

**Fairhope Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee**  
**Nix Center**  
**September 10, 2015**

Attendees: Jane Finger, Nancy Milford, Molly Peterson, Chris Riley, Jeff Hudson, Mike Groutt.

Guest: James (Fairhope Times), Gary Gover

**Review of Minutes from August Meeting.** No changes; approved as written.

- **Meeting Time.** Committee meetings have been on the first Wednesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. Since Councilwoman Diana Brewer will be the Council liaison to the committee, there was some discussion about trying to rearrange the meeting time to better accommodate her schedule. Diana has indicated that due to work commitments, the best time for her would be at 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. on Thursday. That time may be difficult for some members of the committee: Nancy Milford, the City of Fairhope liaison, would need to be authorized to work extra hours; and Jeff Hudson has a standing appointment each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.
- **Wish List**
  - Chris Riley, Fairhope Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee chairman, asked which version of the Wish List is the most current. Jane Finger verified that the 26 Aug version is the one. In the future, the Wish List will include a notice “Current as of (date).”
  - Next week, Chris Riley will email a copy of the Priorities List to Jennifer Fidler, City of Fairhope Public Works Department, to find out if any of the projects are currently scheduled. Once Jennifer has been alerted, Chris will forward a copy to Mayor Kant.
  - New additions to the Wish List:
    - Sidewalk along Gayfer, between U.S. 98 and Pattlynn (providing access to the Elementary School) needs attention with respect to curb cuts at intersections.
    - Vegetation obstructs crosswalk warning sign on Scenic 98 at Nelson so that southbound traffic can’t see the sign as they approach the crosswalk where the Eastern Shore Trail crosses Scenic 98.
- **Fairhope Elementary School Walking School Bus.**
  - Jane Finger reported that the commendation will be presented at the September 28 Council meeting, before International Walk to School Day in early October.
- **Downtown Bicycle Parking Facilities.**
  - Mike Groutt briefed members of the committee on the recent visit by Consultant Dan Burden. The city will propose, through the Eastern Shore MPO, to work with Burden on a downtown parking study to look at ways to address both on-street parking and underutilization of the Fairhope parking deck, and determine locations and styles of bicycle parking as a way to further enhance the look of downtown while encouraging more people to ride bikes rather than drive. The study will also look at a developing a shuttle service to get people to and from the parking facility
  - Burden will prepare a proposal to submit to the ESMPO.
  - While he was in Fairhope, Burden toured the city with Fairhope Public Works Director Jennifer Fidler and Mike Groutt to look at proposed sites for bike racks.

- Mike recommended that the committee hold off on moving forward with its bike rack project until we see what Burden comes up with in his proposal. It is likely that the racks and locations we have identified will become a part of the bicycle parking solution.
- **ADA Review of Downtown.**
  - The committee will hold up on doing the review until Chris Riley has had a chance to talk to Irene Wegner about AARP assistance with the project.
  - Mike Groutt discussed the project with AARP Interim State Director Candy Williams. Candy is ready to support the project with training for volunteers, an approved checklist to work from, and possibly refreshments for the participants.
  - Chris reiterated that he will be unavailable for the entire month of October. We may want to consider a date in early November.
- **Eastern Shore MPO Update.**
  - MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee will meet next Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at the Fairhope Satellite Courthouse. The Policy Board will meet on Wednesday, September 16, 2015. (One item they will consider is the request to use planning funds for the Fairhope downtown parking study.)
- **Baldwin County Trailblazers Update.**
  - Molly Peterson reported that construction has begun on the section of trail between County Road 13 and Dominion Farms, filling the remaining gap in the trail.
  - Molly also reported that Baldwin County has ordered plastic bollards to provide separation from the roadway at Battles Wharf.
- **Other Issues:**
  - **Triangle Property Mountain Bike Trail.** Katie Bolton discussed a proposal to include mountain biking trails in the park on the “Triangle Property.” She is hoping to work with the city and the Baldwin County Trailblazers to apply for an ADECA grant next year.
  - **Shux Shuttle.**
    - Jane Finger brought a potential safety issue to the committee...the “Shux Shuttle” operating on the Fairhope Pier. The motorized shuttle takes patrons to and from the restaurant, potentially endangering pedestrian traffic, particularly children. Previously, there was a sign at the entrance to the pier prohibiting motorized vehicles, along with bicycles and skateboards.
    - Chris Riley will check with City Clerk Lisa Hanks to find out how the committee might register concerns about this potential safety issue with the City Council.
  - Alabama Trails Commission Workshop. The Alabama Trails Commission will sponsor a recreational trails leadership workshop in Anniston on October 15, 2015.
  - The Livable Coastal Communities Coalition has produced two bicycle safety videos that are now available for download and use. The videos—one aimed at cyclists and the other at motorists—are available on the Alabama Coastal Foundation website at [www.joinacf.org](http://www.joinacf.org).
- **Public Participation.**
  - Gary Gover offered several observations to the committee:
    - Will bicycle parking be designed for its visibility (to be seen) or for utility?

- Has the city done any research to determine where there is a need—or a potential need—for bicycle parking? It is important to have bike parking around town at convenient locations, including locations outside of downtown.
- The committee may want to consider working with schools. For example, in the past, the Intermediate School had a bicycle club. Right now, the school is in the process of organizing clubs for the new school year.
- Since school resource officers rotate through the various schools, the city might want to look into working a bicycle patrol officer into the rotation to promote awareness of bicycle safety.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 1, at 4:00 p.m. at the Nix Center. Note: there will not be a meeting in October as Chairman Chris Riley will be out of town.