City of Houston
Bicycle Advisory Committee

City Hall Annex Council Chambers, 900 Bagby Street, Public Level
April 24, 2019
2:30-4:30pm

Agenda

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Following Items:

1. Director's Report
2. Chair's Report
3. Approval of January Minutes
4. Public Comment
5. Safer Streets Initiative
6. Build 50 Challenge Update
7. Vision Zero
    a. Possible Action: Adopt BAC Vision Zero Resolution
8. No Parking in the Bike Lane
    a. Possible Actions:
        i. Request the Planning and Development Department to establish an internal policy for city vehicles to be prohibited from parking in bike lanes.
        ii. Request the Planning and Development Department to begin the process of passing a citywide ordinance prohibiting parking of any vehicle in the bike lane.
9. Announcements

The public is invited to speak for up to two (2) minutes each either at the beginning of the meeting or at the end. The public is also encouraged to submit written comments to bac@houstontx.gov. Updates and committee notes will be available

Minutes of the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

April 24, 2019
Meeting held in
Council Chambers, Public Level, City Hall Annex
2:30 p.m.

Call to Order
Chair Maya Ford called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. with a quorum present.

Maya Ford, Chair	
Clark Martinson, Vice Chair	
Toloria Allen	Absent
Kristine Anthony	
Katrina Bayer	Absent
Oni Blair	
Neil Bremner	
Robin Holzer	
Beth Martin	
Yuhayna Mahmud	
Clint McManus	
Veon McReynolds	
Amar Mohite	
Dian Nostikasari	
Alejandro Perez	Absent
Ana Ramirez Huerta	
Sandra Rodriguez	
Mike VanDusen	
Adam Williams	

EXOFFICIO MEMBERS

Ian Hlavacek	Absent
Jennifer Ostlind	
Juvenal Robles	

1. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Interim Director Margaret Wallace Brown provided brief remarks encouraging the BAC's work toward improving bicycling in Houston. The Director's Report was given by Assistant Director Jennifer Ostlind.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT
Chair Maya Ford provided the Chair's Report. Chair Ford emphasized safety as the paradigm shift in building bikeway infrastructure.

3. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES
Committee action: Approve the January 16, 2019 Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting minutes.

Motion: **Holzer** Second: **McReynolds** Vote: **Unanimous** Abstaining: **None**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

5. SAFER STREETS INITIATIVE UPDATE
This item was skipped due to the absence of Houston Public Works representative Ian Hlavacek.

6. BUILD 50 CHALLENGE UPDATE
Staff member Pete Eccles presented an overview of the Build 50 Challenge, the regional spine network plan, and the status of bikeway implementation. All projects in Near Northside (Lyons, Hardy/Elysian, Downtown Connector and Kelley Street), are designed and entering construction. Lyons Avenue construction is complete. Engagement and information distribution regarding the use of the bike lanes is still ongoing.

The Third Ward package of bikeways are 100% designed but have not been constructed. These include the Austin corridor, Gray, Polk, Cullen, Hutchins and Cleburne.

Eccles also outlined the total mileage of bikeways that have been implemented towards the Build 50 Challenge. Houston Parks Board built 24.8 miles, METRO 1.1 miles, Westchase Management District 0.3 miles, TIRZ 5 0.5 miles, and other Precinct 1 projects total 7.6 miles. 9.6 miles are under construction and 8.0 miles have been let for construction by Precinct 1. The total mileage towards the Build 50 Challenge is 51.9 miles.

City of Houston CIP-funded projects (Acres Home network, Patterson, 11th Street, North Main and Quitman) are still in concept or early design stages, so they will not count towards the Build 50 Challenge.

Lastly, Eccles outlined upcoming meetings and engagement opportunities for bikeway projects still in the design phase. He also posed the question of what a future bikeways challenge might look like. Discussion ensued.

7. VISION ZERO
Staff member Lauren Grove presented a draft resolution for the BAC. The BAC resolution will be presented to the Planning Commission May 9. The language in the BAC resolution will serve as the starting point for the Executive Order for Mayor Turner. Discussion ensued. Staff committed to revise the draft BAC resolution with more holistic language and send the final draft for review by the Members via email.

Committee action: Staff and Legal to prepare a Resolution presented to Planning Commission from the BAC that supports a Vision Zero policy established by the City of Houston.

Motion: **Martinson** Second: **Holzer** Vote: **Unanimous** Abstaining: **None**

8. NO PARKING IN THE BIKE LANE
Staff member Melissa Beeler presented on the issue of parking in the bike lane and listed requests for BAC action from the previous two subcommittee meetings. Discussion ensued.

It was noted education would be needed for city employees and the general public.

Committee Action 1: Request the Planning and Development Department to establish an internal policy for nonemergency City vehicles and contractors officially acting on behalf of the City to be prohibited from parking in bike lanes.

Motion: **Blair** Second: **--** Vote: **Unanimous** Abstaining: **None**
Ramirez Huerta Off Dias

Committee Action 2: Request the Planning and Development Department to begin the process of passing a citywide ordinance prohibiting parking of any vehicle in the bike lane unless the vehicle is responding to an emergency and to provide policy recommendations to revise the City's traffic control plan.

Motion: **Blair** Second: **Holzer** Vote: **Unanimous** Abstaining: **None**

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Committee Meetings:

- Infrastructure Subcommittee: May 30 at 2:30pm, 611 Walker, 6th floor
- Education Subcommittee: June 27 at 2:30pm at 611 Walker, 6th floor
- Quarterly Meeting: July 24 at 2:30pm at City Hall Annex Council Chambers

Legal representative Kim Mickelson announced that the American Planning Association National Planning Conference was held in San Francisco April 12-15. The conference will be held next year in Houston April 25-28, 2020. Over 6,000 planners attended the national conference. Members should consider proposing sessions and mobile workshops.

Two positions will be open on the BAC

Vice Chair Clark Martinson announced many scheduled events for Bike Month.

- Houston Bike Summit will be held May 17- May 18.
- Mid Main Bike Month Party - May 2
- Walk & Bike to School Day - May 8
- Cyclo Femme - May 12
- Ride of Silence - May 15
- Bike to Work Day - May 17
- BikeHouston Bike Summit - May 17
- BikeHouston Street Fest - May 18

Beth Martin announced Bike Share's Fundraiser taking place May 31st at Saint Arnold's Beer Garden.

Clint McManus announced the H-GAC RTP Public Meeting at 3555 Timmons Lane on April 24 at 5:30pm. Comment deadline May 10. The Ped/Bike Subcommittee will meet May 8 from 1:30 to 3:30pm with an orientation available to interested parties.

Veon McReynolds asked whether we are trying to restrict cars within the 610 Loop to address climate change. Harrison Humphreys of Air Alliance mentioned cutting off traffic to certain parts of the city is a proposal being considered under the Climate Action Plan process.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the Committee, Chair Maya Ford adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Maya Ford
Chair

Jennifer Ostlind
Interim Secretary

RESOLUTION 2020-1
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO VISION ZERO, A ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE ALL TRAFFIC-RELATED FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES; AND REQUESTING SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON PLANNING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL IN THE ADOPTION OF VISION ZERO.

WHEREAS, the City of Houston Complete Streets and Transportation Plan, (Executive Order 1-15, adopted on November 1, 2013), directs city efforts to achieve complete streets that take into account people of all ages and abilities, including children, older adults, and persons with disabilities who use the public right-of-way for driving or riding in cars, using mass transit, riding bikes, walking, using wheelchairs, driving or riding in trucks, driving or being transported by emergency vehicles, and being served at their residence or property by other users; and

WHEREAS, the Bicycle Advisory Committee was established by City of Houston Ordinance No. 2017-208 in March 22, 2017 to advise and make recommendations to the Planning Commission and the Planning Director on issues related to bicycling in the city including, but not limited to, amendments to the adopted Bicycle Master Plan (BMP), bicycle safety and education, implementation of the BMP, development of strategies for funding projects related to bicycling, and promoting public participation in bicycling; and

WHEREAS, to enhance street safety in the city, the Bicycle Advisory Committee believes that the only acceptable number of roadway fatalities is zero, and that there is a need to address all users of the roadway and pedestrian realm, inclusive but not limited to bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists, to improve roadway safety for all users; and

WHEREAS, A fundamental premise of Vision Zero is that traffic deaths and serious injuries are preventable, not inevitable; and

WHEREAS, the City of Houston is undertaking multiple projects and programs to improve roadway safety for all users, including but not limited to the Safer Streets Initiative, Road Safety Audits, Vulnerable Road Users Ordinance, and Texting While Driving Ban; and

WHEREAS, the City of Houston is considering a comprehensive strategy that addresses road safety for all road users; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero provides the basis for a comprehensive strategy that unifies road safety efforts of various agencies and City departments, through engineering, education efforts, enforcement activities, route evaluation, and equity; and

WHEREAS, the Bicycle Advisory Committee, at its January 2019 meeting, requested staff to prepare a resolution recommending the City adopt a holistic approach to Vision Zero as a guiding document to reframe the way people think about street safety; and

WHEREAS, the Bicycle Advisory Committee recommends that a holistic approach would include broad coordination among many stakeholders within the City of Houston, including but not limited to area agencies, businesses, nonprofits, community-based organizations and

community members and encompass many elements of the built environment, such as land use and public space; and

WHEREAS, to address traffic-related fatalities occurring every day on Houston streets, Mayor Sylvester Turner directed City of Houston Planning and Development Department to explore Vision Zero and its requirements for formal adoption; and

WHEREAS, since November 2018, the City of Houston Planning and Development Department has held monthly meetings with Public Works, Police, Fire and Health departments to share understanding and support of Vision Zero as a strategy to comprehensively eliminate traffic-related fatalities and improve road safety; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission is authorized to review and consider studies and plans for the improvement of the city and its extraterritorial jurisdiction with a view to its future development and welfare, and make recommendations to City Council for the adoption, amendment, or implementation of such studies and plans;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS:

Section 1. That the recitals listed above are found to be true and correct and are incorporated herein as if fully set out.

Section 2. That the City of Houston Bicycle Advisory Committee ("BAC") recommends adoption of Vision Zero by the City Council of the City of Houston, to establish a roadway safety strategy to coordinate road safety efforts in the Houston region and seek to eliminate roadway fatalities.

Section 3. That the City of Houston BAC recommends all agencies – public, private, non-profit, or otherwise – coordinate to establish Vision Zero goals within their sphere of influence.

Section 4. That the BAC requests that the Planning Commission support formal adoption of Vision Zero by City Council.

CITY OF HOUSTON BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

_____
Maya Ford, Chair

ATTEST:

_____
Jennifer Ostlind, Exec. Secretary

Bicycle Advisory Committee

BAC Mission

To advise and make recommendations to the commission and the director on issues related to bicycling in the city including, but not limited to, amendments to the Bike Plan, bicycle safety and education, implementation of the Bike Plan, development of strategies for funding projects related to bicycling, and promoting public participation in bicycling.

BAC Vision

By 2027, the City of Houston will be a Safer, More Accessible, Gold Level Bike-Friendly City

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

April 24, 2019 2:30-4:30pm
City Hall Annex Council Chamber

Agenda

- Director's Report
- Chair's Report
- Approval of January Minutes
- Public Comment
- Safer Streets Initiative Update
- Build 50 Challenge Update
- Vision Zero
- No Parking in the Bike Lane
- Announcements

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Build 50 Challenge Update

Peter Eccles

Planning & Development

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Build 50 Challenge Update

- In April 2018, BikeHouston launched the “Build 50” Challenge to a slate of Houston’s agencies to build 50+ miles of high-comfort bikeways within one year
- To support this, Commissioner Rodney Ellis of Harris County Precinct 1 pledged $10 million
- City leads planning, public engagement; provides additional funding



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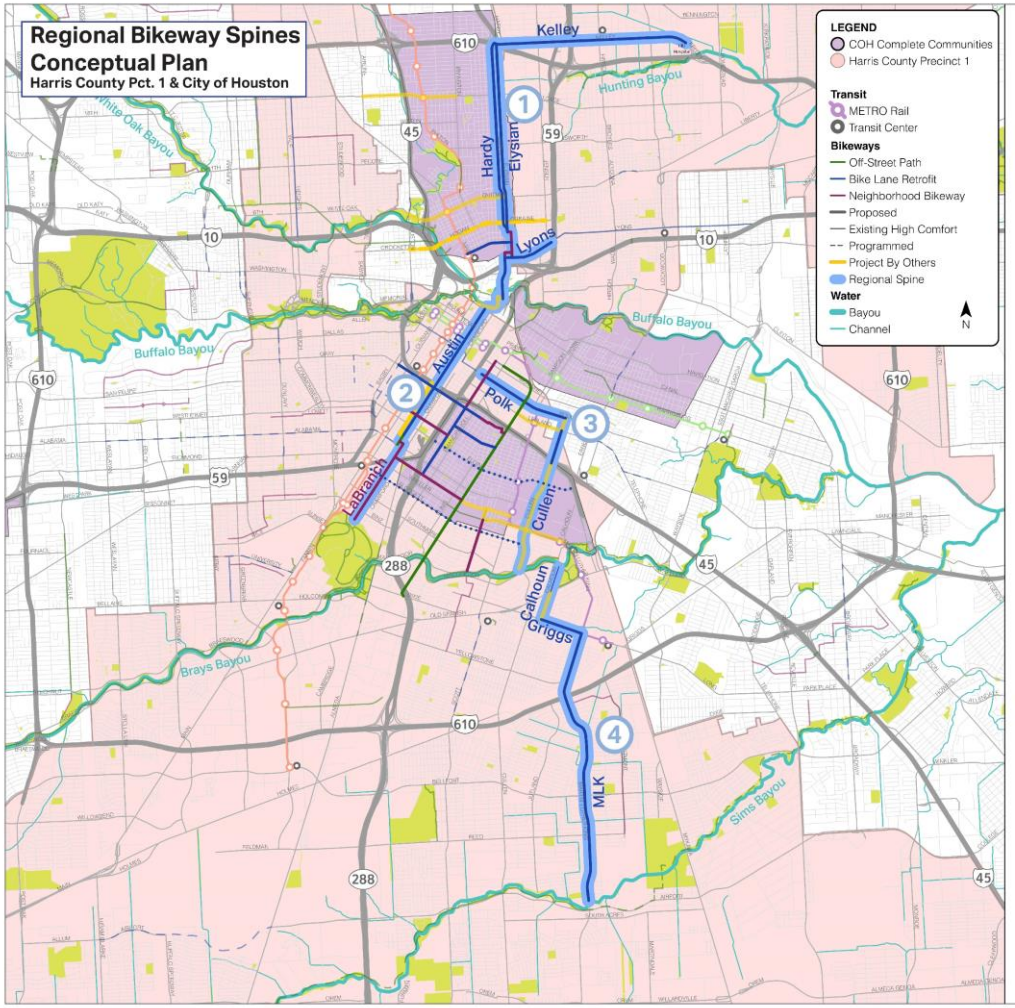
City-County Partnership & Regional Spines

- Using bayou trails as anchors, connects many underserved communities with the region's jobs, parks, and other major destinations
- Rapid implementation
- Will expand Houston's "high-comfort" bikeway network from ~8 to nearly 30 miles



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Implementation Status – Precinct 1

Corridors	Mileage	Public Engagement			Design			Construction
		Concept	Design	Pre-Construction	50%	90%	100%	Construction
Near Northside								
Lyons	0.8	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Hardy/Elysian	5.0	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Downtown Connector	1.2	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Kelley	2.6	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Total Mileage	9.6							
Third Ward								
Austin Corridor	3.3	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Gray	1.8	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Polk	1.1	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Cullen	0.2	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Hutchins	1.1	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Cleburne	0.6	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Total Mileage	8.0							

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Implementation Status – Other Agencies

Agency	Mileage
Houston Parks Board	24.8
METRO	1.1
Westchase MD	0.3
TIRZ #5	0.5
Other Precinct 1	7.6
Total	34.3
Precinct 1 (Under Construction)	9.6
Subtotal	43.9
Precinct 1 (Let)	8.0
Grand Total	51.9

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Implementation Status – CIP & Future

Corridors	Mileage	Public Engagement		Design			Construction
		Concept	Design	Pre-Construction	50%	90%	100%	Construction
CIP Funded								
Acres Home	13.5							
Patterson	1.4							
11th	2.2							
N Main	1.6							
Quitman	0.6							
Total Mileage	19.3							
Future Precinct 1								
Southeast/MLK	5.2							
Fifth Ward	TBD							

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Moving Forward

Key Dates

- Houston Bike Summit – *May 17-18*
- Bikeways Public Meetings
  - 11th Street – *May 8*
  - Acres Home – *May 22*

Next Steps

- Engage partners on how to build on experience of Build 50 Challenge in Year 2

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No Parking in the Bike Lane

Melissa Beeler

Planning & Development

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Definitions

- Bikeway- route, lane or path intended for bicycle use
  - Shared
  - Dedicated in-street
  - Off-street
- Bike lane- dedicated in street ROW
  - Standard
  - Buffered
  - Protected





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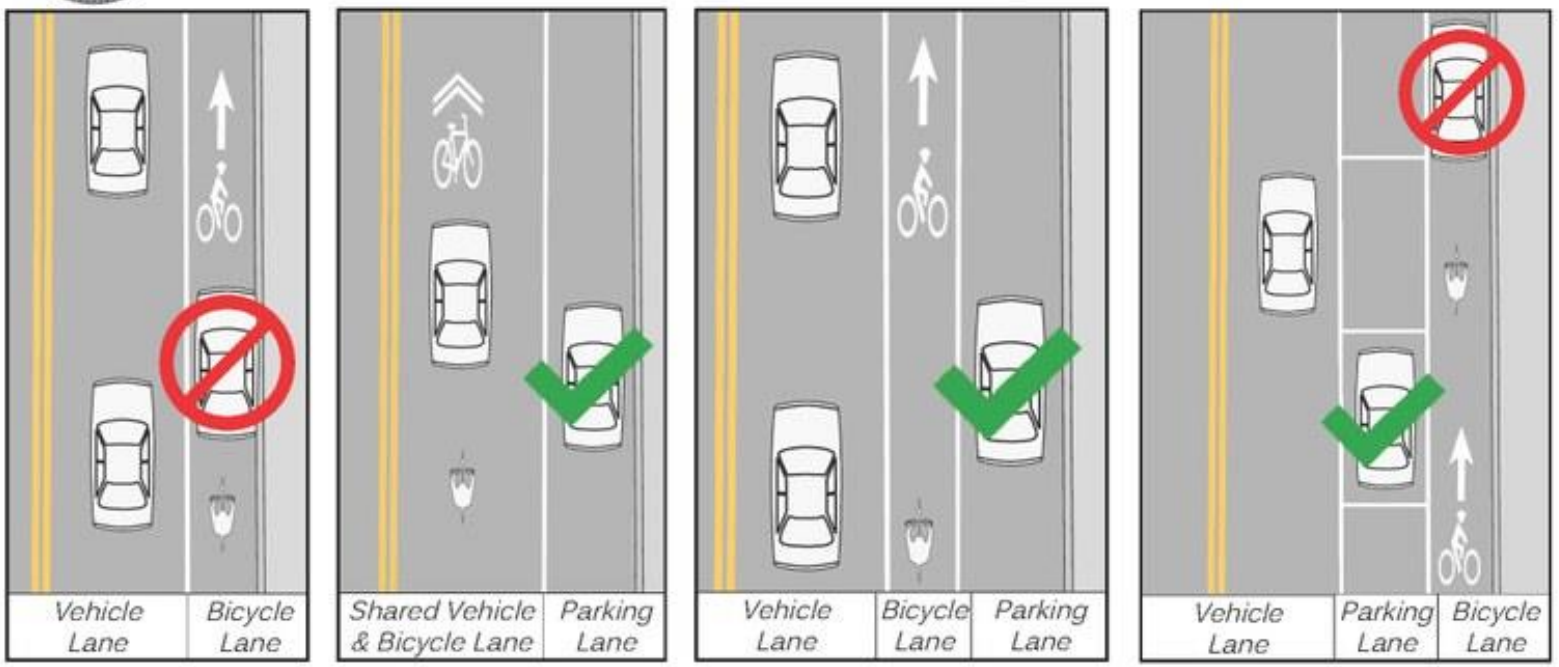
Definitions

Parking Locations - No Parking in Bicycle Lanes



Stopping in a bicycle lane, even for just a little bit, can be very dangerous for someone on a bicycle. Always be sure to stop or park your car in a designated parking or loading space and never block or stop in the bike lane. Effective December 19, 2018 and per Section 8-5-1-1 of the Traffic Code, stopping, standing, or parking is prohibited in bicycle lanes, and may result in a ticket.

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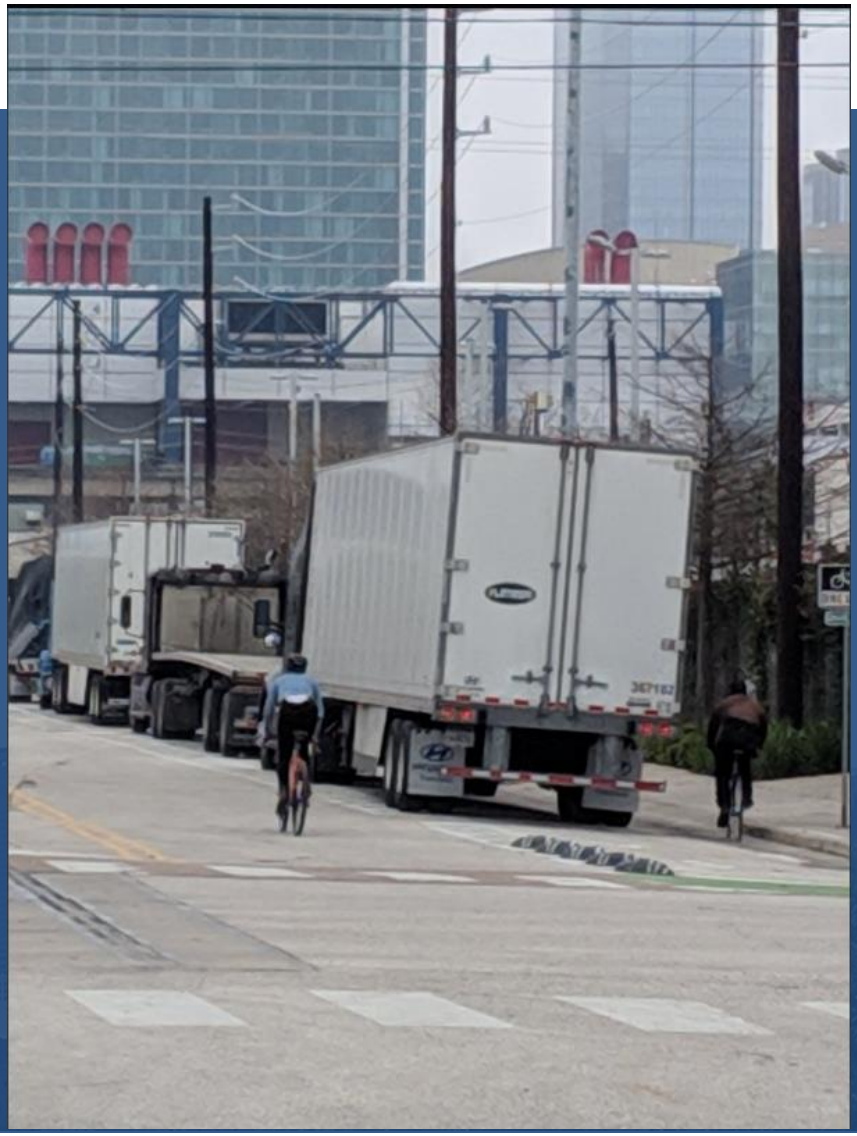
Defining the Problem

- Parking in the bike lane is only illegal when "No Parking" signs are present
- Safety concern
- Costs
  - $90,000+ for "no parking signage along new bike lanes



Walker between Columbia Tap and Emancipation Ave.

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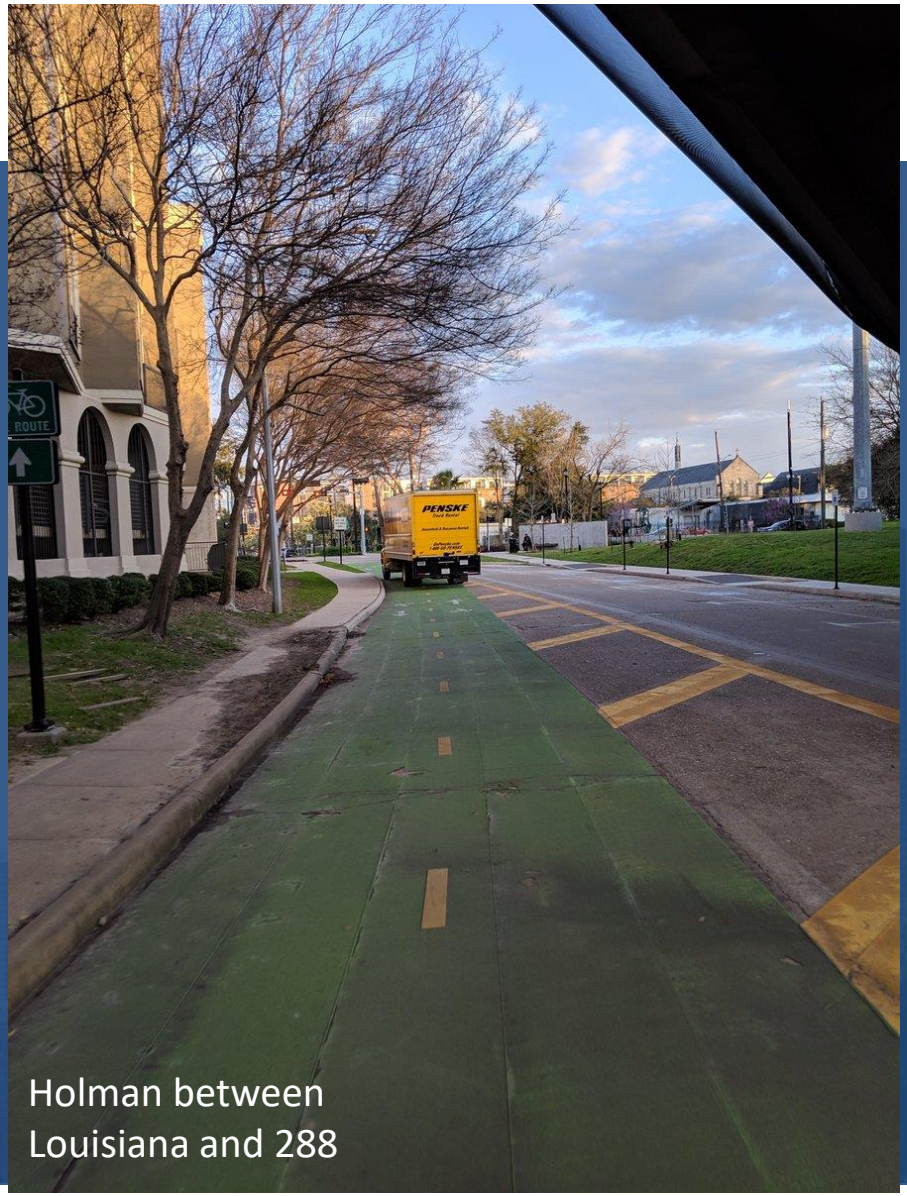

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Parking Accessibility



Lyons Ave, 5th Ward

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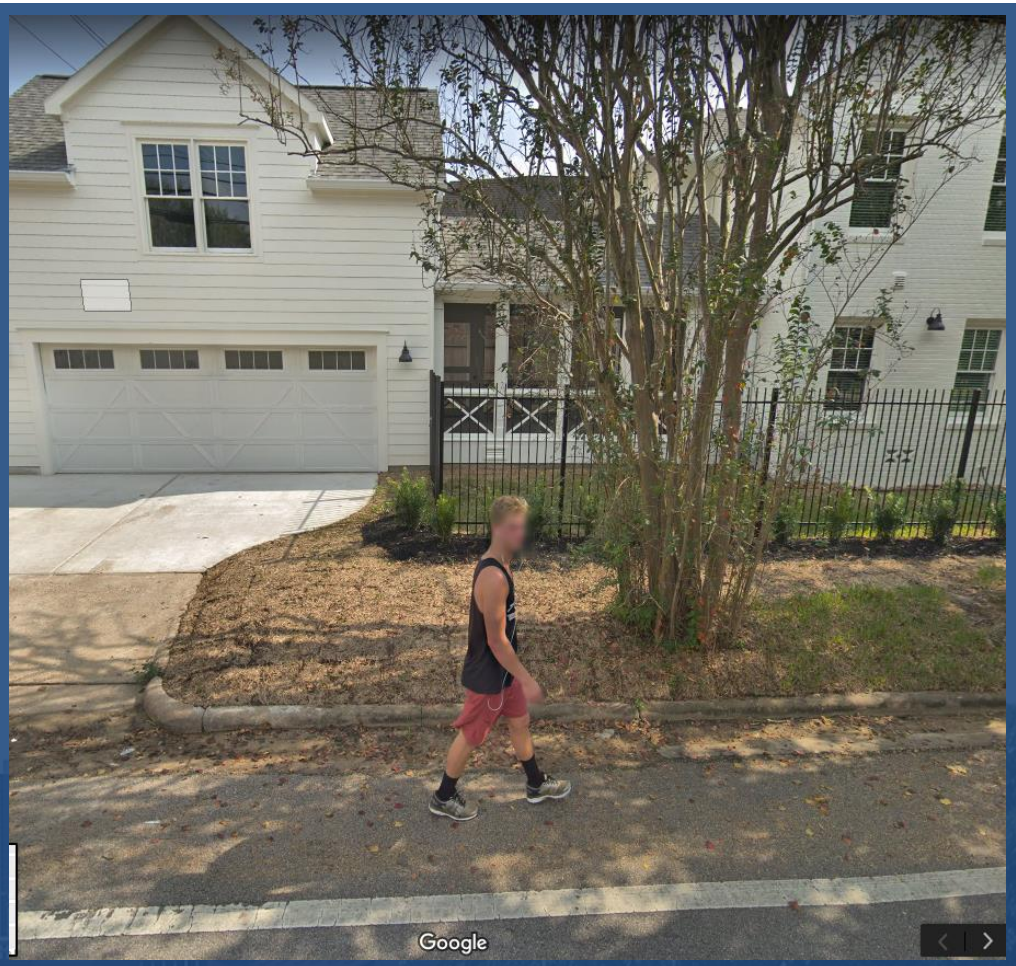
Dual Use of Bike Lanes



Hardy/Elysian, Near Northside



Morningside Dr.

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Houston Bike Plan Recommendations

Prohibit parking in bicycle lanes

Adopt ordinance to prohibit parking in designated bike lanes (without need for supplemental signage)

Lead Department: Houston Public Works

Approval by City Council and Public Works

Figure 6.8 Policy Implementation Matrix

	High profile big moves	High priority
	Potential grant priority	
x	Low cost	
x	Improve Safety	Goals
	Increase Access	
	Increase Ridership	
	Develop and Maintain Facilities	
	Identifies a route	Promotes
x	Provides a comfortable, safe, and secure path	
	Provides a secure place to park	
	Provides connections to other modes	
	Teaches how to ride	
	Helps acquire and maintain a bike	
	Significant Capital Cost	Requirements
	Small Capital Cost	
	Requires significant property	
	Requires additional staff resources	

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Moving Forward

- More research to work in all directions
  - 311 requests
  - ARA parking data and beats
  - MOSE: Frequency and duration of event closures
- More consideration of loading/unloading when designing bikeways
  - Parking accessibility for disabled persons
- Gain approval by Houston Public Works

Subcommittee Requests for Possible Action

1. Request the Planning and Development Department to establish an internal policy for city vehicles to be prohibited from parking in bike lanes.
2. Request the Planning and Development Department to begin the process of passing a citywide ordinance prohibiting parking of any vehicle in the bike lane.

Next Meetings

Infrastructure Subcommittee

May 30, 2:30-4:30pm, 611 Walker, 6th Floor

Education Subcommittee

June 27, 2:30-4:30pm, 611 Walker, 6th Floor

Bicycle Advisory Committee

July 24, 2:30-4:30pm, City Hall Annex Council Chambers

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