

## City of Conway, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

### 2018 Annual Report

#### Mission

The mission of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board (BPAB) is to work with the city of Conway to recommend ways the city can become and remain:

1. An official Bicycle-Friendly Community as designated by the League of American Bicyclists,
2. An official Walk-Friendly Community (WFC) as designated by the UNC Highway Safety Research Center and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center
3. A community that seeks to achieve the federal and state goals of the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) program

The goals of SRTS and the assessment tools of the WFC initiative include the five Es that the League uses to certify bicycle friendly communities. Doing so entails

1. Engineering of streets to include bicycle facilities (lanes, sharrows, etc) and to expand paved trail networks
2. Educational efforts to help bicyclists and motorists learn to share the road
3. Enforcement efforts to ensure that bicyclists and motorists both know and obey the rules of the road
4. Encouraging the citizens of Conway to increase bicycling through events and activities
5. Evaluating our progress in responding to the needs of bicyclists in our community; developing plans based in realistic goals for the future

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board is guided by a vision of a community where all citizens can readily and safely walk and bicycle for transportation or recreation.

#### 2018 Board members, with current terms and roles

David Barber, Secretary, [odoketa@gmail.com](mailto:odoketa@gmail.com), 2018, pedestrian rep  
Peter Mehl, Chair, [peterjmehl@gmail.com](mailto:peterjmehl@gmail.com), 2019, bicycle rep  
Matthew Murphy, [murphy@itechanswers.com](mailto:murphy@itechanswers.com), 2020, bicycle rep  
Bethany Stovall, [bethmstovall@gmail.com](mailto:bethmstovall@gmail.com), 2018, pedestrian rep  
Michael Yoder, Secretary, [msyoder@gmail.com](mailto:msyoder@gmail.com), 2020, pedestrian rep (resigned in June)  
Tom Courtway, [tcourtway@uca.edu](mailto:tcourtway@uca.edu), 2019, bicycle rep  
Joyia Yorgey, [jyorgey@gmail.com](mailto:jyorgey@gmail.com) 2020, safe routes to schools rep  
Donny Jones, [donnyjones680@gmail.com](mailto:donnyjones680@gmail.com), 2020, bicycle rep  
Sharon Brady (resign in August)

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Bart Castleberry, Mayor, [bart.castleberry@cityofconway.org](mailto:bart.castleberry@cityofconway.org)  
Finley Vinson, Street Dept., [finley.vinson@cityofconway.org](mailto:finley.vinson@cityofconway.org)  
Steve Ibbotson, Parks Dept., [steve.ibbotson@cityofconway.org](mailto:steve.ibbotson@cityofconway.org)  
Beth Sketoe, Planning Dept., [beth.sketoe@cityofconway.org](mailto:beth.sketoe@cityofconway.org)  
Ofc. Hayden Schmitt, Police Dept., [hayden.schmitt@cityofconway.org](mailto:hayden.schmitt@cityofconway.org)

## Introduction

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Board was functioning well with the start of 2018. Peter Mehl continued as board chair, with David Barber as secretary and Matt Murphy as vice chair. Donny Jones, Joyia Yorgey and Sharon Bradley joined the board in January, so the Board had a total of 9 members in 2018, (although Sharon Bradley resigned in August, and Michael Yoder resigned because of moving in June). Two new board members will begin in 2019: William (Bill) Burley and Terry Coddington.

## Main Board Concerns and Activities

1) **Planning and Evaluation/ Pedestrian Master Plan.** The board spent more time on pedestrian issues than on cycling this year. After many years of discussion and false starts, the Board (in conjunction with community members and led by Bethany Stovall) developed a Pedestrian Master plan for the city of Conway. We are pleased that the city has approved this plan and is committed to working toward improving the conditions for pedestrians in Conway. The board is concerned about funding mechanisms for these improvements.

We are currently working to update the **Bicycle master plan**, and (as we said last year), **our vision** is an on-street network of buffered bike lanes, protected bike lanes (cycle tracks), neighborhood green-ways, and to a limited extent shared travel lanes to complement an expanding off-street paved trail network. This vision is designed to appeal to the *interested but concerned* rider, and connects nicely with the Chamber's Trails Everywhere Initiative. We will need to renew our status as a LAB bicycle-friendly community in 2019; we are hopeful that we can achieve Silver status this time!

2) **Strava data collection:** The city can obtain cycling, walking and running route data through Strava, an app that tracks cyclist and pedestrian behavior. This data is an important gauge of how many, how much and who is riding and walking, and where. The board requests that we acquire the last year's data from Strava.

3) **Zagster Bike share program:** In 2017 the city entered into an agreement with Pace (formerly Zagster). In 2018 UCA joined with the city to expand the Zagster bike share program. One of the current stations was relocated to Pompey Park along Kinley Trail. The Zagster program now involves 60 bikes housed at 12 (5 on UCA campus) docking stations. The Transportation Department is administering the project; BPAB is supportive but remains concerned about the future of the project and how will it be evaluated.

### 4) **Infrastructure/Engineering:**

**Pedestrian (and bicyclist) Bridge over Dave Ward Dr.** This partnership between UCA and the city of Conway is a major achievement! This bridge creates safer access to the south side of Conway for walker and bikers, and (in particular) will increase UCA student walking and bicycling.

**Downtown bike parking area.** At BPAB's request, the city obtained a grant and has created a dedicated downtown parking area in the parking lot on the corner of Smith and Front Streets. This area will provide more options for cyclists who shop and dine on Front Street and downtown.

**Increasing Appropriate Signage:** Working with the Transportation dept. we are installing more “Bikes May use Full Lane” signs. These are critical to help educate drivers and warn them when bikes may be on narrow streets and passing is only feasible when oncoming traffic allows. We are also planning to sign some more designated bike routes in Conway, (similar to Reddin’s route).

**Expanding Kinley Trail** southwest to the soccer fields and to Lollie road. BPAB is working with the city to map a route and to secure grant funding for this expansion.

5) **Enforcement:** Officer Schmidt reported that the Officers on Bikes is back and functioning well, with a special focus on patrolling Kinley Trail.

6) **Mechanism for Community Input.** BPAB has instituted a Request Log to address citizen concerns about cycling and walking conditions. If a citizen contacts the BPAB then Beth Sketoe enters the information/concern and the board will address and advise the city. BPAB@cityofconway.org

## **Community Activities**

Mayor Castleberry proclaimed May as Bike Month in Conway.

May 9, 2018: **Bike to School Day:** Another successful bike to school day with over 220 elementary school kids from all over Conway biking to school.

May 18, Bike to work day: about 15 cyclists enjoyed a morning ride and breakfast at Simon Park.

**UCA** was awarded bicycle friendly university status at the bronze level in 2017. **Hendrix College** was also awarded the same level in 2016. Both continue to develop an active bicycling culture.

## **Summary**

As noted last year, the city is fortunate to have a dedicated group of cycling and walking advocates to continue to develop Conway as a bicycling and walking friendly community. The city should be proud of the progress that has been made to date, but there is still a long way to go before we can call ourselves a fully functioning bicycle and pedestrian friendly community. Developing these alternative transportation and recreational opportunities are crucial to a city with a high quality of life; these efforts will contribute to economic growth by attracting progressive and innovative new businesses to Conway. BPAB urges the city to continue to support our efforts to make Conway more bicycle and pedestrian friendly.

Peter Mehl, Chair, BPAB