

Jacksonville BPAC Meeting Notes
Hybrid Meeting
May 4, 2023 @ 5:30 PM
Ed Ball Building – 3rd Floor Conference Room
214 N Hogan Street – Jacksonville FL

Copies of presentation materials from the May 4, 2023 BPAC meeting may be viewed or downloaded from the COJ BPAC page on the City of Jacksonville website. A link to the COJ BPAC page is [HERE](#).

Meeting Attendees:

(in person): Peter Borenstein (Chair), Steve Tocknell (Vice Chair), Lauren Rushing (Secretary), Matt Fall (COJ Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator), Tyler Blair (EXP), Len Burroughs (CPAC, NFBC), Barry Cotter, Logan Cross (San Marco Preservation Society, Chair Sierra Club North Florida), Martha Moore (Benesch), Yanella Parra (downtown resident).

(virtual): Patrick Russell (EXP), Leny Huaman (EXP), Alyssa Goldberg (EXP), Monty Selim (Groundwork Jax), Cathy Koval (APA & Micheal Baker), Jesus Fuente (EXP), Jonathan Cagel, James Hopkins

Peter Borenstein chaired the meeting.

I. Introductions and Adoption of Minutes

Peter Borenstein moved for the adoption of the notes for the BPAC meeting that was held on April 6, 2023. Len Bouroughs seconded the motion. The vote to approve the meeting notes was unanimous.

II. Presentation – S-Line Ride Follow Up Report, Tyler Blair, PE, PTOE, PTP, Multimodal Transportation Manager, EXP Consulting

Tyler Blair presented a follow up report on the S-Line bike ride held during Florida Bike Month in March. EXP conducted an audit along the ride by providing a QR code to riders where they could submit data points about their observations along the trail.

The presentation featured statistics from the ride, features of the trail, and the big picture opportunities for future improvement. The ride was attended by 24 participants from 9 organizations. Using the data collected, EXP created an interactive map displaying the data.

The interactive map can be viewed here:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bc5792a8de514664addb14d51e76fe1e>

Comments addressed unmaintained concrete, lack of good wayfinding signage, need for bicycle and vehicle parking, a desire for more art, bicycle amenities, and more.

Positive highlights of the trail included: striping, bioswales, murals, neighborhood connectivity to and between neighborhoods.

Tyler summarized opportunities to improve the trail with themed wayfinding, lighting, SRTS, parking, connections and access to/from the trail to surrounding neighborhoods, integration with the bus system, guard railing, revitalization of surrounding neighborhoods, landscaping, improved storm water management, community events, open space activation, and more.

The S-Line was constructed in 2008 when CSX donated property to the City.

Steve Tocknell added that Groundwork Jax has plans to connect the Emerald Trail to the S-Line (segment 4 which will be constructed next year). The first segment of the trail already connects to the S-Line at Myrtle Ave. The S-Line will eventually connect to LaVilla Link and JTA bus terminal.

Monty Selim (Groundwork Jax) stated that the Emerald Trail segments 3, 4, 6, & 7 will be funded by Groundwork Jax Grant through their recently awarded grant and that the S-Line will be part of the Emerald Trail. Groundwork Jax has already funded some features on the S-Line in collaboration with the City. No capital funds are currently programmed for the S-Line. The City and Groundwork Jax will eventually enter into an agreement for maintenance of the Emerald trail involving local residents.

Logan Cross (Sierra Club) stated that Sierra club uses volunteers to do clean ups.

Yanella adds that the river trail in Green Cove Springs Park would serve as a good example for the S-Line. Yanella also suggested using recycled materials to make "glow paths" for better nighttime visibility.

Peter asked about the crossing of the S-Line with Main Street in northern Jacksonville. Monty replied that FDOT is working on Main St improvements and Groundwork Jax provided comments on the proposed improvements. Any improvements made at that location would require permitting from FDOT.

III. Announcement: Rogero Road Bike-Ped Study, Martha Moore, PE, PTOE, RSP1, Planning Group Manager, Benesch Consulting

The North Florida TPO is assisting the City of Jacksonville with a study of Rogero Road from Merrill Road to the Arlington Expressway. The study will recommend ways to create a better and safer walking and bicycling experience. If you live or travel within the study area, please take a few minutes to [complete the survey](#). The survey ends on **May 15th**, but may be extended. Responses to the survey will determine if a corridor project moves forward.

Rogero is currently a 4-lane road with a 40-mph speed limit. Surrounding land uses include 50-60s residential housing with some housing having been converted to offices. Parking is important to neighborhood residents.

The road is a potential candidate for a lane reduction. A past study by the City showed congestion at 30% and crash statistics remain low since 2018.

Steve recommended putting a notice up on the bulletin board at Champion Cycling to better reach local residents for input. He states that people do cycle on Rogero and Merrill currently, but there are no facilities.

Barry recommended meeting people where they are to solicit feedback and community engagement. He stated that this is a low-income community and many people don't have access to

the internet.

Yanella recommended posting a flyer at the public library.

IV. Discussion: Fuller Warren Shared-Use Path (SUP) Access

Matt Fall gave a quick update with data from the recently opened Fuller Warren Shared Use Path. Temporary counters installed by the City on the east and west ends of the bridge. Counts were taken from April 5-30.

During this time period 30,000 people walked by the west counter with a daily average 1,160. The east side counter saw 21,006 total and 808 daily.

FDOT is working on putting permanent counters on the SUP and JTC Running Club may donate for an additional counter in Cork Screw Park.

Peter led a discussion on how to use the success of the SUP to catalyze safe, convenient, and welcoming connections to/from the bridge to surrounding neighborhoods. He stated that surrounding commercial corridors lack safe infrastructure.

On the San Marco side of the bridge, users moving from the protected path into a high traffic area.

There is an existing sidewalk/shared use path from the bridge going south towards Childrens Way, however it is inadequate.

Steve mentions that Nemours is funding the Blue Zone project, however they were not receptive to a better connection in that area.

Plans for new river front parks in San Marco may include improvements for the area under the bridge. Logan mentions that the San Marco Preservation Society has a vested interest in improving this area.

There was discussion of connections going north from the bridge. Plans for the Emerald Trail show a planned connection along the river connecting with the existing Southbank Riverwalk however, private properties block a connection to the bridge itself.

It was also mentioned that improvements are needed to the existing crosswalk on Palm Ave – something that was discussed in the past, but not included when FDOT constructed the path.

V. Wrap-up / Announcements / Next Meeting Info

- **NFTPO TIP Survey**

The TPO is currently developing the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Fiscal Years 2023/2024 through 2027/2028. The TIP identifies all publicly funded highway, transit, port and aviation projects within the North Florida TPO area, which includes Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St.

Johns counties. Take the survey [here](#).

Please take a few minutes to review the [draft TIP projects for each county and transportation agency](#). Visit the [TIP survey to share your thoughts and connect to our virtual public meetings May 4-17](#). For bike-ped projects, reviewers should focus on the CM, CMAQ, TALT, TALU, and CARB dollars are going.

Duval County Virtual TIP Presentation will be held on **Thursday, May 11 at 4:30PM-5:30PM**.

Attend virtually here: <https://northfloridatpo.com/planning/tip>

- **APA Event on Transportation Funding – June 15th (details to come)**
- **NFTPO Regional Bike/Ped Plan Update Survey (Ends May 5th)**

The North Florida TPO is conducting a study on bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns counties to update the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The study team will evaluate existing facilities, identify opportunities for safety enhancements, and prioritize improvements over the next 10 years. What bicycle and pedestrian improvements are important to you? How would you prioritize them? Let us know by [taking the brief survey](#).

- Fuller Warren SUP Bike to Work Day Event happening on **Friday, May 19th @ 8am-11am**.
- Ride of Silence on San Jase Blvd NFBC on **Wednesday May 17th @6pm** 3827 San Jose Park. Those wanting to attend can view the ride schedule on North Florida Bicycle Club website: https://nfbc.us/content.aspx?page_id=4001&club_id=597416

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.