“City Council Finally Passes the Houston Bike Plan.” That was the Houston Press headline on March 23, 2017. This was a great accomplishment and with BikeHouston staff and supporters leading the way, it still took more than a full year after its release before City Council adopted the bike plan, the petro-metro’s first in more than 20 years. Kudos to Mayor Sylvester Turner for his leadership in the process.

What is the bike plan’s overriding goal? Houston will become a gold-level bicycle-friendly city within 10 years. “An ambitious goal,” said Mayor Turner, “but do-able.”

What has been accomplished in the year since the Mayor and Council committed to this goal? BikeHouston’s 2017 annual report is more than a summary of our organization’s activity for the year. We present in these pages a Report Card for year one of the Houston Bike Plan.

Planning momentum is surging. However, planning is largely invisible to BikeHouston’s members. Eager anticipation for progress can easily become impatience. To take the next big step on the road to gold, BikeHouston is launching the Build 50 Challenge — a campaign challenging all stakeholders, City of Houston, Harris County Commissioners, Management Districts/TIRZ’s and Houston Parks Board to build 50 miles of on-street and off-street bikeways. This is an aggressive and ambitious goal, but achievable. The past year’s planning positions all of us to succeed in next year’s building.

We also invite you to join BikeHouston. Your support and involvement will result in new and better bikeways in Houston over the next year and beyond.

John Long
Executive Director
2017 Bike Plan Report Card: **Evaluation** (continued)

**Bicycle Advisory Committee**

The bike plan, approved by City Council in March, 2017 calls for appointment of a Bicycle Advisory Committee. After nearly a year, Council approved BAC membership in March, 2018. BAC’s first meeting is scheduled for April 5.

**Houston B-Cycle**

The number of stations increased 28% from 34 to 56. The number of users increased 32% to 49,000 and they pedaled 856,000 miles.

**Engineering**

**Lamar/Polk protected bike lane**

Houston Public Works extended the Lamar Street protected bike lane on each end. It now connects to Buffalo Bayou Trail to the northwest and extends past Discovery Green and Highway 59 to the southeast. The city’s first protected on-street bike lane now spans 3 lane-miles.

**Holman protected bike lane**

Funded by the Midtown Management District, Houston Public Works built a second protected on-street bike lane along Holman Street. While it is only one block long, it is a helpful link on the bike route connecting Montrose and the University of Houston through Midtown and Third Ward.

**Calhoun Road bike lane**

Houston Public Works resized and buffered the bike lane on Calhoun Road adjacent to MacGregor Park.

**Walker Street bike lane**

Houston Public Works upgraded the protected bike lane on Walker Street next to Dynamo Stadium for improved access to Columbia Tap Trail. Armadillos were added as well as a dedicated pedestrian and bicycle crossing of Emancipation Boulevard.

**White Oak/Buffalo Bayou trail connector**

A key connector in the network opened when the White Oak Bayou Greenway Trail linked to the Buffalo Bayou Trail around the University of Houston Downtown campus. This project was funded by a federal TIGER grant and resulted from collaboration among the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, the Houston Parks Board, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, University of Houston, Downtown Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ #3), and the Greater East End Management District.

**Bayou Greenways 2020**

The nonprofit Houston Parks Board continued building trails under the umbrella of its Bayou Greenways 2020 program. HPB completed 17 miles of new Bayou Greenway segments in 2017, and 65 miles are in planning, design, and construction along White Oak Bayou, Buffalo Bayou, Sims Bayou, Brays Bayou, Clear Creek, Hunting Bayou, West Fork of the San Jacinto, and Greens Bayou.

**Pop-up bike lanes**

BikeHouston worked with Council Member Karla Cisneros, the Department of Transformation, and design firm Asakura Robinson to build a pop-up bike lane along the Hardy and Elysian corridor, a prototype for a permanent bikeway. This followed two other pop-up bike lanes built for Sunday Streets events.

**HCC campus trail**

HCC campus trail connects the Houston Community College campus at Westheimer and Hayes Road to the Westchase District’s existing trail network. It is the first example in West Houston of a larger effort between CenterPoint Energy and the City of Houston to utilize approximately 500 miles of transmission corridors throughout the city. The trail is funded by a federal transportation grant and the District’s 380 Area Agreement with the City of Houston.

**Brays Bayou Connector Trail**

Brays Bayou Connector Trail in the Westchase District connects the existing Library Loop Trail at Richmond Avenue to Art Storey Park at Bellaire Boulevard. The trail runs along the top bank of a north/south Harris County Flood Control District channel and offers direct connection points to Harwin Park and the Westchase Park and Ride.

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2017 Bike Plan Report Card: **Engineering** (continued)

**Bike detours**

Houston Public Works partnered with TxDOT to put a first-of-its-kind, protected bike lane detour along Houston Avenue during an I-45 construction project. Bike riders quickly adopted the new route and were vocally displeased when it was removed.

**Houston B-Cycle**

The number of stations increased 28% from 34 to 56. The number of users increased 32% to 49,000 and they pedaled 856,000 miles.

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**grade**

D+

**grade**

B+

**grade**

B

**grade**

C

**grade**

B
2017 Bike Plan Report Card: Engineering (continued)

Dutch junctions
Energy Corridor Management District and TxDOT completed four Dutch junction intersections along I-10 at Park Ten, SH-6, Eldridge, and Dairy Ashford - first of their kind in Houston - at a cost of $2.1 million.

Streetscape guide
Scenic Houston updated its Streetscape Resource Guide to include bicycle parking and on-street bikeways.

Fixit stands
Thanks to a grant from the REI Foundation, BikeHouston placed five new bike repair stations along popular bike trails. These stations provide air and tools for quick fixes you might need on a ride.

Quick wins
The City Planning Department has finalized a list of seven priority short-term projects and received confirmation from Houston Public Works that they can be completed within the City’s $1.1 million budget for bike plan projects in 2018. This allocation was not spent in FY2017.

Education

Bicycle Friendly Driver program
BikeHouston worked with the League of American Bicyclists and CEMEX to design and deliver a program called “Safer Roads Together” to help bicycle riders and commercial truck drivers see the road from each other’s perspective and educate both groups about how to share the road safely.

Learn to Ride Classes
Learn to Ride Classes teach children and adults how to ride a bicycle. The classes are taught by a League Certified Instructor. In the past year BikeHouston has more than doubled the number of classes offered from six to 14 per month.

Ambassador Program
The Ambassador Program trains BikeHouston supporters for grassroots community engagement. The first eight ambassadors trained at the Leonel Castillo Center and have been advocating for bike plan projects in District H.

Encouragement

Bike Summit
250 people attended the inaugural Houston Bike Summit. Speakers included Mayor Sylvester Turner and Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo. MD Anderson received the Bicycle Friendly Business Award.

Bike Month
Bike Month is a national celebration of cycling and Houston celebrates in many ways each May. Activities in 2017 included:

- **Bike2Work Days**: Cyclists participated in Bike2Work Days in Downtown (led by Mayor Turner), Texas Medical Center (the Houston district with the greatest number of daily bike commuters), the Energy Corridor, and NASA.
- **Ride of Silence** is a national ride to memorialize cycling fatalities and to call for safer streets. Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg spoke to Houston riders from the steps of City Hall.
- **CycloFemme** is a worldwide celebration of women cyclists. It takes place annually on Mothers’ Day.

Organized rides
Organized rides on the streets of Houston included thousands of riders:

- **Tour de Houston**, one of the City’s signature events, brought more than 3,000 riders downtown to raise money for city reforestation projects. Mayor Turner, City Council Members and other City officials led the ride.
- **Hermann Park’s 4th annual Park to Port Ride** was held in October. One thousand riders traveled along the Brays Bayou Trail and city streets from the Bill Coates Bridge to the Port of Houston and back, a 20-mile round trip.
- One week later, **BikeHouston’s 45th annual Moonlight Ramble** attracted nearly 1,000 riders to explore the city streets at night. The ride was staged at Discovery Green.

continued
2017 Bike Plan Report Card: 

**Encouragement (continued)**

**Super Bowl Bike Valet**

BikeHouston provided bike valet for the nine-day Super Bowl Pre-party, parked more than 2,000 bicycles and provided information on safe cycling.

**Light of the Phoenix Light Distribution Ride**

The Light of the Phoenix Ride is a direct people-to-people safe streets project giving lights to cyclists riding without them. More than 85 BikeHouston volunteers gave away 500 sets of lights during eight monthly rides in five different neighborhoods. The ride is sponsored by the Friends of the Phoenix.

**Enforcement**  

**B+**

**Safe Passing Campaign**

BikeHouston and the Houston Police Department worked together on a campaign to educate drivers about the 3-foot safe passage law. Clear Channel Communications donated 20 billboards to promote the message. In addition, HPD used a number of squad cars as rolling billboards for the same message and placed digital signs in prominent locations.

**Houston Police Department Sting Operation**

Houston Police Department has followed up this education campaign with a monthly sting operation targeting drivers violating the 3’ safe passing law. They utilize bike-mounted radar devices to measure how closely cars are passing bikes.

**Ticketing drivers**

BikeHouston worked with HPD to ensure that citations were issued to drivers at fault in collisions with cyclists.

**Extra Credit**  

**A**

**Keep Houston Rolling**

In response to Hurricane Harvey, Houston B-Cycle organized a bike give-away program for people who lost cars or had their mobility compromised by the storm. Bike manufacturers Giant, Pacific Cycle and Trek donated 600 new bikes, and individual Houstonians donated an additional 100 used bikes. Houston B-Cycle was joined by BikeHouston, Freewheels Houston and Rice Bikes in this effort.

**Freewheels Houston**

Freewheels Houston provided more than 200 bicycles to refugees and other newcomers who need a way to get to work, school, and other destinations. During the year, about 100 adults and young people helped Freewheels prepare bikes for distribution.

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**BikeHouston 2017 Data**

**MEMBERSHIP**  

Members grew from 1,000 to 1,500 individuals in 2017.

**SUPPORTERS**  

Supporter roll grew from 26,000 to 33,000 in 2017.

**VOLUNTEERS**  

More than 300 volunteers participated in BikeHouston events during 2017.

**FINANCIAL DATA - WHERE YOUR DOLLARS ARE SPENT**

Why give to BikeHouston?

BikeHouston works to make a city that is safe and comfortable for all people on bikes. A Houston that works for people on bikes works for all people.

Supporting BikeHouston means:

- Making our streets safer
- Increasing our economic competitiveness
- Reducing our traffic congestion
- Improving our city’s health
2017 Foundation, Business and Individual Supporters of BikeHouston

**Foundations**
- The Houston Endowment
- The Albert & Ethel Herzstein Foundation
- The REI Foundation
- The Anne & Don Fizer Foundation

**Businesses**
- Bike Barn
- Urban Bicycle Gallery
- Williams Traffic Engineers Inc
- United Healthcare

**In-kind Donors**
- Corvin Alstot
- Richard Hecksel
- Chris Lockwood
- Danielle Underferth

### Individual Donors

#### $250 & above
- Robert Albrecht
- Neely Atkinson
- Bobby Bacon
- Beth Bruce
- David Chaney
- Benjamin Coffey
- David Cohen
- Mark Covington
- Toby Craig
- Diana Dean
- Samuel Diaz
- Christin Dietze
- Alos Dober
- David Edwards
- Laurie Fondren
- Sarah Goofoer-Moore
- Lisa Gertsch
- Thomas Kevin Golden
- Janice Green
- Daxter Handy
- Joe & Kate Hood
- Susan Jackson
- John & Dawne Jordan
- Shelley Kennedy & Debra Denny
- Wes Kinsey
- John Long
- Steve Mac McNary
- Brian McGary
- Lee Neathery
- Michael C Nichols
- Margaret O’Brien-Nelson
- Eric Ohler
- Meghan Paulson
- Mark Peterson
- Tony Pink
- Craig Shumaker
- Paul & Ruth SoRelle
- Laura Spanjian
- William Stern
- Bob Stokes
- Ann Stout
- Betsy Taylor
- Jeff Trevino
- Gerry van Bakel
- Mark Weesner
- Dimitri Yatsenko

#### $500 & above
- Bonner C. Barnes
- Neil Brenner
- Tom Compson
- Paul Elliott
- Michael M Fowler
- Thomas Gall
- Erin Hodges
- Mark Johnson
- Glen Larner
- Camille Leugers
- Marlon “Mack” McDaniel III
- Victoria Paskie
- James L. Rice III
- Mike Schwartje
- Maximilian Seewann

#### $2500 & above
- Thomas Bacon
- Sis Johnson
- Michael Payne
- Michael Skelly

#### $1000 & above
- Mark Anderson
- Nisha Desai
- William R Gamble
- Ellen Garcia
- Alec Lawton
- Kevin McCarthy
- John McLaughlin
- Kendall Miller
- Dan Piette
- Bob & Marty Stein
- Urban Bicycle Gallery
- Urgent Doc
- Neil Verma
- Michael W. Wheatall
- Bob Wright
- Ellen A. Yarrell

#### $50 & above
- Rakesh Agrawal
- Stanley R Almoney
- Orlando Alvarado
- Barbara Amelio
- Roberto Argentina
- Keiji Asakura
- David Ausell
- Stephanie Babb
- Anthony D Banks
- Bayou City Outdoors/ Kelly Howard
- Donna Bennett
- Adele Bentzen
- Jim Benvie
- Jeff Bishop
- Richard Bohan
- Ruth Brenton
- Lorna Campbell
- Lori Carper
- Lynda L Case & Jennifer P Powis
- David Chandler
- Bandana Chawla
- Brett Clintan
- Bruce Clark
- Richard B Clark
- Lloyd Colegrove
- Sarah Cooke
- Chris Cox
- Kevin J Crotty
- Michelle Cunningham
- Charles Dauber
- Eddy Day
- Amy Dinn
- Anamarije Dobier
- Paul Dougherty
- Charles Drobnj
- Christian D Eckman
- David W Edelstein
- David Eittoesch
- Alice Evergreen
- Carlos A Farinas
- Farmers Insurance, Bohman Agency
- Mary Fleming
- Cary Fremaux
- Bill Fulton

#### $150 & above
- Edmund Gaither
- Tom Gederberg
- Thomas Geelho
- Joseph Glassoer
- Baker Goldsmith
- Kelly Hall
- Thomas G Hambrick, Jr
- Rodney Harrell
- Brian R Hatt
- Chris Haycraft
- Richard Hecksel
- Ian Havacek
- Robin Holzer
- Becky Houston
- Calvin Huang
- Richard Humphreys
- Van Hutto
- Bruce K Jamsion
- Kathy Jamsion
- Tina L Johnson
- Patrick King
- Mark Klein
- Ralph Krog
- Thomas Kubicek
- James Llamas
- Kathy Long
- Daniel Lundeien
- Eric Marker
- Ken Martinez
- Clark Martinson
- Kelsey McArthur
- Yuri Hayden McCoy
- Ryan Moniju
- Janice Morales
- Ekaterina Morzhueva
- Sean O’Neill
- Gregg Nady
- David Overcash
- Adam & Jenya Pavan
- Alexander Parsons
- Maria Jose Pesantez
- Cynthia Pino
- Nadia L Pizarro
- Randy Runner
- Thomas Runnell
- Bill Shrimpton
- Mitchell Shults
- Woody Speer
- Christoph Spieler
- Herman Stude
- Tecky Surawijaya
- M. Kay Swint
- Ramsey Tate
- Kay J Thompson
- Danielle Underferth
- Ron A Vantil
- Fermin Vasquez
- Carlos Velázquez
- Jill Vershel
- Phillip Vogelsang
- Barry Ward
- Bruce Ward
- Jeffrey Weatherford
- Gay & John Wells
- Suzanne Wheat
- Lou Wilcox
- Pam Yokley
- Larry Raitt
- Christine Ranieri
- Jay Register
- Julia Retta
- Suzanne Riggenbach
- Bowen Roberts
- Debbie Robertson
- Jana Rosenbaum
- Angela Sayegh
- M.D. Schulz
- Randall Shafier
- Kyle Sheltoske
- Patrick Shefrimton
- Mitchell Shults
- Woody Speer
- Christoph Spieler
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