

# PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 10, 2023 at 2:00 pm

## ATTENDEES

**MEMBERS:** Emily Bartley, Jennifer Clark, Marty Dempsey, Margaret Fields, Thomas Hawkins, Emily Hind, Sarah Gamble, Charles Kammin, Carolyn Kelley, Matthew Terza, Scott Washburn, Matt Williams

**LIASONS:** Linda Dixon, Scott Fox

**NON-MEMBERS:** Mairead Baker, Thomas Feather, Ron Fuller, Rachel Mandell, Alison Moss, Michael Panarisi, Savannah Partridge, Keith Rambo, Mike Ryan Simonovich, Seth Wood, Connor Watkins, Nina Shubert (Recording)

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

**STUDENT MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:** Connor Wells

**CHAIR:** Scott Washburn

## CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Scott Washburn

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Scott Washburn asked the committee to review and approve of the minutes from September 2023. The motion to approve was set by Margaret Fields and was seconded by Thomas Hawkins. The minutes from September 2023 were approved.

## TAPS UPDATE

**PRESENTING: SCOTT FOX, RON FULLER**

### **DISCUSSION:**

- Scott Fox spoke about inauguration of the new University of Florida President. The inauguration taking place on Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the University Auditorium.
  - There will be activity on campus the day prior and the day after this event.
  - Many parking areas of campus will be impacted for these events, so plan for this accordingly.

## SELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

**PRESENTING: SCOTT WASHBURN**

### **DISCUSSION:**

- Scott Washburn discussed the election of the vice chair position and requested nominations.
  - Noted was Thomas Hawkins reappointment to the committee.
- Jennifer Clark nominated Thomas Hawkins as vice-chair and Thomas Hawkins accepted.
- With no other nominations as vote was called by Scott Washburn
- Thomas Hawkins was elected vice-chair of PATAAC.

## CYCLING SAFETY ISSUES

**PRESENTING: CONNOR WATKINS**

### **DISCUSSION:**

Scott Washburn opened a discussion proposed by Connor Watkins concerns regarding bicycle safety.

- Background – Connor Watkins had been involved in a couple of accidents on campus by the Health Science Center.
- Michael Panarisi had a couple of questions -
  - Encourage the use of bike bells on campus?
    - E-scooters are equipped with bells, but bikes are not.
- Emily Hind was asked to comment:

- Uses a bike bell because she cannot use a horn as she transports her children in the cargo bike. Stated that the bell does not get the attention from vehicles the much a louder bike horn receives.
- Additional discussion included:
  - Requests for a bike box at intersections
  - On-campus and city infrastructure
  - Better warning for end of bike lanes and flow to sidewalks
  - Inclusion of bike boxes
  - Crosswalks
  - Implementing bike bells/horns requirement
- Matt Williams commented on Gator Gears' receiving from the City of Gainesville bells for bikes and distribution.
- Linda Dixon discussed the statute for cyclist to provide an audible warning. Additional comment on Emily Hind's concerns regarding intersection at 18th and Fletcher Drive and the convergence to the sidewalk. There is also a study to be conducted regarding potential one-way pairs on Fletcher and Buckman Drives.
- Mike Ryan Simonovich discussed use of bike bells with on his personal bike.
  - He has two bells with different pitches and neither received attention from automobiles.
  - Discussed bike boxes – Not necessarily safe as “cars will ignore paint.”
  - Bike infrastructure
  - Enforcement – Stricter enforcement, bollards, regulations, consequences
- Scott Washburn further commented on the on-going issue of vehicles parking in bike lanes for bike commuters, discussed concerns about vehicles parking in the bike lanes and speeding on campus and citations. He also expressed concerns on O'Connell Center pick-ups and drop-offs by parents for camps/lessons blocking bike lanes.
- Connor Watkins was able to join the meeting –
  - Discussed and provided details involving two bike accidents.
    - No sidewalk along Mowry Road. Biked around two pedestrians at an intersection of the bike lane and parking lot and was hit by a car.
    - Was on the sidewalk on Archer Road and Jimmy John's delivery vehicle was exiting the parking lot had stopped. Connor Warkins passed in front of the vehicle and was hit when the vehicle pulled forward to exit.
    - Commented that there have been multiple near-misses with buses as well.
    - Cars ignore stop signs and drive too fast along DOT pedestrian/bike trail from Southwest Rec to Gale Lemerand.
- Scott Washburn discussed the following:
  - “Three E's” – Education, Engineering and Enforcement.
  - National upward trends – Issues with enforcement, accidents with injuries/fatalities, reckless/careless driving.
  - Mowry Road issue
  - Bus driver behavior
- Thomas Hawkins discussed frustration and similar experiences with bike safety on campus:
  - Culture issues and changing the culture/behavior.
  - Present more comprehensive information for in-coming students
  - Would like to hear from Campus Planning and City of Gainesville regarding University Avenue safety improvements.
- Michael Panarisi additionally discussed:
  - Difficulty enforcing rules.
  - Following rules, such as campus-wide 20 MPH speed limit, and being harassed.
  - Separation of vehicle lanes with bollards, narrow lanes to crosswalk length, pavement markers,
- Jennifer Clark commented and discussed this as a policy recommendation.
  - This is a risk management issue for the University at large.

- Discussed the consideration of the additions to the pedestrian and bicycle population - E-bikes/scooters/skateboards, golf carts, delivery vehicles, etc.
- Minimizing noise levels
- Communication and culture positivity for transportation around campus, data collection.

The committee members and guests continued discussion:

- Transportation culture and messaging
- Traffic calming methods
  - Discussed with Linda Dixon about project development and a presentation.
  - Michael Panarisi discussed his meeting with Scott Fox and Linda Dixon regarding his ideas about campus safety and wayfinding.
- Allison Moss discussed safety along off-campus city and county roads. Stated the countywide bicycle master plan is moving forward, systemic safety with “Safe Streets” action plan.
- Matt Williams noted similar safety messages at many other campuses. Asked the committee members and attendees to bring ideas/best practices to the attention of this university. He stated as well that UF has submitted twice to the League of American Cyclists and UF is rated “gold bike friendly university” for infrastructure. Asked that if Emily Hind could provide an example city that would provide a comparison for next submission to League of American Cyclists. In response Emily Hind stated that although she does not know of other campuses, in YouTube videos of European places bicyclists do not wear high-visibility gear seemingly due to a calmer environment.
- Marty Dempsey discussed best communication best practices regarding projects and initiatives.
- Scott Fox asked that RTS incidences be reported to him, and he will communicate these with RTS.
- It was asked of Allison Moss if PATAC may meet with the consultant as a stakeholder in the bicycle/pedestrian safety action project.
- Savannah Partridge inquired and had concerns regarding pedestrian safety in the auto-free zone. Stated that there seemed to be no sign or signal on the west side of Buckman Drive. Ron Fuller stated that there is a blinking beacon light on Buckman Drive warning of the auto-free zone. Concerns were for sign visibility and enforcement. It was suggested that violation and concerns be reported to University Police Department to increase enforcement focus.
- Sarah Gable discussed University Avenue and the community engagement that took place in spring of 2023.
  - Federal funds for work on University Avenue
  - Installation of crosswalks at 22nd Street and 34<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Discussed the city’s redesign project for area between 20<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Streets.
- Linda Dixon and Seth Wood discussed City of Gainesville’s improvement projects and where to find updates.
- Emily Hind continued discussion regarding creation of appropriate bike lanes, pedestrian sidewalks.
- Thomas Hawkins asked that the committee be included in any communications – emails, web pages, links, flyers. – regarding transportation, expectations, behavior, etc.
- Jennifer Clark asked about and the committee further discussed data collection for bicycle areas on campus and the periphery which are a problem.
- Jennifer Clark asked about construction and the flat lot at McCarty Drive. Scott Fox stated that contractors have been moved out of and may no longer park in Garage 4. Although contractors cannot be regulated off campus, TAPS will take at the number of contractor vehicles utilizing the McCarty lot.

**ACTION:**

For discussion by the committee.

**PATAC POTENTIAL INITIATIVES**

**PRESENTING: SCOTT WASHBURN**

The agenda item was not specifically presented at this meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**  
**PRESENTED BY: SCOTT WASHBURN**

There was no other business.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.