



**PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MONDAY NOVEMBER 2ND, 2015 – 6:00 PM
CITY HALL – ROOM 1029
301 W. SECOND STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

MEETING SUMMARY

Elected Members in Attendance

Heyden Walker, Chair
Emily Risinger, Vice Chair
Joe Almazan
Peter Baird

Girard Kinney
Tom Wald
Robert Anderson
Valerie Fruge
Mike Sledge- Alternate
Kathy Rock- Alternate
Zakcq Lockrem- Alternate
Patricia Schaub - Alternate
Janet Beinke -Alternate

Guests in Attendance:

UT Students
Asitha Senanayake
Diane Rice
Elissa Yeats

Bob Gilbert
Carrie Gammel
John Woodley
Nic Moe
Alba Sereno
Caitlin D'Alton, CapMetro

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Heyden Black Walker called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL (6:00 – 6:10)

The first 3 speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

NONE

2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MEETING NOTES (6:10 – 6:13)

A request was made by Mr. Kinney to clarify the Technical Subcommittee report to read that the audience for the pedestrian brochure will need to be drivers as much as the pedestrians. Robert Anderson moved, Joe Almazan seconded. Meeting notes unanimously approved.

3. STAFF AND COMMISSION BRIEFINGS (6:13 – 6:15)

- Bicycle Advisory Council / Urban Transportation Commission: Mr. Wald reported that the BAC held elections at the last meeting. The BAC also heard a staff briefing on the Mesa Drive restriping project and a project on Lakeshore Drive.
- There is currently no PAC/UTC liaison. Ms. Dierenfield will follow up with the staff liaison for the UTC to facilitate greater PAC/UTC information exchange.

- Nomination of Mobility 35 Aesthetics Working Group (Rundberg Lane to Woodland Ave.) Representative from the Pedestrian Advisory Council. Mr. Almazan nominated Girard Kinney. Mr. Kinney states if nominated, he will be focusing on public funding spent on functional projects. Ms. Walker called for vote for the nomination of Girard Kinney, unanimously approved.

4. UT CIVIL ENGINEERING STUDENT PRESENTATION ON SHARED SPACE (6:15-6:45)

- Presentation on UT students' Shared Space Study. Students have been working with the Sidewalk Program to study the concept of shared space. For the purposes of the study, students were asked to evaluate two alternatives for improving walkability in the area bound by Chicon Street/ E. 11th Street/ Prospect Ave./ E. 8th Street. The two alternatives were defined as, (1) Add sidewalks to the streets eventually, as planned in the Sidewalk Master Plan or (2) Convert the area to an intentional shared space (for bicycles, pedestrians, cars) as a near-term pilot approach. The students' presented their findings to the PAC and asked for feedback.

Feedback/Questions and Answers:

- What made you choose this area? *The City chose this area for the purposes of a hypothetical study because it represents characteristics suitable for a shared space approach.*
- Why are you targeting a residential development and not a mixed use space, what are the justifications? Are you looking to lower the speed limit? The study is focused on gaining a better understanding as to how to make residential areas more *walkable through alternative strategies to sidewalks. The study looked at how traffic calming devices can slow down the traffic.*
- Have you considered passage for emergency response vehicles such as fire trucks? *Yes, this is under consideration.*
- Please consider curb-less areas or rain gardens. Look at Fort Smith Street in Houston for example. Also to look at the existing watershed plan for this area.
- If there is not a lot of traffic maybe a yield is more appropriate and a roundabout may be unnecessary. Roundabouts use mostly for cars.
- Post warning signs of the speed limits.
- Concern that any traffic median with vegetation needs to be trimmed low due to kids crossing and visibility. Who maintains the vegetation the city or neighborhoods? *Public Works, Urban Forestry in public right of way.* Paint may be an alternative way to achieve the traffic calming desired and be a way to get the neighborhood involved and lower the cost.
- What is the metrics of crash safety, complaints to 311? *UT responded that the city will be keeping the metrics and conducting for this information.*
- Have you worked with the neighborhoods? This area was used as a hypothetical location and the city will conduct outreach for the actual pilot program, if approved.
- You can take away parking on one side of the street and put sidewalks there.
- Is the street shown to be a one-way or two-way and what is the comfort level? The clearance on the diagram given does not reflect enough clearance. *UT students reply that the clearance will need to be change on the diagram to reflect the existing conditions.*
- The benefit of raised sidewalks is for people in wheelchairs will not have to go up and down on the sidewalks. Very skeptical that 15' of having two way streets without grid lock. This may be an ideal project for phasing and implementing a little at a time. The UT students should interact with the neighborhood.
- Concerns with people who are blind, there is a need of a guide walking through the comfort zones.
- Need to consider the demographics and needs of the neighborhood.
- The neighborhood is rapid changing. Remember, "Why now?" How will this affect the taxes of the homeowners?
- Who is to pay for these changes and also raises concerns about the ADA.
- Street lights should be pedestrian scale rather than car scale. Topography is important, needs to incorporate in diagram. Realistically if this is going to be the standard in the future, need to lower the speed to 5 to 10 mph and policy needs to be addressed.
- It has to be cleared through the gateway that they are entering the shared space.

- Instead of a pilot project make it a showcase project.
- Bring artists and the neighborhood in the mix to create a message of a shared space.
- There should be two sites, one west side and one on the east side, with similar traffic count. So this is clear it is not favoring one side or another.

5. CAPITAL METRO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CAMPAIGN (6:45-7:30)

James Hoskins, Program Manager, Safety, Capital Metro was unable to present due to a family emergency. Caitlin D' Alton , Planner, Capital Metro came in Mr. Hoskins place. Ms. D'Alton states that this video was already in production before the crash on Howard Lane, and cannot speak about the incident. Video shown at PAC is called "Capital Metro's video: Square Your Turn 2015 (graphic video)" Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0Efr14RmKM>

Ms. D'Alton states that there are 3 other videos in production and the topics of the videos are as followed:

- Safely servicing bus stops
 - Right side hit on fixed objects
 - Rail road safety
 - Final factor: comprehensive list of distractions for Capital Metro bus drivers and school bus drivers
- Ms. D'Alton states that Mr. Hoskins would like to challenge the PAC and BAC to create safety shorts for messaging on the front of the buses.
 - ACTION: Ms. Walker asks the PAC to come up with statements, to give Mr. Hoskins by the next PAC meeting. Several phrases were discussed at the meeting and captured by Ms. D'Alton, to include:
 - "Always yield to pedestrians."
 - Message should relate to Vision Zero, if not instructional.
 - There should be a full media campaign, including social media and on the buses
 - Pose the question, "What is vision zero?" and on the front and the some literature on the side and in the bus.
 - Put something short about the 3' passing law.
 - "Always stop for pedestrians."
 - "Drive like you kids live here."
 - "Yield for crosswalks, it's the state law."

Questions:

- Is the messaging focusing on relaying messages to the driver or pedestrians/ cyclist?
 - Ms. D'Alton states it can be both*
- Mr. Anderson requested that Mr. Hoskins speaks on the pedestrian detection cameras.
 - Prompt question for Mr. Hoskins: Is the sensitivity of the equipment going to be adjusted? What sort of metric for an audit system to alert for review of the film?

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (7:30-7:45)

• Vision Zero Update:

- Mr. Moe, Projects Subcommittee Chair reported:
 - Next meeting will be Friday November 13th 2015.
 - Review of metrics and how to measure those.
 - Mr. Moe recommends for the Chair to reach out and ask when the subcommittee will be able to formally update and present to the PAC. So the PAC has a good look at the action plan before it is approved.
- Questions:

- i. From NACTO were there any good metrics from the NACTO conference to assist Austin's plan? Ms. Walker will review her notes and report findings to PAC.

- **Technical Subcommittee Update:** Peter Baird, Technical Subcommittee Chair
 - Mr. Baird presented a PowerPoint on his review of drivers and pedestrian rights of the state and city. He states that the literature is confusing for pedestrians.
 - i. Mr. Baird also reviewed other cities for best practices for pedestrians and drivers to understand the laws. Recommends creating diagrams and flyers.
 - November 19th next subcommittee meeting. This meeting will start generating these best practices from Austin.
 - Questions:
 - i. Mr. Wald states UT has different pedestrian rules.
 - Mr. Baird will share the presented PowerPoint presentations with the subcommittee.

7. OFFICER ELECTIONS (7:45-7:55)

- Nomination and election of Chair & Vice Chair – Per the bylaws, officers may not serve more than one consecutive term. At the last meeting, Ms. Walker was voted as Chair but this needs to be vacated as she was previously the Chair 2014-2015. Nominations are taken from the floor. Mr. Kinney nominates Mr. Almazan. Ms. Walker seconds this. Mr. Almazan nominates Ms. Walker. Ms. Risinger seconds this. As there are no other candidates nominated, Mr. Almazan is identified as Chair and Ms. Walker as Vice Chair.

8. FUTURE BUSINESS / ADJOURN (7:55 – 8:00)

- A briefing on the PSAP will be scheduled in the future.
- PAC members are asked to volunteer in the formation of the PAC annual report. Please email Ms. Dierenfield to express interest: laura.dierenfield@austintexas.gov.
- Mr. Moe states tomorrow, November 3rd 2015, is elections day.
- The Austin Transportation's Right Sizing Report will be scheduled in the future.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.