



Office of the Planning Commission

City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge
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Ryan L. Holcomb, AICP
Interim Planning Director

May 7, 2020

TO: Planning Commission

THROUGH: Ryan Holcomb AICP, Interim Planning Director *RH*

FROM: Maggie Gleason, Long Range Manager *MG/RA*

SUBJECT: **PA-11-20** Recommendation of adoption of the East Baton Rouge Parish Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan into FUTUREBR.

Application Summary			
Applicant	Planning Commission	Submittal Date	April, 2020
Plan Elements	FUTUREBR Element: Transportation		
Areas Affected	Entire City-Parish		
Planning Commission Meeting Date	May 18, 2020	Metropolitan Council Meeting Date	June 17, 2020
Request			
Summary of Change	The Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan will become part of the Transportation Element of FUTUREBR		
Findings			
Planning Commission staff recommends approval, as this plan is needed to accomplish goal 5 of the Transportation Element: <i>Enhance the bicycle and pedestrian network throughout the Parish</i> and accomplishes action item 2.1 under the Parks and Recreation Element: <i>Continue coordination with LADOTD and BREC to develop and implement a bicycle and pedestrian master plan.</i>			

Background

- FUTUREBR calls for increased choices in transportation, and active recreational opportunities that promote health and access
- This plan was a joint effort between the LA-DOTD and BREC. It will be used by the city to guide MovEBR enhancements
- Adoption of the plan could help establish funding opportunities
- The Complete Streets Citizens Advisory Committee recommended approval of this plan at their April 16, 2020 meeting

Comprehensive Plan Consistency

This plan amendment is consistent with four of the elements of FUTUREBR:

1. Transportation element which calls for a multi-modal transportation approach
2. Land Use element which recommends that residents have access to multiple modes of transportation
3. Environment and Conservation element which encourages alternative modes to reduce mobile emissions

4. Parks and Recreation element by improving and expanding pedestrian and bike paths to promote active recreation and better connections to parks

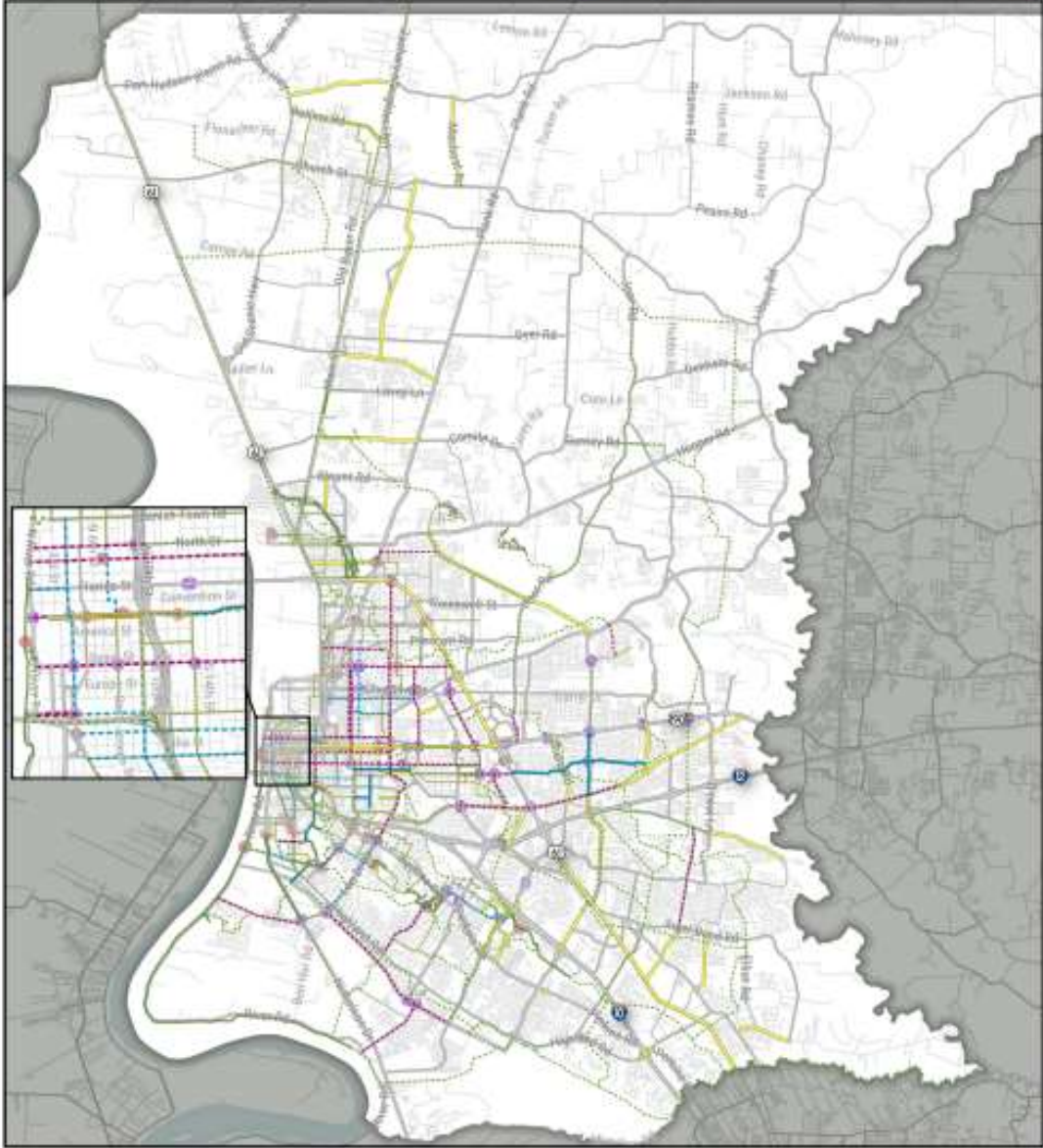
Community Outreach/Notification

- The consultants, Toole Design group and Arcadis led the public outreach effort for this plan, conducting multiple public meetings and workshops during 2019.
- Staff reports will be available to review on May 7, 2020 at <http://brgov.com/dept/planning/meetingsagendas.htm>
- Legal notice will be published in The Advocate on May 7, 12, and 14, 2020.

Findings:

Planning Commission staff recommends approval, as this plan is needed to accomplish goal 5 of the Transportation Element: *Enhance the bicycle and pedestrian network throughout the Parish* and further accomplishes action item 2.1 under the Parks and Recreation Element: *Continue coordination with LADOTD and BREC to develop and implement a bicycle and pedestrian master plan.*

**East Baton Rouge Parish
Bicycle and Pedestrian
Master Plan
Proposed Bicycle Network**



Full network of Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan including MovEBR Improvement Projects

Adoption of the East Baton Rouge Parish Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan was adopted in 2020 through a collaborative planning process, led by the State Department of Transportation and Development, in partnership with BREC, using consultants to lead the public input process and final creation of the report. The plan outlines two

networks of facilities that will complement each other. The first is the Active Transportation Network, which consists primarily of on-street bicycle facilities and sidepaths. The second is the BREC Trails Network, which builds on the 16-year effort of creating linking greenways and trails through out the parish.

Concerns of safety, health, equity and heavy reliance on the automobile prompted the creation of this plan, including the designation of Baton Rouge as a focus city by the Federal Highway Administration in 2015. Focus cities are those with high pedestrian and bicycle fatalities.

The plan analyzes the existing conditions and current programs to identify strengths and weaknesses. It provides recommendations for updates to existing policies and non-engineering programs to support implementation of projects. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan can be found as an appendix to the Transportation Element.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Recommendations:

1. Continue to prioritize opportunities to create a complete transportation network
2. Create a dedicated funding set aside for pedestrian and bicycle projects.
3. Provide funding to support local planning for active transportation and walkable, bikeable, transit-oriented development.
4. Adjust project selection criteria to further prioritize investments in connected pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle safety, and walkable, bikeable, transit-oriented development patterns.
5. Continue support and implementation of East Baton Rouge Parish's Complete Streets Policy.
6. Support a Safe System/Vision Zero approach to traffic safety.
7. Develop guidance resources on context-appropriate pedestrian and bicycle design and pedestrian and bicycle-supportive land-use regulation.
8. Provide training and technical assistance to support walkability/bikeability, pedestrian and bicycle safety.
9. Work to facilitate state and local coordination on active transportation issues.
10. Coordinate review of functional classifications and provide input to LADOTD on changes necessary to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety or implement bicycle network recommendations in this plan.
11. Coordinate review of speed limits through a parishwide comprehensive vehicle speed reduction study and collaborate with local stakeholders and LADOTD on changes necessary to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety.
12. Coordinate with transit to improve parish-wide connections between bus shelters, bus stops, and medical facilities.
13. Develop programs that encourage events related to active transportation modes.
14. Publish a parish wide bicycle map to inform the public of existing bicycle facilities and recreational destinations.
15. Incorporate equity into all aspects of regional transportation planning, project selection, and implementation.
16. Help develop a culture that supports and encourages walking and bicycling.
17. Collect better data on walking and bicycling.