

# Bicycle Advisory Board -Minutes

January 19, 2021

Webex Online Meeting

Meeting Minutes: Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by Grant Shipley

## Attendance:

- *Board Members Present:* Grant Shipley (Chair), Jessica Engelman (Vice-Chair), Charlie Greenwood, Mike Bjordahl, Harrison Husting, Pablo Monsivais, Rhonda Young, Rian Hidalgo, Satish Schrestha, Taylor Stevens
- *Board Members Not Present:* Jason Oestreicher
- *Quorum Present:* yes
- *Staff Members Present:* Colin Quinn-Hurst, Inga Note

## Public Comment:

None

## Briefing Session:

Minutes from the December 15, 2020 meeting approved unanimously.

### 1. **Liaison Report -**

- Shauna Harshman reported that the CTAB is looking for a BAB representative. Grant Shipley volunteered to serve as the BAB representative.

### 2. **Chair Report -**

Grant Shipley reported on recent review of potential bike route south-east South Hill to connect the Ben Burr Trail segments through Lincoln Heights.

### 3. **Staff Report -**

- Colin Quinn-Hurst reported that new BAB members Satish Shrestha and youth representative Rian Hidalgo are officially members of the board, and both members introduced themselves.
- The WheelShare contract will be reviewed for extension in coming weeks. Also, please take the time to check out the Washington State Active Transportation Plan online open house.

## Workshops:

### 1. **Bike Bell Ordinance consideration**

- Presentation provided by City Staff
- Questions asked and answered
- Discussion ensued
- Motion proposed and passed

A motion was made recommending that the City not pass a city ordinance requiring bells on bicycles, for the following reasons:

- Additional equipment requirements have been shown to reduce ridership which in turn negatively impacts pedestrian and bicycle safety, as ridership is the number one indicator for pedestrian and bicycle safety when controlling for other factors including demographic characteristics and infrastructure
- Similar equipment requirements for bicycles have been shown to be used as a red herring for inequitable and targeted enforcement in traditionally underserved demographics. Recent data

*Note: Minutes are summarized by staff.*

from Seattle show this pattern currently within Washington State. Recognizing these patterns, Tacoma repealed their helmet mandate in 2020.

- There is an equity impact regarding the additional cost of such additional equipment requirements
- There is a pre-existing requirement for all shared mobility vehicles in Spokane to have working bells
- Cities cited as examples for this type of ordinance, such as Boston, do not have ordinances requiring bells on bicycles, but have audible signal requirements similar to the City of Spokane
- Recognizing the downsides of these ordinances, top bike-friendly cities have recently removed bicycle bell laws and similar ordinances.
- There are legal implications of passing requirements with no intention of enforcing them
- There is already a City ordinance requiring audible signals, SMC Section 16A.61.787.B: “Whenever any person is riding a bicycle or non-motorized vehicle upon a sidewalk or other pedestrian way of the City, the persons shall yield the right-of-way and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing any pedestrian.”

The motion was seconded. An amendment was made to support outreach and encouragement efforts to support the use of audible signals when overtaking on a bicycle or micro-mobility vehicle. The amendment was seconded. The motion, as amended, passed unanimously (10-0).

2. Future Ben Burr Trail connection route - Fiske to Myrtle

- Presentation provided by Community Members
- Questions asked and answered
- Discussion ensued

3. Draft 2021 Bicycle Master Plan Amendments

- Presentation provided by BAB Members
- Questions asked and answered
- Discussion ensued

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:35 PM**

Next Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021