



**Minutes**  
**Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission (BTSSC)**  
**May 13, 2021**  
**5:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present: Joe Bolte, Austin Brown, Timothy Csontos (Chair), Lizzy Hare, Jessica Jacobson (Vice Chair), Brook Ostrom (alternate), Ayush Patel

Staff Present: Brian Abbanat, Jennifer Donofrio

Absences: Councilmember Chapman

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**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

Meeting was called to order at 5:30.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*Motion (Patel, Hare): Approve agenda.*

*Motion carries unanimously.*

**3. Brief Announcements from Staff and Liaisons**

**A. Bike/Ped Program Update**

Jennifer Donofrio announced the new wayfinding signs are being installed in south and east Davis. Signs include bike loop markers. Encouraged everyone to participate in May is Bike Month and that Yolo Commute offers cash incentives to member agencies. Bike program is looking for a new Active4.me volunteer at Birch Lane Elementary Schools

Commissioners commented on the new wayfinding signs and refreshed bike loop markings.

**B. Council Liaison(s) Announcements**

No announcements.

**C. Other Staff Announcements**

Brian Abbanat announced David Soule's resignation and that April was his last BTSSC meeting. Also announced upcoming trainings, some of which will be mandatory for BTSS commissioners:

- Brown Act and Fairness In Local Government Proceedings (6/10)
- Conflicts of Interest and General Ethics for Appointed Officials (6/30)
- Land Use Planning / Zoning and Environmental Impacts (CEQA) (9/30)

Jennifer Donofrio recognized David Kemp for securing funding for wayfinding signs.

**4. Public Comment**

No public comment.

## **5. Consent Calendar**

*Motion (Patel, Ostrom): Approve consent calendar.*

*Motion carries unanimously.*

## **6. Regular Items**

### **A. Presentations from and Discussion with Peer League of American Bicyclists Platinum-Designated Bicycle-Friendly Communities**

Active Transportation Staff from Boulder, CO; Madison, WI; and Fort Collins, CO gave presentations on their bicycling-related accomplishments contributing to achieving their Platinum designation from the League of American Bicyclists (note: presentations are posted on the 5/13/2021 BTSSC agenda web page).

Dave Kemp, City of Boulder, CO  
Renee Callaway, City of Madison, WI  
Cortney Geary, City of Fort Collins, CO

### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Jacobson asked:

City of Boulder about lowering speed limit & compliance.

Dave Kemp responded he first heard about “20 is plenty” from Portland. They didn’t do a lot of evaluation, so it was a hard sell to convince local engineers. Reducing speed limits is as much a public relations issue because the don’t see many crashes in residential neighborhoods. Message to community members that speeding is an issue overall. Helps make people feel more comfortable. If you feel comfortable, you’ll ride more. Signs don’t slow speed, you need infrastructure.

City of Fort Collins about bike friendly businesses (BFB).

Cortney Geary responded the League of American Bicyclists has several certifications and BFB orients the questions around what businesses do to encourage bicycling. Advocacy groups go out and encourage certification. It’s part of Fort Collins identity.

City of Madison about crash data analysis.

Renee Callaway responded they compared with previous study to see if City was doing better or worse. Larger population but fewer crashes than the 1990s. More bicycling = better safety. Trying to be data driven and make smart choices to best use limited funding.

Commissioner Patel asked about the type of relationships their cities have with university nearby.

Renee Callaway responded that she was the Bicycle/Pedestrian coordinator for University of Wisconsin. University has expanded over time. The relationship isn't perfect, but proximity requires them to work well together. The Vision Zero effort brought UW into process early. They're in it together.

Cortney Geary responded 2014 was the last bicycle master plan. CSU updated their master plan in parallel with same consultant. Currently doing active modes plan together with CSU who is contributing funding. CSU is will integrate into Fort Collins infrastructure. Joint efforts occur regularly with encouragement, education, Vision Zero. CSU is the first university to have an independent Vision Zero goal.

Dave Kemp responded that bicycling has brought universities and cities together. Forces closeness in a good way. Crashes were occurring around the university. Brought them into planning efforts, Vision Zero community partnership.

Commissioner Hare asked about the Madison, equity working group, why the City repealed mandatory registration, and how this was as an equity issue. What were your findings?

Renee Callaway responded that their mandatory registration program had a small fee \$10-\$12, but it felt wrong on a lot of levels; that they shouldn't charge a fee for something they want people to do. Program also wasn't effective getting bikes back to residents. They didn't want registration to be used as a condition for a pretextual stop.

Austin Brown inquired about what steps they're taking to decriminalize stop sign running and its effect on equity and pretextual stops.

Cortney Geary responded Bike Colorado is looking to put forward legislation for stop as yield. Local agencies have the ability to do it. Past Fort Collins Bike Advisory Committee and SRTS Coordinator has been against it. Current BAC is likely to be more supportive. If it doesn't pass at state, then we could support doing it at the local level. Many communities are pulling "Enforcement" from their "E's". PD is having conversations on a daily basis with hispanic and latinx, with good relationships being built.

Dave Kemp responded that the "safety stop" hasn't been adopted in Boulder yet. Since the state legislation isn't proposed yet, they're waiting to see what happens. Colorado has a progressive outlook but with conservative undertones. Boulder staff has generally been against Idaho stop laws, but doesn't have the resources to enforce violations. Safety Stop is coming, and when you consider equity, it makes sense to adopt it. Boulder will likely support it. Needs to happen at the state level so there is no confusion when moving from community to community.

Renee Callaway responded that Wisconsin is not likely to pass the Yield as Stop any time soon.

Commissioner Bolte asked if bike projects are locally funded or grant funded.

Dave Kemp responded that Boulder's budget was decimated due to Covid. Leveraging funds (through grants) is key. Also looking at community organizations for education and encouragement.

Cortney Gear responded that Fort Collins is strategic with investments, often cross referencing pavement maintenance with bike facility enhancements. Fort Collins is fortunate to have a dedicated funding source. As a result, does not go after federal funding as much as they probably could. She understands that federalizing projects explodes budget costs. Need at least \$1 - \$1.5 million project to justify.

Renee Callaway commented that Madison has a history of using federal funds. Funding is so diminished for active transportation. Multi-modal projects use federal funds. Madison has an aggressive capital program.

Commissioner Bolte asked if city staff is involved in intercity connections.

Cortney Geary responded that they're involved with the MPO working group. Looking at linking active transportation corridors. Surrounded by more conservative smaller neighbors. Have to make TDM a regional issue. MPO needs to shift messaging. For FC it's about sustainability, for others it's about options.

Renee Callaway responded that regional applications and multi-agency coordination helped support their Platinum-designation award. Sense is that surrounding communities want to be connected.

Commissioner Bolte asked whether transportation vs. recreation facilities causes conflicts between different user groups.

Dave Kemp responded that he wants to encourage people to use their bikes to get to the place where they recreate. The issue is project & context-specific. Depends on the origins and destinations. Trying to promote bicycling as a way of life...go for a ride instead of a Sunday drive. But the lines are sometimes blurred.

Cortney Geary responded that the Parks Department is responsible for multi-use paths, off-street trails. They do projects with a recreation purpose, which is apparent in their designs.

Commissioner Bolte asked about the relationship between active transportation and land use decisions.

Renee Callaway commented that it is important to work with development and the Planning Department.

Dave Kemp stated he works with every department and development review is important to influence site design. Land use & transportation go hand-in-hand. You can determine what your transportation system looks like based on the land use. Can get the developers to pay for the infrastructure as part of the development.

Cortney Geary commented that she's relatively new to Fort Collins, but that the coordination is better here than in Chattanooga (prior employer). There's still room for improvement.

Commissioner Csontos really liked Boulder's downtown plan and thinks this is missing in Davis. How you think about the streets as a master plan. Equity work in Madison is apparent. Would like

to learn more about the communication, weekly newsletter. Data, Davis can be much better. Likes the dashboard, and thinks 25% bike/ped SRTS is great.

Dave Kemp commented that there needs to be an alliance between Platinum communities. We can be model cities for the rest of the nation. We all excel in different areas, have different areas of expertise.

Cortney Geary agreed that we're all in a race together. Fort Collins leadership is really award-driven, but recognized the equity issues for Diamond status takes time. From her standpoint, it doesn't matter who's first to Diamond.

Dave Kemp added we need to look at Europe and catch up to them.

### Public Comment

Jeff Bruchez asked about quick build projects in their communities.

Dave Kemp commented that quick projects aren't always quick. Boulder tried to do 5 road diets, and was a public relations disaster. Have to factor quick build vs. durability vs. cost. On the positive side, tactical urbanism, experimentations can sometimes become permanent.

Renee Callaway commented that the hardest part is different climate. Madison has historically been more likely to pursue permanent projects. They will sometimes try things, but need to remove for the winter because different materials are required.

Dave Kemp added that they can't do a lot of things because of snow.

Cortney Geary concurred that weather is an issue for barrier-protected bike lanes. With Covid, Fort Collins has allowed outdoor dining in ROW and has heard about continuing beyond the pandemic. Outdoor dining is more of a benefit than the parking out front.

## **7. Commission and Staff Communications**

### **A. Long Range Calendar**

Brian Abbanat reviewed the Long Range Calendar with the commission.

Commission and staff discussed short-term and long-term dashboards.

### **B. Commissioner Announcements**

Commissioner Bolte announced he is leaving Davis in June. June meeting will be last BTSSC meeting.

Commissioner Brown announced he is starting a new job at the end of May coordinating White House policy around clean transportation. May is his last BTSSC meeting.

Commissioner Patel announced he is leaving BTSSC after the June meeting to attend graduate school.

**C. Subcommittee Reports / Reports On Meetings Attended / Inter-jurisdictional Bodies / Inter-Commission Liaisons / etc.**

Commissioner Patel announced the Unitrans Advisory Committee held a quarterly meeting in April. Two route changes approved. Next project is an all-door boarding pilot with honor system for fare payment and student IDs. Purpose is to improve on-time performance. Fare-free bus service for youth under 18. Unitrans finished acquiring funding for the first phase of electric buses (14 buses).

**• Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Update**

Commissioner Brown updated the commission on the CAAP. Project team has done a lot of public engagement elements. Working on new goals and objectives. Key transportation messages communicated by Austin:

- Climate plans often make bold goals for decarbonizations and propose no verification of effectiveness. Not bold enough regarding what is actually needed.
- Revitalize transit, grow bicycling, shared mobility.

Jennifer Donofrio shared that the CAAP survey is out now.

Public Comment

Kelsey Fortune on the Long Range Calendar item on Transportation Codes, Regulations, and Design Standards & Guidelines Standards scheduled for July. Many projects happening now where striping is not being done to standards. Encourage forwarding to June. Also commented on the the Green Waste in Bike Lanes Long Range Calendar item. Stated there's a lot of misunderstanding of green waste and transportation. Green waste machinery is getting close to retirement. BTSSC should discuss how to transition to a more sustainable, equitable, and reasonable way of dealing with green waste in Davis.

**8. Adjourn**

*Motion (Bolte, Patel): Adjourn*

*Motion carries unanimously*

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

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