

# Ada County Highway District Bicycle Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2022

Submitted for Review: Adrienne Weatherly, BAC Secretary

**Attendees (BAC): Lisa Brady (Chair), Gary Segers (Vice Chair), Nina Schaeffer, Adrienne Weatherly, Morgan Cornwall, Marcus Batson, Debbie Lombard-Bloom, John Yarnell, Mary Beth Nutting, Greg Laragan, Wava Kaufman, Andrew Query**

**Absent: Jeffrey Larsen**

**Attendees (Commissioners): Commissioner Hansen, Commissioner Pickering**

**Attendees (Staff): Meg McCarthy (Staff Advisor)**

**I. Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.**

**II. Welcome & Introductions:** A quorum of members was present for this virtual meeting conducted via the Zoom application and chaired by Lisa Brady (BAC Chair).

- a. **Approve November Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 7, 2022 was made and passed by unanimous vote with no discussion.
- b. **Leadership Report:** Lisa informed the group of an AARP Bicycle Friendly Driver Class by Treasure Valley Cycling Alliance online on April 5, 2022. Signup and information available at <https://aarp.cventevents.com/event/1a61d177-0792-4a3b-a92d-ff1053c2914f/summary>

**IV. Action Items**

- a. **Road Safety Audit Hill and Bogus Basin (Lisa B.):** No commissioners were present on the call yet for this discussion. Lisa stated in October 2021 a letter was sent to ACHD Commissioners regarding a road safety audit request. Only commissioner who responded was Commissioner Goldthorpe. No action ever came of the request, which originated from a citizen complaint regarding the right turn at Hill Road and North Bogus Basin Road. Lisa suggested action to resubmit letter with commission acknowledgement of letter via response or requesting BAC presence at a meeting for discussion. Morgan motioned same, second from Nina, all ayes, motion passed. Lisa will follow up with Adrienne to craft letter and send to commissioners.

**V. Discussion Items**

a. Bike Facility Inventory Subcommittee Formation (Meg M.): With the Bike Map Subcommittee, same volunteers would be recruited for the Bike Facility Inventory Subcommittee. Committee consists of Andy, Mary Beth, Wava, Morgan, and Gary). All members confirmed commitment to continue on this committee. Mary Beth asked what the members would be asked to do and the goals of the committee. Meg stated the purpose would be to identify LTS on bike lanes and take action on bike inventory the BAC sees fit. Gary added an audit of substandard facilities would be suggested to improve conditions. Lisa noted the TVCA used the bike map to show legislative decision-makers what's going on in Ada County and noted there are funding sources to help with improving current conditions. Gary encouraged committee members for each district to identify areas that don't make sense or point out areas of concern or needing further attention. Meg stated she would be in touch and keep this topic in mind as everyone is out riding in the community and encouraged people to share with friends by Googling "ACHD Bike Resources" the link will be available. John inquired how newer BAC members understand how subcommittees work and how to best serve on a subcommittee. Meg explained more about subcommittees and noted in the past a flowchart of subcommittees was included on the last page of meeting minutes. Meg will share info with Adrienne so this information can be added to the minutes in the future. Subcommittees: Policy, IFYWP, All Committee to include ADA and PAG. Gary stated the subcommittees are a work in progress and continue to evolve. John commented a flowchart and a line or two about what they are to find out how to best fit into the best subcommittee for him, and perhaps others, would be helpful. Lisa gave a brief history and explained subcommittee topic focus helps inform the rest of the committee on specific topics.

b. Policy Subcommittee Report: Gary Segers provided information pertaining to the Policy Subcommittee with the intention is to share ideas he and Marcus came up with to provide ideas on how policy should be approached. This portion of the discussion is informational, and the outcome goal will be to give BAC an opportunity to ask questions to clarify. Then members can take time between now and next month to come back in May to decide which policies to forward to commissioners to action, which to change, and which to modify. Then commissioners will be asked to spend attention on the policies we choose. Gary presented summary of information and explanations of current policy and guidance and recommendations moving forward (further information provided in slide presentation). First policy reviewed was Work Zone Safety for Bike/Ped. Debbie asked how to ensure developers/contractors are all on same page with policy and is ACHD staff assigned to inspect and enforce policy on site. Meg explained ACHD has team of inspectors assigned to project locations, DTS and inspectors supply developers with temporary traffic control plan. RITA shows inspectors assigned to each project. A brochure would be part of packet developers would receive, but challenge is in delegation of tasks to team members maybe not knowing about policies/procedures. Debbie clarified large building construction in areas where there is only room for materials in public right of way and how contractors and subcontractors are receiving the educational material in a timely

manner to adequately set up work zones are challenges. Gary acknowledged that education and enforcement are definite challenges. Debbie agreed policy revision is a good thing and once standard is adopted then it will become the way things are done across the board. Second policy reviewed was the Roadways to Bikeways Plan. Gary provided history on this plan and suggested we need a new plan to eliminate confusion with current use of two documents (original plan and addendum) and update based on growth and relevancy. Lisa noted the new buzzword is Safe Systems approach and the hope is to move in that direction. Next was a review of the Speed Management Policy. Current policy works with 85th percentile policies and recommendation would be to update this policy to adopt Vision Zero strategies and AASHTO Green Book recommendations. Greg noted there are many conversations nationwide about methodology surrounding speed limits for autos on roadways. Policy changes will have to progress to the level where new laws are made, caution must be taken. Gary agreed and stated we have to start somewhere to let commissioners know these are important issues needing attention. Gary invited Marcus to provide suggestions on updates to ACHD policy. Marcus suggested a harder look at modification of current policies to include roundabout design, bike lanes general maintenance, bicycle facility design, and roadside barriers. Meg commented on citizens being able to request a bike lane to be swept at any time and sweepers are pretty responsive, usually same day or next day. Mini sweeper is on its way from Ireland and should be here by mid-May. Commissioner Hansen asked if Marcus found bicycle lanes only get swept by request and auto right of way gets swept as a rule. Marcus confirmed there are two different standards for sweeping the roadway clear of debris for automobiles versus bicycles. Gary summarized by noting the policies need to keep the less comfortable bicyclists in mind when thinking about how people use the roadway. May agenda will include a request and discussion with committee members on how to work for fixes on policies for the future. Commissioner Pickering stated the process is long and please remember to practice patience. Further, Commissioner Pickering asked if any policies crossed over with Boise's Vision Zero program. Gary noted there could be some crossover but not sure. Commissioner Pickering asked if there is crossover discovered to please point that out as well as Vision Zero policies on a nationwide level, and Gary agreed. Debbie asked about speed limit change on Harrison Blvd. area and Commissioner Hansen stated there are several reasons speed limits are changed, from citizen requests and police patrol input. Commissioner Hansen agreed policy does need to be consistent with practice. Lisa stated there has been a speeding problem on Harrison and 13th and citizens got involved, same with Kootenai. Greg noted design changes are necessary, not just implementing policy and putting up a new sign and reiterated Commissioner Hansen's statement about people driving speeds that conditions allow, not necessarily what the sign says. Lisa thanked Marcus and Gary for their efforts and asked committee to review for action item on May agenda. Any thoughts can go to Meg, Lisa, Gary, and Marcus.

c. Upcoming Outings: Meg encouraged committee to check out Maple Grove project but also the Poplar/Ustick ride. Helmets are strongly recommended, safety vests are required. Nina, Lisa, and Tom are cycling instructors and expectation is for them to direct the flow of bike ride. Please invite public/neighbors/friends/etc. to join on the ride, and citizens are also required to wear vests. Marcus offered one of his bikes if someone needs assistance with a bike.

## **V. Open Public Comment**

a. Clancy Anderson: Pertaining to traffic control plans, ACHD crews need to have traffic control plans in place. Regarding the Emerald overpass project, no traffic control plan was in place and there was a bicycle crash. Police report it was said the overpass infrastructure was partially responsible for the crash. Only thing that happened was “bike lane closed” and now barricades to try to absolve ACHD of liability. Some users may not be able to navigate the barriers which creates huge infrastructure gap in accessibility and should be fixed right away. Clancy suggested ideas to Director Wong, such as adding curb ramps, closing south side, adding improved pedestrian crossing on the east side. Clancy requested further action on traffic control plans because it is a huge infrastructure gap. Greg asked since we are already asking about road safety audit on Harrison hill if we can an audit request for this section of roadway as well. Lisa acknowledged deep concern from all committees and agreed with Greg. Greg motions to add request addition of road safety audit for Emerald overpass to current Harrison request. Gary seconded and thanked Clancy for bringing up this issue and asked Clancy if he would be willing to submit comments to incorporate into letter. Meg asked about virtual availability of traffic control plans immediately for reference. Clancy stated traffic control plans are not available readily to the public, and they are supposed to be kept on site and inspectors should have it as well. Clancy noted public should be able to readily view these plans as well. Lisa noted Emerald is a multi-jurisdictional project (ACHD and overpass is owned by ITD). Clancy stated he would send his emails sent for addition to the letter. Mary Beth wondered if we should send a separate letter for Emerald since the complexity is greater with that corridor and Lisa and Gary acknowledged this would be an additional separate letter. Vote of committee taken and motion passed. Lisa thanked Clancy for involvement.

## **VI. Adjourn – 6:22 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: Regular Meeting on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Active Bicycle Advisory Committee Subcommittees/Project Team Advisors (Current as of April 2022)**

