

Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee
ECC Neighborhood Planning Team
October 2015 Report

Assembled by Kathryn Flowers

The Bike & Pedestrian Committee was formed in August 2015 to address growing issues relevant to bicycle and pedestrian transportation in the East Cesar Chavez area. Several issues were brought up for further investigation. Here is a report on our progress regarding these issues:

1. Pedernales St. Cycletrack

A number of issues were brought up regarding Pedernales St. and the in-progress cycletrack. I conversed with Laura Dierenfield and Nathan Wilkes in Active Transportation at the City as well as brought the issue to Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) over the past six weeks.

The cycletrack is now complete all the way south of Cesar Chavez. The signal at Cesar Chavez was installed and is now working. Many of the issues brought up (old railroad tracks catching tires, bad marking of the curbpiece at Cesar Chavez & Pedernales, street sweeping issues, etc.) have been resolved or are in progress. One issue still outstanding is that cars have still been seen driving/parking in the bike lane. Based on conversations with Laura & Nathan, if residents see this, they should report the issue to 311.

Additionally, Laura has taken the neighborhood's comments that I collected through NextDoor and is planning an outreach meeting for ECC, Holly, & Pedernales NA's some time this fall. Now that the track is finished, I expect some action on this. I am also hoping to see it on the agenda at BAC this month or next and will have an update on that as soon as I can.

2. Tejano Trails/Sidewalk Needs

Due to the Tejano Trails project, we received some documentation from Nadia Barrera in Urban Trails at the City regarding sidewalk priority needs in their system. You can see this below:



Red is “very high” priority. As you can see, there are many of them. I spoke with Nadia and she still does not have a timeline for when these might be added to a construction project, but it is on her radar. If there are other sidewalks the neighborhood would like to see marked as high priority please let me know so I can advocate to her for some changes.

3. Austin B-Cycle Stations

There are approximately 50 stations already in Austin. Right now they are looking at expanding to an additional 32 (approximately). Here is a paper that was circulated at BAC back in May detailing this expansion proposal

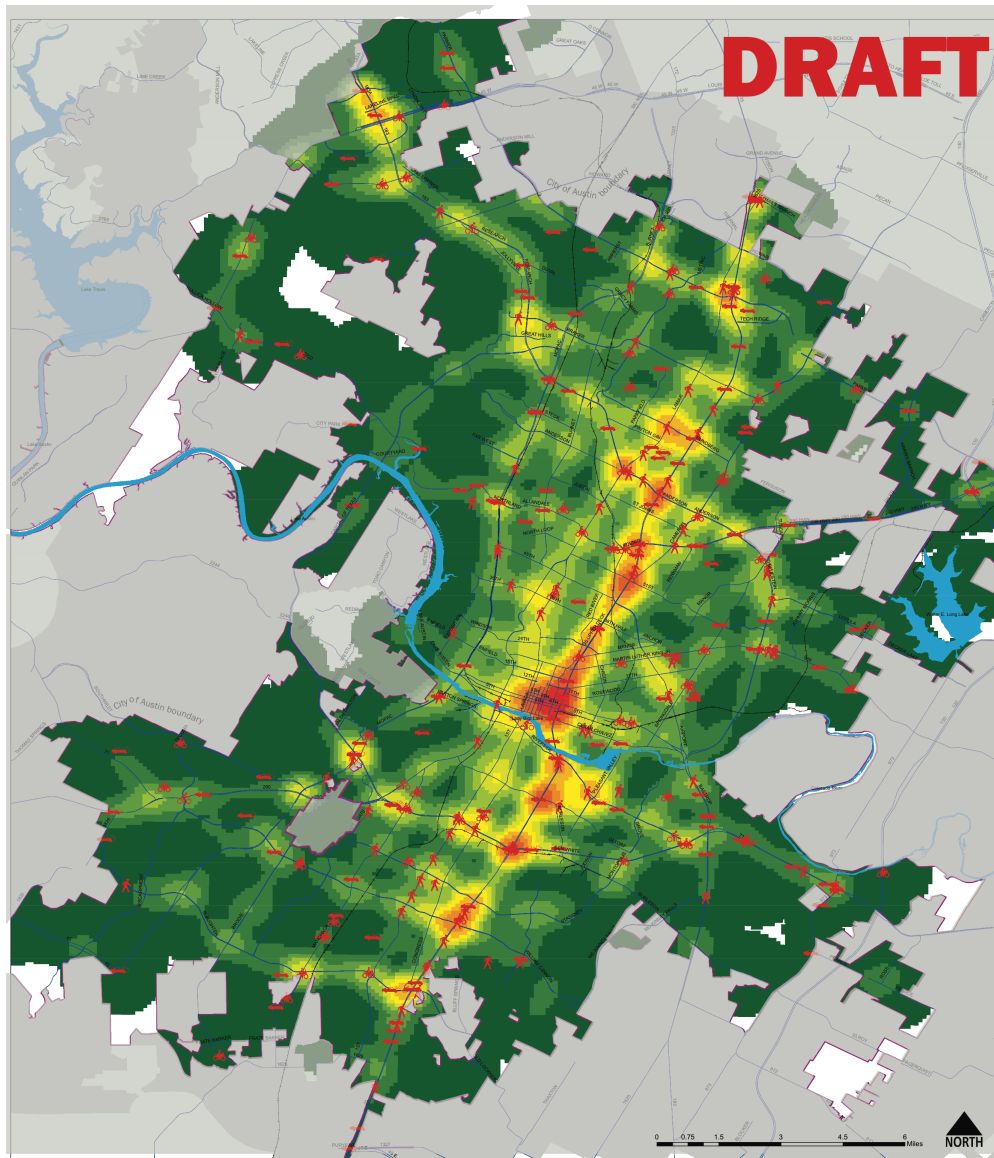
(<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=231867>).

Most notable for us are the "Fiesta Gardens" and "Festival Beach" stations. This plan is pending funding but was endorsed by BAC.

Many individuals were interested in how we can advocate for a station at a specific location. Traditionally, you need to approach B-Cycle for it and it helps if you have some ability to help with private funding. This is not always required though. I would be happy to follow up with B-Cycle for more information if there is interest.

4. Vision Zero & ECC

The image below is a heat map displaying injuries and fatalities by all modes of transportation between 2010 and 2014:







Injury & Fatal Crashes All Modes (2010-2014)

Source: TXDOT 2010 - 2014 Standard File Extract, City of Austin jurisdiction



Deaths by mode

-  driving (145)
-  walking (91)
-  motorcycle (59)
-  biking (7)

Concentration of injuries & deaths



As you can see, ECC is a very high area for injuries and fatal crashes. This hasn't changed over time – this year, we have had 81 fatalities city-wide. Two fatalities have been in 78702, though none in ECC at this time. I am searching for injury data for this year but

have yet to find it. Since I was hit in ECC as a pedestrian back in May, I know there have been some injuries so I am currently searching for the data.

From this data, we can identify problematic areas and advocate for improvements/changes to the City.

This concludes my report for the month. If anyone has any questions or concerns they would like to bring to me, I would ask that they send a quick email to my contact information below. I have a significant workload during September/October at work, but will back at the ECC meeting in November.

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