



**PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
July 6, 2015**

The Pedestrian Advisory convened in a regular meeting on July 6, 2015 at Austin Energy Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road, 1st floor assembly room.

Elected Members in Attendance

Peter Baird
Janet Beinke
Valerie Fruge
Girard Kinney

Zakq Lockrem
Nic Moe
Emily Risinger

Kathy Rock
Patricia Schaub
Luke Urie

Guests in Attendance

Hatty Bogucki
Lisa Hinely

Susan Pantell
Tom Wald

Alba Sereno
John Woodley

Staff and Agency Representatives in Attendance:

Robert Anderson
Caitlin D'Alton

Lawrence Deeter
Laura Dierenfield

Christian Malanka

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Risinger is acting Chair for the meeting.

1. INTRODUCTIONS (6:00 – 6:05)

2. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT (6:05 – 6:07)

Mr. Anderson announced he has resigned his position from the City in order to complete a graduate degree. He said the Pedestrian Advisory Council will be moved over to the Active Transportation Program Manager within the Transportation Department and that he will remain involved in the group as a citizen.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL (6:07 – 6:10)

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (6:10 – 6:20)

- A. May Minutes**
- B. June Minutes**

Mr. Kinney asked why the May minutes weren't approved in June. Ms. Risinger clarified that there were concerns expressed in June about how the citizen communication was written.

Mr. Kinney offered that on page 4 second paragraph of the June minutes, the text should read “Connectivity Master Plan.” He said on page 5 Ms. Walker is written numerous times as Ms. Heyden. He said on the bottom of page 5 he suggested a briefing for the Transportation Criteria Manual. He said at the end of page 6, he asked that the language be amended to say that he reported on a porch amendment.

Mr. Wald said on page 3 the Boggy Creek Trail should be identified as part of the Red Line Trail instead of Capital Metro.

Nic moved to approve minutes for both months. Valerie seconded. No opposition.

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION BRIEFINGS (6:20 – 6:55)

A. Bicycle Advisory Council / Urban Transportation Commission

Mr. Wald said the last BAC meeting was cancelled due to storm event. He said the Travis County bike safety Task Force has approved 3 Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons outside city limits. TXDOT will install a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon. He said two are at middle schools and the other two are along the Southern Walnut Creek Trail.

B. East Side Walkability Study – Council Resolution

Presentation by: Laura Dierenfield, Active Transportation Program Manager

Laura Dierenfield, Active Transportation Program Manager of the Transportation Department, presented on City Council Resolution 224 which called for reporting to the Pedestrian Advisory Council. She said this project could be a model for doing further studies within the Active Transportation Program.

The Active Transportation Program began with the bike program in Public Works and has grown to embrace all modes, and to include policies and programs for pedestrians.

She said there is strong policy support for walkability within the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan. Several Neighborhood Plans exist within the boundaries identified (East Cesar Chavez and Holly) and those Plans call out specific walkability needs.

Ms. Dierenfield said walkability studies take many forms, from Pedestrian Safety Assessments, Walk Audits, to Walkability Assessment Reports.

The area of study is bounded by I-35, Manor Road, Chestnut/Pleasant Valley Road and Lady Bird Lake, and is about 3 square miles of streets and smaller block sizes.

She said they first began by identifying the assets within the area, including key destinations. She said maps are available for distribution. They also looked at sidewalks recently completed and those which are planned for sidewalk completion, existence of protected bicycle lanes, park spaces, and crossing guard locations. Belief is to build on strengths in existence and to amplify those existing strengths to increase walkability.

They also looked at crash data for last 3 years, provided by APD. There were 58 crash-related events in the study area. Ms. Dierenfield said there is a need to look at countermeasures to improve safety.

She said a scope of work should include review of existing conditions, recommendations for walking routes, bus and bicycle routes, wayfinding and lighting, streetscape improvements (particularly for shade), modal

conflicts, pedestrian safety countermeasures, sidewalk gaps and ADA evaluations. She spoke to the fact that the Sidewalk Master Plan is being updated which will help to identify those needs.

Estimated costs for a study vary depending on the scope. Other cities efforts have ranged from \$2000 - \$50,000. Ms. Dierenfield identified Project for Public Spaces Technical Assistance and Highway and States Focus groups that can provide additional technical assistance. Ms. Dierenfield said this and operational and grant funding is something that also needs to be pursued. She mentioned that she has applied for funds. She mentioned that they are working to get funds for an additional 13 Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons.

Ms. Dierenfield said the study area can use enterprise funding because the area is part of the East Austin Parking Management District, which allows for crosswalks and sidewalks to be constructed from parking fees.

She said bond funds and the quarter-cent surplus funds Council will be deciding how to spend are additional opportunities. Ms. Dierenfield mentioned that the need for walkability studies citywide could be an option for a future bond initiative.

Ms. Dierenfield said the Active Transportation Program is prepared to take the following immediate next steps:

- Create an online clearinghouse for links to free walkability study resources
- Seek funding through grants or other means to pilot a Walkability Study for the priority community identified in the resolution

Ms. Dierenfield took questions. Mr. Lockrem said this is very similar to what CAMPO is working on and suggested partnering with them. Ms. Dierenfield said CAMPO staff has been great partners and that CAMPO is hiring a ped-bike coordinator.

Mr. Kinney said he doesn't understand why Manor was chosen as the northern boundary when airport continues and there are so many destinations along 38th street. He wonders if it is possible to amend the boundaries. Ms. Dierenfield said when the project was first conceived there were three options of varying geographic size and the middle option was chosen. She thought it was possible the boundaries might have been done in consideration of neighborhood plans boundaries but thought it was a good point and it might deserve revisiting the boundaries.

Mr. Kinney said the current study boundaries also bisect Upper Boggy Creek.

Ms. Hinely said there are costs to the neighborhood. Low-income residents need to be included and the costs for childcare, translation services also need to be included in the process and estimates for study costs. Ms. Dierenfield said we need to be mindful for how to be as inclusive as possible and that is being done for another project up north.

Ms. Risinger asked about the timeline for this project. Ms. Dierenfield said the next fiscal year (after October) is most likely but that conversations could happen sooner for how the plan would evolve. Ms. Dierenfield thought the PAC would be a great group to involve.

6. TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (6:55 – 7:25)

A. Recommendations for the Surplus ¼ Cent Sales Tax Mobility Infrastructure – Briefing and Possible Action

Mr. Baird, Technical Subcommittee Chair, presented on quarter cent budget recommendations that the Technical Subcommittee discussed at the June 18th meeting.

Peter said they largely followed the format of the Bicycle Advisory Council recommendations. The general meeting discussion was whether recommendations should be around specific projects or whether a broader connectivity theme should be recommended, suggesting Council Members look to enhance connectivity throughout the city. Four priority options were identified: 1.) Filling gaps in sidewalk network; 2.) Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons; 3.) Street Trees; 4.) Connecting to existing pedestrian facilities. Lastly, the recommendations do mention there may be possible specific projects such as Upper Boggy Creek Trail that the group would support. The recommendations also address the need for operation and maintenance funding.

Mr. Baird asked for comments in order to submit recommendations.

Mr. Kinney moved to approve. Ms. Beinke seconded.

Mr. Kinney asked about the last whereas should not say “between” but “among.” He also said the language should be changed so it does not emphasize equal divisions of funds since that might not be how the funds are divided. Ms. Hiney asked if the word “equitably” would address the issue.

Mr. Baird said we could change language to read “equitably.”

Mr. Wald asked about the third and fourth recommendations. In particular, on the fourth point, he wonders if the recommendation is intended to connect the specifically referenced destinations. Mr. Kinney pointed out that sidewalks are pedestrian facilities.

Mr. Baird said he could amend language to emphasize destinations.

Ms. Sereno said she is concerned about bullet point 2. She said while the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons program is a good program, not everyone knew about the program and so there could be issues with equity. She said there might have been issues with translations, etc. She said the program needs to be accessible in other languages. Until further recommendations are received, she would hesitate to use the established list of eligible beacon locations.

Mr. Baird offered to include language to make the program more equitable.

Mr. Woodley asked if there is any focus on disability issues. Mr. Lockrem pointed out that there is an item for curb ramps. Mr. Kinney also said Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons addresses accessibility.

Mr. Baird said that the recommendations improve accessibility but they don't explicitly reference accessibility. Mr. Kinney suggested accessibility be a “whereas” in the recommendations.

Mr. Woodley said there is a limit to the paratransit services provided by Capital Metro. Mr. Baird said that would be covered through the approach addressing connectivity as the principle recommendation.

Mr. Kinney asked about Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons. He said the Technical Subcommittee discussed it but did not include it in the other recommendations. He suggested we include it within the fourth bullet point as an alternate method due to the fact that they are more cost effective than Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons. Mr. Moe

said the City has a list of qualified Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons and asked if there is a list of eligible sites for alternative technologies. Ms. Dierenfield said that list is in development. She said Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons cost about \$87,000 (to include ramps, etc.) and the other technologies are approximately \$10,000 apiece.

Ms. Sereno spoke to the difficulties that cost-match programs produce. She said low-income communities are less able to meet those financial obligations.

Ms. Pantell asked for safety to be included in the paragraph starting with “As each district.” She said connectivity shouldn’t be a higher priority than safety. Ms. Hinely asked if safety should be a separate Whereas. Mr. Baird said he is amenable to including safety.

Mr. Wald thought “connectivity” is intended to be read as “accommodation” within that paragraph. Mr. Kinney said the reason for including the word connectivity is because previously projects have been completed that don’t connect to existing facilities.

Ms. Fruge said we do need to include “pedestrian safety and connectivity.”

Mr. Baird would like to add “studies” to the second to last paragraph. Mr. Baird asked staff to clarify how to get those recommendations to Council. Staff said that if the group authorizes him to finalize the language with aforementioned amendments, he should send to the final recommendations to staff to post formally on the PAC webpage. A formal recommendation posting will transmit recommendations to Council offices.

Mr. Kinney and Ms. Beinke accept the amendments to their motion and second to approve.

Ms. Hinely asked what is the timeline for the Council to address the quarter-cent funds. Ms. Dierenfield said this will go to the Mobility Committee and staff will be submitting recommendations as well. Full Council will then hear the item, perhaps in September.

Ms. Sereno asked if there is a desire to seek endorsements from other boards or commissions.

The group decided that the Urban Transportation and Mobility Committee of Council will be copied for all recommendations the Pedestrian Advisory Council makes to City Council. Ms. Pantell suggested other departments also receive the recommendations as staff will be submitting recommendations to Council and the recommendations relate to their programs.

7. VISION ZERO (7:25 – 7:35)

A. Vision Zero Task Force Update – Briefing

Presentation by: Nic Moe, Vision Zero Task Force Liaison

Mr. Moe, Vision Zero Task Force Subcommittee Chair, presented updates to the Vision Zero Task Force. He said the July meeting was postponed in order to finalize data that will be used to generate crash maps. Mr. Moe explained that there is a separate group on the Task Force looking at TXDOT crash data. He said the data group met last week to go over first draft of maps but that those need to be finalized before taken to the full Task Force.

Mr. Moe said the Task Force will see those maps as well as a draft action plan at their August meeting.

He said the Task Force recommendations will ultimately be made available to the public at which point the Project Subcommittee will reconvene to provide comments.

Mr. Moe said that there have been 50 traffic deaths this year and an equal number of pedestrian deaths already this year as the city experiences on average in a full year. He said the Task Force is very important.

Mr. Wald expressed concern that data doesn't usually include pedestrian falls, bike-ped crashes.

Mr. Moe clarifies that the data being used is TXDOT data. He said that data said only includes motor vehicles. He said there is an effort to also get non-motor-vehicle crashes.

Lt. Malanka has mandated that bicycle collisions will be reported for such things as a person riding a bike into a tree. He said the bicycle is a separate code now and a new citation title will be created. He said events will have to occur on a public street. Staff asked how the local code will filter up to TXDOT CR3 crash report data. Lt. Malanka said it won't; it is a local code.

Staff provided an additional response to Mr. Wald's mapping concerns. Staff said there will be specific modal maps produced and that there will be a caveat for under-reporting of injuries since the only data available are those crashes that are responded to and which elevate to a crash report. Staff confirmed Mr. Moe's report that there is a desire to integrate other agencies' data (such as emergency responders) and trauma center data, but that might be a longer-term effort.

Ms. Hinely asked about a timeline for this effort. Staff clarified that there are administrative questions about how to get to Council with new Council structure. He confirmed the Resolution creating the Task Force mandates a November reporting timeline. He said in order to get a draft to the Task Force and for comments to be incorporated into the Plan, it might be September before it is publicly distributed.

Mr. Kinney asked if the Vision Zero Task Force is looking at Crime data. Mr. Moe said it hasn't been included at this point but it could be in the future. Mr. Wald asked if other Vision Zero initiatives address crime correlation. Mr. Moe said this is a point for future Vision Zero efforts.

8. OTHER BUSINESS (7:35 – 7:40)

A. Budget in a Box – Briefing on Recommendations Submitted

Ms. Risinger said at the last meeting a few members were identified to develop recommendations. She said the final language is available as a handout.

Mr. Kinney said he supported the recommendations but didn't understand why some recommendations weren't recommended for full-funding.

Mr. Woodley said the language didn't mention ADA accessibility. Ms. Risinger said this language has already been submitted to the Budget Office.

9. FUTURE BUSINESS (7:45 – 7:50)

Mr. Kinney referred to an earlier conversation about zero-tolerance enforcement practices for jaywalking. He said in some cities, experts say they can tell an area is doing well by how much jaywalking is occurring. Ms. Risinger said they will note that as a future topic.

Mr. Wald said the Bicycle Advisory Council addressed a similar issue in the past. He offered to assist staff for how that conversation happened.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPDATES (7:50 – 8:00)

- **City Council Calendar**
 - [Mobility Committee](#) meets on August 5, 3pm. The meeting is held at City Hall Boards and Commissions room.
 - [Planning and Neighborhoods Committee](#) meets on July 20, 4pm. The meeting is held at City Hall Council Chambers.
 - [Public Safety Committee](#) meets on July 27, 4pm. The meeting is held at City Hall Boards and Commissions room.
- [Urban Transportation Commission](#) meets on July 14, 6pm. The meeting is held at City Hall Boards and Commissions room.
- [Bicycle Advisory Council](#) meets July 21, 6pm. Location to be determined. See agenda.
- [CAMPO Calendar](#)
 - CAMPO Technical Advisory Committee Meeting meets July 22, 2pm. The meeting is at One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Road, Suite 300.
 - CAMPO Transportation Policy Board Meeting meets Monday, August 10, 6pm. The meeting is at Joe C. Thompson Conference Center, 2405 Robert Dedman Drive.
- ADA Access and Sidewalk Task Force – There is no meeting scheduled for July.
- [Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities](#) meets on July 13, 12pm. The meeting is held at City Hall Boards and Commissions room.
- [Vision Zero ATX](#) – There are no meetings scheduled yet for July.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Pedestrian Advisory Council – 2014/2015 Regular Meeting Attendance

	Name	Oct 6	Nov 3	Dec 1	Jan 12	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
F	Joe Almazan	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	✓	●	○		
F	Peter Baird	●	●	●	●	●	●	✓	●	●	●		
F	Nancy Crowther	●	●	●	●	●	✓	●	●	●	✓		
F	Valerie Fruge	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	✓	●	●		
F	Girard Kinney	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
F	Ramah Leith (resigned 07.05.2015)	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	--	--	--
F	Nic Moe	●	●	●	●	●	✓	●	●	●	●		
F	Emily Risinger (Vice-Chair)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	✓	●		
F	Heyden Walker (Chair)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	✓		
A	Janet Beinke	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
A	Julio Carillo (voted alternate at 03.02.2015 meeting)	--	--	--	--	--	--	●	✓	✓	✓		
A	Ken Craig (resigned 1.12.2015)	●	●	●	●	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
A	Dan Keshet (informed of resignation 2.02.2015)	✓	✓	✓	✓	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
A	Jessica Lemann (informed of resignation 2.27.2014)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
A	Nathan Lynch (informed of resignation 2.02.2015)	✓	✓	✓	✓	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
A	Zakcq Lockrem (voted alternate at 03.02.2015 meeting)	--	--	--	--	--	--	●	●	●	●		
A	Joel Meyer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓		
A	Carmen de la Morena-Chu	✓	●	●	✓	✓	●	●	✓	✓	✓		
A	Marva Overton	✓	●	●	●	✓	●	✓	✓	●	✓		
A	Kathy Rock	●	●	●	●	✓	●	●	●	●	●		
A	Patricia Schaub (voted alternate at 3.02.2015 meeting)	--	--	--	--	--	--	●	●	●	●		
A	Mike Sledge	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	✓	●	✓		
A	Luke Urie	✓	●	●	✓	●	●	●	●	●	●		
A	Virginia Wilkinson (resigned 1.12.2015)	●	●	●	●	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
F = Full Member, A = Alternate Member ● Present ○ Excused Absence ✓ Unexcused Absence													

