



**PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)
MONDAY JUNE 6, 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
Patricia Schaub
Mike Sledge

Joel Meyer
Carmen de la Morena
Kathy Rock

Marva Overton

Absent Members:

Emily Risinger
Julio Carillo

Zakcq Lockrem
Luke Urie

Staff in Attendance:

Laura Dierenfield, Austin Transportation
Emily Smith, Austin Transportation

Francis Reilly, Planning and Zoning

Guests in Attendance:

Lisa Hinely, North Lamar/Georgian Acres
Neighborhood Team
Andrew Vickers, Open Austin
Andrew Hansen, DSAT

Jon Brewer, Crestview Commons/Midtown
Neighborhood Association
Nic Moe, Children's Optimal Health/Vision Zero ATX
John Woodley, Advocate for Disability Access
James Hoskins, Capital Metro

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- Lisa Hinsley – Expressed concern that the stretch of North Lamar from U.S. 183 to Braker Ln's street type had been changed from a "Core Transit Corridor" to a "Suburban Roadway" in city code, and asked for the PAC to take action in July to recommend the street type be changed back to Core Transit Corridor. Staff will look into the issue and update the PAC.
- Andrew Hansen – Outlined his college student group's ideas for improving the Sidewalk Master Plan.

2. APPROVAL OF APRIL MEETING SUMMARY

The April meeting summary was unanimously approved on Heyden Walker's motion and Janet Beinke's second.

3. ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY

A. East 6th Street Improvements Project Recommendation

Leah Bojo, Entitlements and Policy Manager at Land Use Solutions, answered questions about a proposed concept for a streetscape project on East Sixth Street that was presented to the PAC in April. The project would temporarily redesign the street through a tactical urbanist approach by using inexpensive materials, such as paint and planters, to create back-in angled parking space, a protected bike lane, and pedestrian facilities on the street.

Nancy Crowther, PAC full member, presented the draft language for a PAC recommendation in support for the project that had been tabled in May.

The following discussion among PAC members focused on the need to clarify their support for the proposed project as a preliminary concept that will go through a more technical process in the future as well as the need to emphasize ADA compliance in their recommendation.

Action taken: The resolution passed unanimously on Heyden Walker's motion and Peter Baird's second, with Girard Kinney and Tom Wald abstaining. Nancy Crowther will work with the PAC Chair and Vice Chair to revise and finalize the recommendation language.

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

4. ITEMS FROM PAC

A. Connections 2025

Caitlin D'Alton of Capital Metro gave the presentation, which included Project Overview and Status, findings from the Market Analysis (including Population, Employment & Demographics, Land Use and Development, Travel Patterns, and Strengths & Weaknesses), findings from the completed Service Evaluation (including Operating Cost & Ridership, Productivity and Fares, MetroRapid, Strengths & Weaknesses). Cap Metro will return to discuss their draft service plan recommendations in September 2016. 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 the important connection between land use and transit service, Cap Metro's role in encouraging Transit Oriented Development in Austin, Cap Metro's role in contributing to accessibility and pedestrian safety through sidewalks and bus stop facilities, Cap Metro's community engagement and customer service, and Cap Metro's role in regional transportation and CAMPO's comprehensive transit planning.

No action taken.

B. TxDOT & the Vision Zero Action Plan

John Nevares, Assistant Director of Traffic Operations of the Texas Department of Transportation's Austin District, gave the presentation, which included an overview of the Vision Zero Action Plan Evaluation and Engineering Actions involving TxDOT, information about TxDOT's Crash Records Information System (CRIS), TxDOT Safety Improvement Projects in the City of Austin, Pedestrian and Bicycle Crash Analysis Work (including FHWA Pedestrian and Bicycle Crash Prediction Tool software), and Engineering Countermeasures Examples. 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 Vision Zero as a framework to shift design and engineering priorities from vehicle throughput to safety, details of TxDOT's safety funding, TxDOT's role in providing safe pedestrian and cycling connectivity along existing and new roads, safety improvements that could be made on roads in the City of Austin currently operated by TxDOT, incorporating City of Austin plans into TxDOT safety standards, recognizing design components as contributing factors in crash analyses, and consideration of the safety of crossings when planning roadways.

No action taken.

C. Mobility Talks

Heyden Walker encouraged PAC members to reach out to their respective City Council members about their mobility priorities in anticipation of upcoming Council discussions on potential future mobility-related bonds.

No action taken.

5. TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

- Peter Baird, Technical Subcommittee Chair

No update due to time constraints.

6. PROJECTS SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

- Robert Anderson, Projects Subcommittee Chair

No update due to time constraints.

- Girard Kinney, Berkman Drive Working Group and I-35 Aesthetics Working Group member
 - Berkman Drive Working Group – Would like to bring pedestrian issues being discussed in the Berkman Drive Working Group meetings to a PAC technical subcommittee meeting soon.
 - I-35 Aesthetics Working Group – Will have fifth and final meeting soon. Discussing landscaping that could enhance the pedestrian experience at I-35 crossings and intersections. Input will be incorporated into a survey on three potential conceptual approaches that will be sent out to the public.

7. STAFF AND COMMISSION BRIEFINGS

- Bicycle Advisory Council Update – No update due to time constraints.
- Urban Transportation Commission Update – No update due to time constraints.
- Mobility Committee Update – No update due to time constraints.

8. FUTURE BUSINESS / ADJOURN

- Digital Billboards
- Capital Metro Safety Presentation
- Capital Metro Connections 2025
- ADA Coordinator
- Code NEXT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm by Chair Joe Almazan.