



TOWN OF CARRBORO
NORTH CAROLINA

TRANSMITTAL

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

DELIVERED VIA: ☐ *HAND* ☐ *MAIL* ☐ *FAX* ☒ *EMAIL*

To: David Andrews, Town Manager
Mayor and Board of Aldermen

From: Zachary Hallock, Transportation Planner

Date: June 11, 2019

Subject: Bike Plan Update Progress Report

Summary

This document is intended to provide the Board of Aldermen with a report on the progress of the Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan update. The Board approved a list of steering committee members during its February 12th meeting. More details can be found at: <https://carrboro.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3863584&GUID=903DA354-0BDE-4A68-ABC8-AD2EC5C5A6FB&Options=&Search=>.

This memo is organized in the following sections: Project Overview, Steering Committee Meetings, Public Outreach Summary, and Next Steps.

Project Overview

The Town of Carrboro's Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan (which can be found at: <http://townofcarrboro.org/737/Bike-Plan>) was adopted in 2009; developments in active transportation design, such as bicycle infrastructure, have undergone significant changes during the past ten years and the plan, moreover, included a recommendation for an update after a window of five to ten years. The Town applied for and received a grant through the NCDOT Planning Grant Initiative during the FY 2018 cycle to fund this plan update. The project began with a kickoff meeting in January with the selected consulting firm, Alta Planning and Design, and the first steering committee meeting was held at the end of February. Alta conducted an existing conditions assessment called Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) Analysis. This analysis combines information about traffic volume, posted speed limit, roadway geometry, intersection geometry, and existing bicycle facilities. The LTS metric describes how stressful it is to ride a bicycle along a given route based on our existing conditions, with a ranking of 1 (least stressful, a place you would expect children to ride their bikes) to 4 (most stressful, only the most

experienced cyclists would ride here). Key ways to reduce the LTS and expand the low stress network include reducing traffic speed, providing physical separation between bike lanes & traffic, or creating new off road bicycle routes. The existing LTS was then used to generate a map of the “Connectivity Islands,” or areas where people are able to bike between on routes with LTS less than 3. This information, along with input from the Steering Committee, project survey, and community meetings is being used to generate a network of project recommendations. Alta is in the process of reviewing and refining this network, gathering additional community input, and preparing a set of recommended programs, policies, and top projects to present to the steering committee at their June 27th meeting.

Steering Committee Meetings

The steering committee for the Bicycle Plan Update is made of up a number of representatives from various stakeholder groups: Carrboro residents, bicycle advocates, Town staff, and transportation planning partners (UNC, Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Hillsborough, Orange County, DCHC MPO, NCDOT & TJCOG). Three meetings have been held to date:

- February 28th – Project kickoff and initial information gathering from the steering committee
- March 28th – Existing conditions presentation, adjustment of the LTS map to better reflect the perceptions of local viewpoints, and a review of the proposed project survey and public outreach strategies
- May 30th – Draft network presentation, discussion of potential network modifications and project prioritization.

The last formal steering committee meeting is scheduled for June 27th and will provide an opportunity for the steering committee to review the programs, policies, and top projects; the last major piece of content prior to developing the draft plan. A public hearing for the presentation of the draft plan is anticipated in the fall and an informal steering committee session is planned to occur immediately prior to that hearing, in order to provide a final opportunity for committee members to review and comment on the draft plan document.

Public Outreach Summary

Commencement of major public outreach activities coincided with the opening of the project survey and Open Streets on April 7th. Outreach activities conducted thus far are summarized below:

1. Open Streets, April 7th – Transportation Planner and the TAB were present providing information about the plan update, gathered input from citizens on the types of bike facilities they would prefer & self-identified confidence level with biking, collected survey responses, and distributed project business cards (with direction to access the survey & webpage).

2. Targeted Intercept Surveys, week of April 29th – Alta staff conducted intercept surveys at the Carrboro Community Health Center, Jones Ferry Road Food Lion, Carrboro Plaza Food Lion, and El Centro.
3. Carrboro Day, May 5th – Transportation Planner and Planning Director collected physical survey responses, distributed project business cards, and organized an impromptu game of “Bicycle Hand Signal Simon Says” to win bike related prizes.
4. Bike Breakfast, May 14th – Transportation Planner collected survey responses and distributed project business cards, alongside other Bike Breakfast attractions.
5. Bike on Bus, May 18th – Transportation Planner collected physical survey responses and distributed project business cards, and provided demonstration on using the CHT Bus’s front bike rack.
6. Rogers Road Drop-In Session, June 1st – Transportation Planner collected survey responses, distributed project business cards, and displayed the draft project network at the Rogers Road Community Center.
7. Bike Advocates Drop-In Session, June 4th – Alta Planning staffed a session at the Clean Machine targeted towards our community bike advocates and presented the draft project network.

There are several remaining opportunities for Public Outreach which Town staff and Alta are working together to coordinate. These include:

1. Spanish Speaking Community Meeting @ El Centro, June 22nd from 8:30 to 10:00 AM
2. Burmese/Karen Speaking Community Meeting @ Wilson Park, June 22nd from 1:00 to 2:30 PM
3. Youth and Recreation Community Meeting (Time and Location TBD)
4. Long-term Carrboro Residents Community Meeting (Time and Location TBD)

Next Steps

1. Four Public Outreach Events –as described above
2. Stakeholder Interviews – These final two formal stakeholder interviews will be conducted with our regional planning partners (UNC, Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Hillsborough, Orange County, DCHC MPO, and TJCOG) and NCDOT Division 7 & Bike/Ped staff. These will provide opportunities to coordinate priorities and projects for better regional bike route connectivity and to have conversations with NCDOT about how to best implement innovative bike infrastructure improvements in Carrboro, many of which do not exist on NCDOT maintained roads anywhere in the state.

3. Steering Committee #4, June 27th – This will be the last formal steering committee meeting and will review the final portion of plan content before beginning the development of the draft plan update.
4. Draft Plan Update Development with NCDOT and Town Staff Review – After the final steering committee meeting, Alta will finalize the input received from the steering committee and all public outreach as the draft plan is developed. The draft will be provided to both Town Staff and NCDOT for review and comment.
5. Steering Committee and Public Hearing for Draft Plan Update – As a result of the desired timeline related to the BFC application, the 4th steering committee meeting did not provide an opportunity to review the draft plan. Because of this, staff are considering an option to provide an opportunity for the steering committee to review and comment on the draft plan prior to the public hearing.
6. Finalize Plan Update – Alta will work to incorporate comments received from NCDOT, Town staff, and the steering committee to finalize the plan update.
7. Final Plan Update Adoption – A presentation of the final plan is expected in the fall.