advance so that special arrangements can be made using one of the following methods:

- Phone: 217.384.2366

- Email: [CityClerk@urbanaininois.us](mailto:CityClerk@urbanaininois.us)



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

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024  
**TIME:** 7:00 PM  
**PLACE:** 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

**MINUTES – UNAPPROVED (REVISED)**

**Members Present:** Annie Adams, Susan Jones, Tommy Griscom, Qiushi Huang, Audrey Ishii, Bruce Michelson, Keenan Portis, Sarthak Prasad, Nancy Westcott, John Zeman

**Others Present:** Riley Jones (Public Works Engineering)

**Members Absent:** Daniel Saphiere

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

Audrey Ishii called the meeting to order at 7:00 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. November 21, 2023 Minutes
2. February 20, 2024 Minutes
3. March 19, 2024 Minutes

Susan Jones motioned to approve all three meetings's minutes together, Nancy Westcott seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

**D. Public Input and Commissioner Communications**

Nancy Westcott mentioned that PACE CIL has moved to Lincoln Square Mall. **With this move, there is a larger population of pedestrians with visual impairments and using wheelchairs.** ~~and that~~ The crosswalks in that area need to be repainted.

Annie Adams suggested that BPAC choose a new crosswalk every year that they want put in, or to enhance an existing crosswalk.

**E. Unfinished Business**

**1. Marked Walking Trail through Downtown Urbana (Sage Trail) – Annie Adams**

Annie has presented the Sage Trail to the Historical Preservation Commission. They were interested in the idea & gave their feedback on it.

Annie has added a QR code to the map & has added more historical markers to the map. Annie would like to reach out to the Arts Commission & Economic Development next.

**2. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Discussion – Audrey Ishii**



Audrey went over two parts of the SS4A grant: Planning & Demonstration Grants which are 30% of the grant money awarded and Implementation Grants which are 70% of the grant money awarded. The deadline for Demonstration Grant applications is August 29, 2024. There was discussion about the feasibility of applying for the SS4A Grant. **John Zeman provided some preliminary information about the difficulty of implementing the SS4A Demonstration Grant.**

Bruce Michelson motioned to re-forward the SS4A Grant resolution of last year to City Council stating that BPAC still supports it, Susan Jones seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

### 3. Residential Street Speed Limits – Audrey Ishii

Audrey said that **the State of Illinois currently has a bill asking for the default speed limit be 20 mph in residential areas. This bill was introduced in February 2023. The group Assignments had a meeting today (4/16), but she doesn't know the outcome of that meeting. Audrey suggested that she had BPAC encouraged encourages** City Council to send a letter of support for the bill that would reduce the default speed limit to 20 mph. **This could be discussed at a future BPAC meeting depending on where the State of Illinois bill goes. She has not heard anything on that, though.**

No action was taken on the Speed Limit resolution.

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

- a. John said a draft of the CIP went to City Council at the beginning of April. The CIP will go back to council on May 6<sup>th</sup> to be adopted.
- b. There will be a public meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> for input on the Lincoln Avenue corridor study.
- c. IDOT had a meeting regarding a shared-use path on the north side of Cunningham Avenue from Maple Street to Ambucs Park. Construction is planned for FY27.
- d. John has a design consultant for the ITEP project of Florida Avenue and Bakers Lane.

## G. New Business

none

## H. Announcements

- a. Susan mentioned that the Prairie Cycle Club season with weekly rides starts on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- b. John introduced Riley Jones who is a Civil Engineer that joined the City in September 2023. John also announced that a second Assistant City Engineer will be hired.
- c. Annie said that the Christie Clinic Illinois Race weekend will be April 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> and they are looking for volunteers.
- d. Tommy announced that CU Urbanism is starting a book club.
- e. Qiushi mentioned that MTD is having a public meeting in May which will be about the upcoming schoolyear & their services.
- f. **Nancy mentioned that PACE will have 2 teams walking in the 5K marathon.**

## I. Future Topics

1. Bruce would like to see about getting a representative from the Fire Department to see if anything can be done about safety issue awareness with E-Bikes & share this information with the public.

## J. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.



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

**DATE:** Tuesday, July 16, 2024  
**TIME:** 7:00 PM  
**PLACE:** 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

**MINUTES - UNAPPROVED**

**Members Present:** Annie Adams, Susan Jones, Tommy Griscom, Qiushi Huang, Audrey Ishii, Bruce Michelson, Keenan Portis, Nancy Westcott

**Others Present:** Carmen Franks, Marcus Ricci

**Members Absent:** Sarthak Prasad, John Zeman

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

Audrey Ishii called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll was taken. A Quorum of Members was present.

**B. Changes to the Agenda**

**1. Add Urbana Meander (formerly Sage Trail) updates under Unfinished Business**

Susan Jones motioned to add Urbana Meander updates to Unfinished Business, Nancy Westcott seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

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

**1. April 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Audrey had some revisions to the minutes. These will be looked at and re-presented for approval at the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**2. May 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

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

**D. Public Input and Commissioner Communications**

1. Tommy Griscom said there was some repaving completed on campus and it is very nice & smooth. He was also pleased with a bicycle being removed at a particular bike rack as part of the pick-up of discarded bicycles.
2. Qiushi Huang mentioned that C-U Girls Who Walk is a good group to connect with & you can find them on Instagram. Annie added that the group is based on an idea that happened in Chicago. They will be at the Urbana Amble on July 20<sup>th</sup>.
3. Annie Adams mentioned that she biked to the Crystal Lake swimming pool using the bike path & it's awesome. She wondered when bike paths will go through Crystal Lake Park. Annie also asked if anyone knows where the blue bike rack is that the City owns.
4. Keenan Portis said that the Urbana Park District will have an open house on July 18<sup>th</sup> for Weaver & Prairie Parks' master plans.

## E. Unfinished Business

### 1. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Discussion – Audrey Ishii

Audrey read a draft letter that she had written for consideration of sending it to the Mayor and City Council members for their support of the SS4A Grant. After discussion among the commission members, a few edits & additions were made to the letter. One of the additions included three bullet points of what the grant could be used for: 1) speed study for slowing residential speed limits, 2) adding additional crosswalks, and 3) traffic calming.

For the next BPAC meeting, Audrey will have a revised letter incorporating the changes that were discussed.

### 2. Sage Trail/Urbana Meander – Annie Adams (added earlier during Changes to the Agenda)

Annie presented the Urbana Meander (formerly known as Sage Trail) to the Arts Commission. They liked it, but weren't understanding how art would be related to it. Annie encouraged them to look at the map on the URL and explained that there is art that is pointed out along the trail.

The trail goes through downtown Urbana & would probably be funded by TIF funds. The primary cost of the trail would be fixing the sidewalks along the trail & making them ADA compliant. The cost of the paint would be the next most costly part of the trail.

Annie would like to do a demonstration of the trail with either chalk or flags as a next step. She will also be presenting the Urbana Meander to Economic Development at some point.

### 3. Lincoln Avenue Corridor Study Discussion – Carmen Franks

Carmen Franks introduced herself to BPAC as one of the City's Assistant Engineers.

The public outreach phase is complete & RPC has analyzed all of the input they have received. There were 3 scenarios and the scenario that included 100% in-street bike lanes was chosen as the top one. The City's traffic consultant, Lochmueller, had the same conclusion after considering the 3 scenarios. This scenario (which was scenario #1) is the scenario that the City is moving forward with.

Lochmueller is doing some analysis & working with MTD regarding where bus stops would be. Oregon, Iowa, & Indiana will have complete access closures. Analysis will be done on how the access closures will impact vehicle traffic.

Carmen said that she is applying for an EPA Community Change Grant for this project. Applications can be submitted through November 21, 2024. Formal partners of this are Prairie Rivers Network, the School District, U of I, & RPC.

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

On behalf of John Zeman, Carmen Franks gave the below updates:

- a. EQL sidewalk locations are under construction as of July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- b. EQL streetlights will be purchased soon. This will be over 70 streetlights & poles.
- c. ITEP projects are in design for Florida Avenue & Bakers Lane.
- d. Park District will have Weaver Park Master Plan open house on July 18<sup>th</sup>.
- e. Alignment for the Bakers Lane path has been straightened & shifted to the east.
- f. New sidewalks are in design for the Cunningham Avenue TIF shared use path on the south side of Country Club Road & Perkins Road.

- g. There will be a new sidewalk on the south side of University Avenue from Maple Street to the existing sidewalk in front of MTD.
- h. Lincoln Avenue from Wascher to Killarney design is underway.
- i. A second EQL program is being developed using the Annual Action Plan Community Needs survey from the Grants Division.

## G. New Business

### 1. UIUC Campus Bicycle Update – Sarthak Prasad

Sarthak was not present to give this update.

### 2. Review Progress on BPAC FY2024 Goals – Audrey Ishii

Audrey said that John Zeman had suggested changing the BPAC goals from fiscal year to calendar year. The goals were then gone through one by one with discussion on how each goal was going.

- Speed reduced to ranges compatible with VZ commitment – being worked on and Annie suggested changing the 25 mph part of it to 20 mph
- Florida Avenue & University Avenue safe & attractive for ALL users – both in design
- Washington Street speed issues addressed – speed signs are up
- Vine Street issues with no cross walks addressed – SS4A Grant could help with this
- City Getting Around website update – still in progress
- East Main Street resolution added to Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan addendums – Audrey said she needs to re-look at this
- Lincoln Avenue Corridor Study actively followed & reviewed – in progress
- State lobbied to return speed-setting to municipalities – the bill is dead for now
- Add MTD & PACE representative to BPAC, change to Bylaws – BPAC has MTD representation with Qiushi, but it's not in the Bylaws
- Wayfinding & pedestrian access to parks evaluated and enhanced – Keenan said this is being researched, but no plan yet
- Obtain an SS4A grant to create the Urbana Vision Zero action plan & demonstration projects – working on
- Vibrant pedestrian tourist trail designed and promoted – now called Urbana Meander
- Long-Range Transportation Plan 2050 actively followed and reviewed – there is a survey due by the end of the month (July); the survey can be found at [ccrpc.gitlib.io/lrtp-2050](https://ccrpc.gitlib.io/lrtp-2050)
- Snow removal zone expanded – nothing done with this yet, but should be looked at

## H. Announcements

- a. Annie announced the Urbana Amble Garden & Art Tour is on July 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.
- b. Marcus said the City's Planning Division took the B3-U Campus University Zoning Text Amendment to the Plan Commission last Thursday (July 11<sup>th</sup>). This is an attempt to revitalize the B3-U District; now calling it Campus Mixed-Use Business District.

## I. Future Topics

There was no time left for future topics to be discussed. Annie will send out an email for suggestions.

## J. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Dear Mayor Marlin and Members of the Urbana City Council,

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) unanimously urges the City to file applications for [USDOT Safe Streets for All Road Users \(SS4A\) grants for FY 2025-2026](#).

BPAC has confirmed with the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) that Urbana can apply for Implementation and/or Planning and Demonstration grants under this heading. In 2024, nearly \$1 million was awarded to CCRPC for Supplemental Planning and Demonstration activities. About \$200,000 of this will go towards testing (also called demonstrations) of safety improvements on North Lincoln Avenue between Killarney and Wascher. Most of the \$800,000 balance will be used to advance countywide Vision Zero data collection and safety planning goals. The CCRPC's success in securing this funding is an encouraging indication that a similar application by the City of Urbana will have an excellent chance of bringing in much-needed revenue for the City's safety imperatives.

The US Department of Transportation National Transportation Safety Strategy is pursuing the Safe Systems approach to traffic management. This approach focuses on holistic, safe traffic system design for all road users rather than individual drivers making mistakes, which has created our current traffic crisis of 40k+ annual roadway deaths. One part of the Safe Systems approach is a focus on speed management. It should be noted that federal funding for the Supplemental Planning and Demonstration grants for FY 2024 is \$461.5 million. Every eligible application has been awarded financial support in the previous two years.

The SS4A grant process specifically approves speed management studies and plans. The grantee match is 20%, which can be in-kind services. We note that in several communities of comparable size in Illinois (including St. Joseph, Savoy, and Crystal Lake), speed reduction experiments (from 30mph to 25mph on non-arterial streets) are already underway, and a Planning and Demonstration Grant would support an effort by Urbana to review similar options professionally and carefully. As an example of a similar demonstration project, we attach documents describing the study underway in Crystal Lake.

Additional activities an SS4A grant can fund include:

- planning and facilitating public meetings on street safety options;
- testing traffic calming measures at high-speed noncompliance or crash and conflict locations;
- temporary installations and other initiatives for improving situational awareness for Urbana pedestrians, including K-12 students;
- experimental bicycle and pedestrian safety infrastructure;
- Safe Routes to School support

The application process is manageable by design, with a one-page narrative plan and a two-page description of demonstration projects. Because these funding opportunities align so well with the City's aspirations for safer streets, BPAC strongly encourages active participation in the grant application process in the coming year and stands ready to assist in that process.

References:

- Boston lowered the speed limit from 30 to 25mph in 2017. A study that included a control site was completed. The chance of vehicles exceeding 40mph fell by 29%. See: <https://www.iihs.org/topics/bibliography/ref/2168>
- Seattle found similar results (see below). Both cities did not increase enforcement. <https://highways.dot.gov/safety/learn-safety/noteworthy-practices/seattle-systemic-speed-limit-reduction-seattle-washington>

Examples of fundable safe street demonstration projects:





# Enhanced Crosswalks & Stop Signs Anderson & Washington



# Enhanced Crosswalks & Traffic Circle Anderson & Fairlawn





Increase visibility of stop signs by painting backs of signs red



Washington Avenue Bikeway (2-way bike and car traffic)

