

APPENDIX F
Public Comments

Bicycle Advisory Committee No.1. On Tuesday October 30th, the first BAC meetings were held. A representative of the HPI team facilitated each of the meetings. The Central City meeting was held at noon and the others were held simultaneously in different locations at 5:30p.m.

- The HPI team representative explained that the BAC's role was to provide a comprehensive look at the City and particularly their specific area and were to represent all cyclists of various skill levels. The BACs would be expected to provide feedback, additional information, and identify data resources during the planning process.
- The remaining dates for all BAC and public meetings were announced.
- The HPI team gave a summary of the public meetings. Routes that were identified by more than half of the groups were indicated in blue on a summary map. Other routes that were identified by at least half the group were identified in orange.
- The team representative asked a series of question regarding the obstacles to bicycling for various types of trips. The following is a summary of responses.

What are the obstacles that keep A, B, and C cyclist from using bicycling for commuting?

Central City

- Cars/Traffic
- Steepness/Grades
- Narrow Streets
- Grates not bike friendly
- Time
- Lack of maintenance on shoulders
- Lack of Awareness
- Daylight
- Storage and Facilities (Showers)
- Current Road and Transportation Plans do not consider bikes
- Education – we don't teach kids to bike
- Hostility / impatience with cyclist
- Need bike racks on uses and on inclines
- Tunnels

East Hamilton County

- Weather
- Safety – Road width /volume/ speed
- TOPO
- Public perception
- Sight distance
- Light and darkness
- Storage
- Distance/Time
- Showers
- Accommodations for different types of use
- Gas price affects
- Associated vehicle costs

West Hamilton County

- Cars
- Public Attitude
- Lack of handicap ramps
- Hills
- Lack of dedicated bicycle lanes and facilities i.e. racks
- Lack of “Bicycle Friendliness”
- Railroad Crossings
- Speeds of Traffic
- Rider education
- Warnings for conditions of trails, etc.
- Mix of traffic on multi-use paths and greenways
- Problems with widths
- Debris / trash (street sweepers)
- Drainage grates
- Dogs

North Georgia

- Narrow Roads
- Safety
- Availability of entry level facilities
- Clean road shoulders
- Lack of shower facilities at Employers
- Lack of education on “Rules of the Road”
- Lack of respect for cyclist
- Lack of bike racks
- Security concerns

What are the obstacles that keep A, B, and C cyclist from using bicycling for domestic trips?

Central City

- Good crosswalks
- Bike storage throughout community
- Education / Culture
- Safety
- Idea – Create a “Safe Ride” to school, etc.
- Cyclist education (Rules of the road) and obedience to those rules
- Elevation a problem

West Hamilton County

- Land use (location) access to busy areas future situations
- Planning policies that encourage bicycles and (alternative transportation)
- Neighborhoods / subdivisions with alternative transportation nodes or central network connections
- Cultural / social issues and situations
- Rubble strips
- Signage and emergency information / telephone locations

- Visuals – Painting
- Lighting
- Maps/education tools for the cyclist

East Hamilton County

- Carrying Space
- Weather
- Time
- Social concerns about time spent
- Reliance on Vehicles
- Parental responsibility
- Used by “B” and “C” bikers
- Lanes
- Public awareness of acceptable trip purpose
- Health – Laziness
- A/G distance to practicality

North Georgia

- Felt that they were same as commuting

What are the obstacles that keep A, B, and C cyclist from using bicycling recreational trips?

Central City

- Lack of Central Source for Ride Information
- No signage or advertisement of areas to ride

West Hamilton County

- None

East Hamilton County

- Restrictions in some parks – Free style – abuse of area – some kids
- Paths not wide enough for bike, Pedestrian, Roller Bladers, etc.
- Combined use, volume of use
- Education of bicyclists – Must have bells
- Restriction on high volume, high speed, controlled access
- Knowledge of rights and proper behavior
- Designated times/days/nights in recreation areas

North Georgia

- Security of Parked cycles
- Legal restrictions
- Lack of parking
- Off road / separated bike facilities
- Hilly terrain
- Stevenson Park needs facilities
- Lifestyle Barriers
- Hipper Activity – Demands of job, family, civic, community

- Need more share the road signage
- Negative influence of Truck lobbying groups

Where do B & C cyclist bike?

Central City

- Riverpark
- North Chicamauga
- Reflection riding (Lookout Mountain base)
- VAAP

West Hamilton County

- Raccoon Mountain
- Red Bank Park near White Oak
- North Chick greenway
- Edwards Pt. (needs parking lot entrance maintenance) Signal Mountain / Prentiee
- Cooper top of mountain State Park and foot just off of mountain Sock Creek Road
- Shackleford Ridge Park
- Nolan Elementary area this park connects with Edward's Pt.
- Booker T. Washington Park (Highway 58-Harrison)
- Chester Frost Park

East Hamilton County

- Harrison Bay
- Booker T.
- Battlefield
- Carver Rec
- Caruthers
- Harrison Johnson Greenway Farms
- College Dale Greenway
- Red Clay

North Georgia

- Chickamauga and Chattanooga Military Park
- The BACs were then asked to comment on bicycle routes identified in the public meetings and identify any other new routes.
- The following miscellaneous comments were written on the flip charts:

Central City

- None

West Hamilton County

- Need for peaceful / beautiful areas closer than Chick Park
- Problems with transitions from Mountain bike trails to road-bike trails. Bikes are made for different terrain
- Rails to / with trails possibility
- Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant possibilities
- Places for children
- Potentials for River Canyon road area within TN River gorge

- Tunnel Cherokee Boulevard to Dayton Boulevard
- Cherokee / Manufacturers. Pineville
- Lookout Mountain – abandoned rail (Talk to Daisy Blanton)
- TN Senator Fowler – Commissioner TDOT Bruce Saltzman
- Verbal agreement with staff to remove “No Biking” signage –Highway 27
- To town towards Red Bank
- Tresmont street to Miss.
- North Market? Narrow
- Altamont to White Oak – Memorial Drive

East Hamilton County

- Paths not wide enough for bike, Pedestrian, Roller Bladers, etc.
- Combined use, volume of use
- Education of bicyclists – Must have bells
- Restriction on high volume, high speed, controlled access
- Knowledge of rights and proper behavior
- Designated times/days/nights in recreation areas
- EDUCATION
- Health house
- Departments – School coordinator
- Questions on drivers license test
- Education of law enforcement

North Georgia

- None

Bicycle Advisory Committee No.2. On Monday December 3rd and Tuesday, December 4th, the second round of BAC meetings were held. A representative from the HPI team facilitated each of the meetings. On Tuesday, HPI held additional meetings with the RPA, Public Works officials from the planning area and the Design Center.

At the BAC meetings, the HPI team illustrated the routes that were inventoried during the month of November. The segments inventoried totaled nearly 450. These routes represented the majority of the information that was to be gathered in the field. The HPI team explained the type of data collected for each segment. These included the following:

- Width of Travel Lanes
- Number of Travel Lanes
- Presence of Turn Lanes
- Presence of Shoulders and Their Width
- Presence of Parallel Parking and its Width
- Posted Speed
- Presence of Curb and Gutters
- Presence of Stormgrates and if they are bike friendly or not
- Presence of Street Lighting
- General Slope (Level, Moderate, Steep)
- Presence of Ditches

The HPI team introduced the BACs to the Suitability Matrix that would be used to evaluate each of the segments. The categories included the following:

- Width
- Slope
- Traffic Volume
- Traffic Speed
- Sight Distance
- Barriers
- Presence of On-Street Parking
- Presence of Intersections/Curb Cuts
- Presence of Street Lighting
- General Cost
- Relation to Transportation Plan
- Connections Made by Segment
- Continuity of Route
- Population Served by Segment
- Aesthetics of Route

The HPI team also presented a list of Peer Cities that were reviewed by the team. The cities were chosen because they were identified as bike-friendly cities by Bicycling Magazine. They included the following:

- Austin, TX
- Seattle, WA
- Denver, CO
- Tuscon, AZ
- Madison, WI

The following comments were recorded at each BAC meeting:

Central City BAC Meeting:

- Members felt that the Central City should focus more of the utilitarian use of bike facilities and they may weight more heavily in the suitability matrix. Aesthetics were not as important.
- Connectivity may need to be more heavily weighted in the Central City
- Members were worried that the team may be including too many categories and because of this everything may average out. It was suggested to use all categories, but to also quantify a selected list of the most important as see if it changes their rating
- It was suggested that the bike system should tie into mass transit. Some suggested adding it as a category.
- Members felt that the team needed to add a southeastern city to the Peer Review. Raleigh, NC, Birmingham, AL, Ashville, NC, Carrboro, NC and Tallahassee, FL were suggested as options.

East Hamilton County BAC Meeting:

- Some roads are subject to broken glass. The members wondered if it should be added to the suitability matrix. Highway 58 is particularly bad.
- Germantown and Brainerd Rd. is a dangerous intersection
- The BAC also would like to get bicycle accident data if it was available.
- The suitability assessment may preclude some of the most important roads.
- Would like to add Woltever Greenway to map
- Additional Streets that the team should inventory were: Tallent Rd. to McDonald Rd., Ringgold Rd., and Prospect Church Rd.
- Members wondered about the possibility of an abandoned railway near the college that could be utilized

West Hamilton County BAC Meeting

- Additional Roadways to Consider
- Daughtery Ferry Rd.
- May Road
- Back Valley Rd.
- Old Ford Road (connects to Back Valley Rd.)
- Mountain Creek Road
- Shackleford Ridge Road
- There is a 5-mile off-road trail in Booker T. Park. Can we connect to the park?
- Hixon Road is to be widened from Middle Valley to Chester Frost Park. It may be too late, but there may be an opportunity to include bike lanes.

North Georgia BAC Meeting

- No comments