

Jacksonville Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting Notes  
Hybrid Meeting  
January 16, 2025 @ 5:30 PM  
Ed Ball Building – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
214 N Hogan Street – Jacksonville FL

**Attendees:**

In-person: Peter Borenstein (BPAC Chair), Lauren Rushing (BPAC Vice Chair), Matt Fall (Bike/Ped COJ), Len Burroughs (NFBC/SW CPAC), Steve Tocknell (NFBC/Pedaling for Safety), Wiatt Bowers (AtkinsRealis), Larry Roberts (JTC Running), Barry Cotter (Citizen), Lori Hooper (Citizen).

Virtual: Kelly Jones (Downtown Resident/Coffee Ride Outside), Hayley Springs (Blue Zones), Craig Davis (bikerackmap.com), Jesus Fuentes (EXP), Austin Kelm (SORBA Jax), Karina Hones (Citizen), Lauren Chappell (COJ Parks & Rec).

Peter Borenstein chaired the meeting.

**I. Introduction & Adoption of Minutes**

Peter Borenstein moved for the adoption of the meeting minutes for the BPAC meeting that was held on December 5, 2024. Lauren Rushing, BPAC Vice Chair, seconded the motion. The vote to approve the meeting notes was unanimous.

**II. Taking Inventory of COJ's Bike Parking: BikeRackMap.com, Matt Fall, Bike/Ped Coordinator, City of Jacksonville**

Craig Davis, in attendance at today's meeting, created a website called bikerackmap.com which launched in July 2024. The website is a crowdsourcing platform, which functions like Yelp for bike racks. The goal is to give the cycling community a voice on bicycle parking in cities throughout the US. It also provides an opportunity for cities to get data from the community. The website is akin to a bike parking census provided by cyclists.

Lack of bicycle parking altogether or subpar bicycle parking racks can be a significant barrier to people choosing bicycling as a form of transportation for fear of bikes being stolen or removed by business owners. Matt mentioned a statistically significant survey he helped administer in Dallas (2017) with the RPC. In the survey, the lack of bike parking was cited as the second biggest barrier to people using bikes.

Matt stated that bike parking does not meet the current demand in Jacksonville. He showed a photo of bike racks he helped install at the Jag's training center that were completely full during a game. He cites a severe lack of parking at major destinations in Jacksonville, such as Daily's Place. Those that do exist are not in good shape and need maintenance.

Users can use the website to log the location of a bicycle rack and rate the rack based on a provided set of criteria. The website uses a cumulative average rating, so there can be multiple ratings for one rack. Matt pointed out that the website can be a useful tool since the City can only control bicycle parking for new development and doesn't have a way of requiring

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maintenance. The website could eventually provide an incentive, similar to a Walk Score, for businesses to provide better bike parking. Users can make comments about a rack (i.e. if they need maintenance) and the City has access to that info. Craig stated that the data can be extracted and customized for specific needs.

Craig shared that the website was used with businesses and commercial property owners in Las Vegas to do an inventory of existing parking. He is interested in replicating what they've done in Vegas in COJ because COJ is interested in offering incentives. For example, offering to do subsidies on racks. The City currently has around \$15,000 of funding per year for bike racks that are requested through JaxRacks.com

Steve mentioned that the City's Land Development Procedures Manual (LDPM) includes bike rack standards which were originally based on APBP standards.

Interested persons can contact Craig for more information at [info@bikerackmap.com](mailto:info@bikerackmap.com).

### **III. Youth Safety Partnership, Matt Fall, Bike/Ped Coordinator, City of Jacksonville**

In late 2024, there were sadly a few fatal crashes involving children. Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) reached out to COJ and Councilmembers to get involved in finding solutions for increasing road safety for Jacksonville's youth.

The first action was a pedestrian safety resolution adopted by DCPS. DCPS then engaged COJ in a Youth Safety Partnership to provide bicycle, pedestrian, and roadway safety education to Youth. For the educational classes, DCPS has a bike trailer with a 20-bike fleet of varying sizes. The trailer was originally obtained through a Safe Routes to School grant. DCPS and COJ are now using the fleet to host bike rodeos and bike riding classes.

Pedaling for Safety, the advocacy branch of the North Florida Bicycle Club, is meeting next week and will discuss funding the maintenance of the bikes in collaboration with the Honey Pot. Pre Covid, NFBC did a lot of bike rodeos and used a bike trailer from the UF hospital who would also do their own bike rodeos. COJ has also asked FDOT if Safe Routes to School funding could be used for traffic gardens, and they said they could consider that in the future. COJ is going to try to do two schools per month.

Educational classes are also being integrated into the DCPS P.E. curriculum. Some schools are installing semi-permanent traffic gardens where kids can learn how to ride bikes. These traffic gardens cost about \$1,500 for use of longer lasting paint.

The educational class is two parts:

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- 1) In class session to go over slides and safety regulations
- 2) Outside bike rodeo where kids receive a helmet

A part of this, DCPS has developed a campaign called “Be Safe, Be Seen.”

The program is K-12 broken down by 1) Kindergarten 2) Grades 1-8, and 3) Grades 9-12.

### **III. Ashley & Church Street, Lauren Rushing, BPAC Vice Chair**

Lauren Rushing gave an update on the Ashely and Church Streets resurfacing projects. After BPAC’s December meeting, BPAC received notification from the City that a decision had been made to NOT include bicycle lanes in the resurfacing of Ashely and Church Streets citing the following reasons:

1. The City is concerned that the public will not like the appearance of the pavement markings, traffic separators, and signs.
2. The City is concerned that the project will create too much traffic control clutter which will detract from the neighborhood’s character.
3. The City is concerned that this bicycle facility will be different from the other bicycle facilities downtown. The City prefers to have consistent bicycle facilities.

BPAC has submitted a comment letter to the Public Works Director, Nina Sickler, refuting each of these reasons and expressing the importance of bicycle facilities in the downtown area. BPAC has not heard back from Public Works at this time.

Steve Tocknell mentioned that this project should have gone before Context Sensitive Street Standards Committee (CSSSC). Matt Fall said that he would bring it to the CSSSC at its next meeting.

### **IV. Events, Lauren Rushing, BPAC Vice Chair**

Lauren Rushing led a discussion on events and community engagement efforts that BPAC should prioritize in 2025, stating that the World Day of Remembrance will again be BPAC’s primary event.

Other events/efforts were also discussed including how BPAC can help with DCPS youth events, participating in a Bike Month bike ride, and organizing an event for Parking Day.

Matt Fall stated that DCPS/COJ may want to solicit volunteers to help with painting traffic gardens at schools and would let BPAC know when they can get involved. Lauren Rushing also offered to solicit volunteers through BPAC’s email list serve/newsletter.

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Jesus Fuentes, with EXP attended virtually, and spoke up about plans to organize another Bike Month bike ride. This will be the third year that EXP has hosted a ride. He plans to have a meeting with Matt in the coming weeks to brainstorm themes and route options. He is working with the Dutch Cycling Embassy to possibly include a screening of “Why We Cycle.” He also mentioned setting up bicycle repair/tune up stations.

Another attendee of the meeting mentioned that Bike to Work Day is also in May and it might be fun to get the Mayor to “ride to work.”

Park(ing) day is a global, public, participatory project where people across the world temporarily repurpose curbside parking spaces and convert them into public parks and social spaces to advocate for safer, greener, and more equitable streets for people. Organizations in Jacksonville have put on Parking Day events in the past - First Coast APA and Transform Jax.

Lauren Rushing expressed that it might be fun to host an event in partnership with another organization. Waitt suggested to involve the Parking and Parks & Rec Departments. He also recommended reaching out to Downtown Vision and Build Up Downtown Jax. Jesus has planned Parking Days before and mentioned that BPAC would possibly need furniture and trees and would require collaboration with businesses. He also shared that there is a Parking Reform group that offers guidance, and he would pass along that information.

#### **V. Wrap Up/ Announcements/ Next Meeting Info**

- In March, BPAC will hold a vote for officer positions. Please contact BPAC officers if you are interested in holding an officer position. BPAC is also revisiting its bylaws and is open to creating new officer positions for new folks. In particular, there is a need for someone to develop and manage social media channels and for a community engagement liaison.
- The next meeting will be held on February 6, 2025.

#### **VI. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm