

BYLAWS OF THE
Pedestrian Advisory Council

ARTICLE I. NAME.

The name of the body is the Pedestrian Advisory Council.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE.

The Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) shall advise on pedestrian planning, design, funding, education, and enforcement efforts regarding the creation, maintenance and operation of pedestrian facilities in order to ensure a safe and enjoyable circulation for both commuting and recreation within the City of Austin. The PAC's goal is to ensure sensitivity to pedestrian issues in the design and implementation of all public and private projects impacting pedestrians.

Section 1. Pedestrian Policy

- A. Review and make recommendations on planning documents and criteria manuals prepared by City departments affecting the pedestrian environment. These shall include but are not limited to Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, Sidewalk Master Plan, Neighborhood Plans, Land Development Code, Criteria Manuals, and site plans/subdivision applications for private development regulated by the Land Development Code Land Development Code.
- B. Review and make recommendations regarding funding priorities for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program activities and Capital Improvement Projects, as they relate to walking.
- C. Provide walking information and recommendations to the Urban Transportation Commission (or other boards and commissions) and Council, as needed.

Section 2. Pedestrian Facilities Implementation

- A. Review and make recommendations on Capital Improvement Projects developed by City departments and outside agencies to ensure that adequate consideration is given to walkability.
- B. Advise City staff on issues related to public involvement in pedestrian mobility with the goal of developing a consensus among the affected public.

Section 3. Education and Enforcement

Advise City staff and Austin area agencies on issues related to promoting walking safety and education.

Section 4. Citizen Engagement

Encourage citizen participation in identifying problem areas, reviewing existing facilities, and planning and implementing new projects and programs.

Report back to citizens on progress of initiatives.

Comment [rna1]: 1.) Group input desired. Does the group have a desire to see this spelled out more in terms of how reporting is conducted, such as an annual report?

Also, heard from citizen regarding changing location of meetings for more geographically diverse participation.

Section 5. Advise Other Jurisdictions/Entities

Review and make recommendations on planning documents, facilities implementation, education and enforcement, and citizen input to agencies and other jurisdictions (i.e. Travis County, CAMPO, Capital Metro, and other organizations) affecting walking for transportation and recreation.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1. Membership Qualifications

- A. Appointment to the PAC is based on an individual's demonstrated knowledge of walking issues and expressed interest in becoming a member. In selecting people for membership, the PAC seeks to achieve a balance among various types of walking interests (urban transportation, disability, children, elderly, public health, recreation, etc.).
- B. Individuals interested in serving on the PAC should be knowledgeable of applicable regulations and plans impacting walking (see Article II, Section 1.A).

Section 2. Composition of PAC

- A. The membership of the PAC shall consist of nine at-large members with full standing, up to six agency representatives, and up to 10 alternate members. Of the full-standing members, efforts should be made to ensure diversity (gender, age, geography, ability, economic) geographic representation throughout of the City, and that members represent the full-range of walking interests. Members of the PAC shall represent the City as a whole. The specific recommendation for diversity geographic representation is a recommendation and not a requirement.
- B. Agency representatives serve to provide professional expertise of walking requirements, limitations, and current projects throughout the city. Examples of agencies may include, but are not limited to TXDOT, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Capital Metro, and staff from City of Austin Transportation, Planning and Development Review and Public Works Departments.

Comment [R2]: Is this an appropriate number for pedestrian issues? This is how BAC is structured.

If changing the numbers, must amend Article VI for quorum.

- C. The nine at-large (full members) members constitute the only voting members for issues other than elections. Full and alternate members may vote for election of full and alternate members and for issues regarding agency representation. Alternate designated or appointed in place of a full member for a single meeting or serving in place of a full member for an extended absence has full voting rights.
- D. Alternate members and agency representatives may vote on all matters of a subcommittee on which they serve.

Section 3. Member Expectations

- A. Members appointed as full members are expected to attend meetings and perform the work of the Council. Irregular attendance may result in loss of tenure as defined in Article III Section 5 B: Removal of Voting Members.
- B. Members with a conflict of interest in any matter before the Council shall recuse themselves from voting and abstain from discussion on the matter.
- C. Full or alternate members, or agency representatives serving on subcommittees are expected to attend meetings and perform the work of the subcommittee.

Comment [R3]: Do we need to specify terms for removal?

Section 4. Elections

- A. Qualifications: Any adult residing and/or working in the City of Austin shall be eligible for membership. Applicants should have an interest in walking, promoting walkability, and make a commitment to attend monthly meetings and participate in the work of the PAC.
- B. Becoming a Member: Invitations to apply for membership will be offered to the community at intervals not to exceed two years. Applications for membership are provided by and submitted to the staff liaison.

A membership subcommittee shall be formed to review applicants' qualifications and make recommendations for membership.

- C. Elections: Full members and alternates will be elected by the PAC when vacancies occur. Five full-standing members shall be elected in odd-numbered years. Four full-standing members shall be elected in even-numbered years.
- D. Alternate Positions: Up to ten alternates may be appointed at any given time, positions to be filled upon vacancy. Alternate members may also be appointed a full member to serve temporarily in place of a full member in case of an extended absence. In this case, their position as alternate shall remain open to them upon the return of the full member.

E. Elections Voting: Each full standing member and alternate member may vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies for the given type of position. Voting will be done by secret ballot and the votes will be collected and counted by PAC staff. The top vote-getters will be elected to the given position. If any of the seats up for election is a vacated seat with less than a two-year term remaining, the seats will be awarded in order of votes received with the full terms being awarded first and the shortest term being awarded last.

F. Agency representatives will not serve terms. Representatives will be designated by the agency they represent.

Comment [R4]: Does the PAC specify the agencies that are given reps? Is there a process to identify another agency to replace or add to agency reps?

Section 5. Tenure

A. Length of Service: Members shall serve for a two-year term or until a successor is elected and may reapply for membership.

B. Removal of Voting Members: If ~~any members is-are~~ absent without good cause as decided by Chair and Staff ~~from three consecutive regular meetings~~, the PAC may declare this position vacant.

Full members are expected to attend 66%/75% of meetings.

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~~B.~~ Alternate members are expected to attend 50%/66%.

Comment [rna5]: 2.) Group Input. What is the proportion of meetings the members are expected to attend.

C. Resignation: A member who seeks to resign from the council shall submit a written resignation to the chair of the council or the staff liaison. The Chair shall appoint an alternate to assume the position for the duration of the term, with right of first refusal going to the longest serving alternate.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS.

Section 1. Officer Positions

The officers of the council shall consist of a chair and a vice-chair.

Section 2. Duties of Officers

A. The chair shall preside at board meetings, ~~solicit~~ solicit volunteers and appoint members to subcommittees, solicit volunteers and appoint liaisons to the Bicycle Advisory Council, the Urban Transportation Commission and other Commissions as needed, represent the PAC at official functions, and approve each final meeting agenda and minutes.

B. In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair shall perform all duties of the chair.

Section 3. Elections

- A. Officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the nine at-large full members at the first regular meeting after October 1st. Voting will be done by secret ballot and the votes will be collected and counted by PAC staff. If a PAC member is unable to vote, then that member shall designate someone to vote in his/her place. Votes will be counted by PAC staff. The top vote-getters will be elected to the given positions.

In the event of an officer vacancy, the council may hold an emergency election.

- B. A nominating subcommittee shall be formed annually at the August meeting. The subcommittee shall report at the September meeting and elections shall be held at the October meeting to be effective that meeting. Additional nominations for the floor shall be permitted.

Section 4. Officer Terms

- A. The term of office shall be one year, effective upon election through subsequent officer elections.
- B. No officer may serve more than one consecutive term in the same office.

ARTICLE V. AGENDAS.

Section 1.

Two or more board members may place an item on the agenda by oral or written request to the staff liaison at least five days before the meeting. After first consulting with and receiving input from the staff liaison, the chair shall approve each final meeting agenda.

Section 2.

The PAC staff liaison shall make the agenda available to the public in a manner consistent with the Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS.

Section 1. Monthly Meetings

- A. A regular monthly meeting shall be held on the first Monday of the month in City Hall, unless otherwise agreed upon. Time and duration of the meeting shall be determined by the PAC.
- B. The chair may call a special meeting, and the chair shall call a special meeting if requested by three or more full members. The call shall state the purpose of the meeting.

- C. Five members constitute a quorum.
- D. PAC staff shall be responsible for meeting minutes, establishing and distributing the meeting agenda, reserving a meeting space, and recording attendance of full members.

Section 2. Conduct of Meetings

- A. A ~~consensus-based~~ decision making process will be utilized to ensure opportunity for dialogue among all members of the PAC and the public that are present at the meeting. Meetings shall be conducted in a three-step process:

Step One: Consensus-Based Informal Discussion.

The Chair shall make every effort to preside over a ~~an consensus-based~~ informal discussion. At the discretion of the Chair, the conduct of the meeting shall move into “Step 2” when a complex issue arises.

Step Two: Formal Discussion.

If consensus cannot be reached, a “Stack” will be formed; for a formal discussion. A stack is a chronological list of speakers. This is necessary to maintain order during the discussion. The stack will be limited to the nine full members and agency representatives, and discussion will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker. If the group still cannot come to a unanimous agreement ~~or if the stack exceeds nine members,~~ the conduct of the meeting shall move into “Step 3”.

Step Three: Robert’s Rules.

The Chair shall conduct the meeting according to Robert’s Rules of Order. A motion is made and seconded. Discussion may continue, after which a vote will commence according to standard practice.

1. A majority of members (5) with full standing, including alternates designated as full members for the meeting, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular meeting.
 2. The act of a majority of the members present at the meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the PAC.
- B. In the event of the absence of a full standing member, that member may designate an alternate member to take his/her place at that meeting by notifying the Chair or staff of their preference before the start of the meeting. If the absent member does not designate an alternate, then the chair shall designate an alternate.

**ARTICLE VII. BRIEFINGS TO THE
URBAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Section 1.

- A. Periodically, as scheduled or as requested by the chair of the PAC or the chair of the Urban Transportation Commission, a PAC designee shall appear before the Urban Transportation Commission's regularly scheduled meeting to brief the Commission on PAC projects and on matters related to walking.
- B. The chair of the PAC shall appoint a member to attend Urban Transportation Commission meetings and brief the Urban Transportation Commission.
- C. The chair of the PAC shall appoint a member to attend the Bicycle Advisory Council meetings and brief the Bicycle Advisory Council.

**ARTICLE VIII. BRIEFINGS TO OTHER
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.**

Section 1.

- A. Periodically, as needed, a PAC designee shall appear before other boards and commissions, such as the ADA Access and Sidewalk Task Force, to brief on PAC projects and on matters related to walking.

ARTICLE ~~VIII~~IX. SUBCOMMITTEES.

Section 1.

- A. There shall be at least two standing subcommittees: Technical Subcommittee and Project Subcommittee.
- B. Additional subcommittees may be established by an affirmative vote of the board to effectively perform the work of the PAC.
- B.C. A membership subcommittee will form for purposes of electing full and alternate members. See Article III, Section 4. B.

Comment [rna6]: 3.) Group Input. Get insight into whether to decide on what committees and spell that out now or to go broad and amend bylaws later.

Possible Subcommittees include: Technical , Project (these two are within BAC bylaws), Land Development Code subcommittee, Urban Trails Subcommittee, etc.

Section 2.

A. Each subcommittee shall consist of at least three PAC ~~full~~ members volunteering to serve (full, or alternate, or agency representative) and/or alternate members, appointed by the chair, ~~with the members' consent~~.

Alternate members or agency representatives serving on subcommittees possess voting privileges on all subcommittee matters.

~~A.B.~~ The chair shall appoint a PAC member as the subcommittee chair, with the member's consent.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS.

Section 1. Process

Proposed changes to the bylaws of the PAC shall be introduced at a regularly scheduled meeting of the PAC.

If a motion to discuss a bylaw amendment is seconded, a four-step process will be observed:

Step One: Discussion regarding the proposed bylaw.

Step Two: Determination of final proposed bylaw language, accomplished by a simple majority vote of eligible voting members present.

Step Three: Distribution of proposed bylaw language to all full-standing and alternate PAC members.

Step Four: Final vote of the proposed bylaw amendment will take place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the PAC.

Section 2. Requirements for Adoption

A two-thirds majority of eligible voting members present shall be required to amend the bylaws.