



PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

MONDAY MAY 2, 2016 – 6:00 PM

CITY HALL – ROOM 1029

301 W. SECOND STREET

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

MEETING SUMMARY

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chair Joe Almazan.

Full Members in Attendance:

Joe Almazan – Chair
Heyden Walker – Vice Chair
Nancy Crowther
Peter Baird

Valerie Fruge
Girard Kinney
Tom Wald
Robert Anderson

Alternate Members in Attendance:

Janet Beinke
Joel Meyer
Patricia Schaub

Marva Overton

Mike Sledge

Staff in Attendance:

Laura Dierenfield
Emily Smith
Mike Trimble
Marissa Monroy
John Eastman

Eric Dusza
Justin Norvell
Francis Reilly
Amir Emamian

Guests in Attendance:

Nic Moe, Children's Optimal Health
John Woodley
Dave Lardner, Precision Safe Sidewalks

Louis Alcorn, Capital Metro
Stephen Ratke, Federal Highway Administration

Absent Members:

Emily Risinger
Julio Carillo
Zakcq Lockrem

Carmen de la Morena
Kathy Rock
Luke Urie

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

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.

- Reyes Rodriguez – Shared safety concerns with intersections along Springdale Road at Airport Boulevard and Reyes Street, and need for improved pedestrian infrastructure for safe access to Givens Park and Ortega Elementary School.

2. APPROVAL OF APRIL MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting summary unanimously approved on Heyden Walker’s motion, Tom Wald’s second with Joe Almazan, Robert Anderson and Girard Kinney abstaining.

3. MOBILITY TALKS

Mike Trimble, Capital Planning Office gave a presentation which included Background, Community Priorities, Project and Program development, Universe of Needs, and Community Engagement. The presentation can be found here: https://www.austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/121_1.htm

The following discussion among PAC members focused on consideration of the local economy and traffic safety in measuring return on investment in transportation infrastructure, communicating to the public the tradeoffs between the costs of investments in road vs sidewalk vs bike infrastructure, and mechanisms for funding improvements to pedestrian infrastructure.

Recommendation language based on recent recommendations regarding Mobility Talks passed by the Urban Transportation Commission and the Bicycle Advisory Council was presented.

Action taken: The resolution passed unanimously on Robert Anderson’s motion and Girard Kinney’s second with the following amendments:

- Replace the word "walking" with "pedestrianism" throughout the document
- Add "WHEREAS the PAC wishes to ensure that the City of Austin has a fully connected, safe, and accessible pedestrian network"
- Add "WHEREAS the PAC supports the creation of a flexible funding source for other necessary pedestrian capital infrastructure"
- Switch the order of the clauses "Fully fund all 'Very High' and 'High' priority sidewalks in the forthcoming 2016 Sidewalk Master Plan" and "Fully fund the Bicycle Master Plan, including 'Tier 1' Urban Trails" under "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Pedestrian Advisory Council recommends the City Council pursue a 2016 mobility bond that achieves the following" to better reflect the values of the PAC
- Add a clause with the language "Fund street and intersection improvements such as pedestrian hybrid beacons necessary to complement and implement connected pedestrian networks" under "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Pedestrian Advisory Council recommends the City Council pursue a 2016 mobility bond that achieves the following"

The resolution can be found here: https://www.austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/121_1.htm

4. SIDEWALK MASTER PLAN

John Eastman, Public Works Department, gave a presentation on the Sidewalk Master Plan & ADA Transition Plan Update, which included the background of the update, the goals of the plan, key recommendations for existing sidewalks (including vegetative barrier removal and commercial driveway assessments), key recommendations for new sidewalks (including a shared space pilot project and revisions to city code), an estimated budget summary, a comparison of past performance and future targets, outcomes, and resources for providing feedback. The Public Works Department is visiting several boards and commissions and will incorporate feedback into an appendix to the plan before bringing the adoption draft before City Council. Presentation is available here: https://www.austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/121_1.htm

The following discussion among PAC members focused on the importance of sidewalks as a basic utility, the potential for multimodal transportation impact assessments of new developments to lead to funding of offsite sidewalk connections, the potential for sidewalk mitigation fees to fund new sidewalks in specific lower priority areas, adding better visuals and graphics to the shared streets section of the plan, how sidewalks on high-trafficked streets

will be prioritized compared to sidewalks on quieter residential streets, the characteristics of neighborhood streets that should be considered when identifying potential shared streets pilot projects, and the potential for an ongoing sidewalk condition assessment program to provide data that will help the city address needed improvements to existing sidewalks.

Language for a recommendation to City Council in support of the adoption and implementation of the 2016 Update to the Sidewalk Master Plan / ADA Transition Plan was presented.

Action taken: The resolution passed unanimously on Robert Anderson's motion and Peter Baird's second with the following amendments:

- Add the language "with an emphasis on the following" to "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pedestrian Advisory Council supports and recommends City Council adoption and implementation of the 2016 Update to the Sidewalk Master Plan / ADA Transition Plan"
- Add the following bullet points underneath "with an emphasis on the following":
 - Stable and secure funding for maintaining existing sidewalks
 - Seek and secure funding to build new sidewalks
 - Amend city ordinances, regulations, and planning requirements as necessary to establish pedestrian facilities as a basic utility
 - Establish and implement a shared streets pilot program

The resolution can be found here: https://www.austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/121_1.htm

5. VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN

Francis Reilly, Planning and Zoning Department, gave an overview of the Vision Zero Action Plan and outlined the recent revisions made to the draft of the plan, which include organizing the proposed actions into five categories (Evaluation, Engineering, Enforcement, Education, and Policy), the inclusion of cost estimates for each action, and an increased focus on design & equity throughout the plan. The presentation can be found here:

https://www.austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/121_1.htm

The following discussion among PAC members focused on how the proposed actions would be prioritized and implemented by the responsible agencies and organizations and the need to thoroughly research the proposed policy action regarding the city's cite-and-release policy for people who drive without a license or with a suspended license. Staff was also thanked for their work on the document and for incorporating large amounts of community input.

Language for a recommendation in support of the adoption and implementation of the Action Plan was presented.

Action taken: The resolution passed unanimously with amendments. The amendments were:

- Add "WHEREAS, The PAC initiated the creation of the Vision Zero Task Force in November of 2014"
- Add " WHEREAS, a record 102 people lost their lives in Austin 2015, 30 of which were pedestrians"
- Add "WHEREAS, 22 people have lost their lives in Austin in 2016 so far, nine of which were pedestrians"

The resolution can be found here: https://www.austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/121_1.htm

6. EAST 6TH STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT PRESENTATION

PAC members considered a recommendation written by member Nancy Crowther in support of Land Use Solution's design proposal for East 6th Street, which was presented to the PAC in April.

Action taken: The PAC unanimously voted to table the item to their upcoming June 6th meeting.

7. TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

- Peter Baird, Technical Subcommittee Chair

The Technical Subcommittee is continuing to tweak “academic” version of their pedestrian document, which has also been shared with the Vision Zero Task Force. The committee’s next steps are: 1) create an educational pamphlet on current pedestrian laws, which Luke Urie is taking the lead on and 2) use their research findings to make recommendations for future policy changes, which Nic Moe is taking the lead on. The committee will now regularly meet on the third Wednesday of the month.

8. PROJECTS SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

- Robert Anderson, Projects Subcommittee Chair

The Projects Subcommittee has been focused on the Vision Zero Action plan for the past two months. The committee regularly meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

9. STAFF AND COMMISSION BRIEFINGS

- Bicycle Advisory Council Update – In April the BAC Discussed the SH 71 Express Project, passed recommendations regarding Mobility Talks and 620/360 Feasibility Study, and passed a recommendation in support of the adoption and implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan.
- Urban Transportation Commission Update – In April the UTC passed a recommendation regarding Mobility Talks and tabled a vote on the Vision Zero Action Plan to May. PAC Chair Joe Almazan attended and gave an update on the PAC's work.
- Mobility Committee Update – In April the Mobility Committee forwarded a resolution to council regarding transit prioritization and received briefings on mobility projects and an ordinance amendment to clarify the City's authority to require transportation improvements and mitigation as part of the development review process.

10. FUTURE BUSINESS / ADJOURN

- Digital Billboards
- Berkman Working Group update
- Capital Metro Safety Presentation
- SH71 Express project
- Capital Metro Connections 2025
- TxDOT Vision Zero Discussion
- ADA Coordinator
- Code NEXT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm by Chair Joe Almazan.