

Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting Minutes
Monday April 1, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.
Austin City Hall – Room 1027
301 W. Second St. Austin, Texas

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Jay Crossley.

Full Members in Attendance:

Jay Blazek Crossley (Chair)	Kimberly Levinson	Heyden Black Walker
Adam Greenfield (Vice Chair)	Patricia Schaub	Justin Henderson

Full Members Absent:

Branigan Mulcahy	Anna Bauereis	Mark Wochner
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Alternate Members in Attendance:

Jackie Ahmad	Tom Wald	Dana Meyer
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Alternate Members Absent:

Nicole McGrath	Bradley Brey	Sarah Gamble
Katherine Cox	Michael Deoloz	

City Staff in Attendance:

Emily Smith, Austin Transportation	Nadia Barrera-Ramirez, Capital Metro
Joel Meyer, Austin Transportation	Carly Haithcock, Austin Transportation
Marissa Monroy, Austin Transportation	Tyler Wong, Austin Transportation
Gordon Derr, Austin Transportation	

Guests in Attendance:

Ryan Thornton, Austin Monitor	Chris Riley, Bike Austin
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1. Introductions

2. Public Communication:

Heyden Walker: described the status of efforts of the Blackland neighborhood associate to request traffic circles be installed in through the City's Neighborhood Partnering Program as well as the status of Public Works' Sidewalk Program designs for pedestrian refuge islands to be installed in the Blackland neighborhood.

3. Approval of March 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The [March 4, 2019 meeting minutes](#) were approved as amended on Levinson motion, Henderson second on an 8-0 vote with Mulcahy absent and alternate members Meyer and Wald voting in place of Bauereis and Wochner, respectively.

4. Traffic Fatalities Reported Since Last PAC Meeting

Adam Greenfield read aloud the names of three people whose deaths due to traffic crashes on Austin streets were reported since the PAC last met: Javier Emanuel Niño Esparza, Jessica Rae Saathoff, Carlos Cardenas Jr.

5. Transit Enhancement Program update, including upcoming improvement to Lavaca St and Guadalupe St between 18th and W Martin Luther King Jr Blvd

Gordon Derr, Austin Transportation Department and Nadia Barrera-Ramirez, Capital Metro, gave a [presentation](#).

6. Joint statement regarding San Jacinto Blvd through UT Austin

Heyden Walker proposed that the PAC sign on to a [joint statement](#) that Bike Austin is gathering signatures for. A motion to approve this action was adopted on Walker motion, Schaub second on an 8-0 vote with Mulcahy absent and alternate members Meyer and Wald voting in place of Bauereis and Wochner, respectively.

7. Recommendation regarding Land Development Code revision

Jay Crossley presented draft recommendation language for the PAC's consideration which, after debate and amendment, read as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the PAC recommends that the Austin City Council ask the City Manager to prepare a comprehensive, new land development code as soon as possible, according to these responses to his questions:

Question 1, Option A, i - Adopt a new Land Development Code, consisting of a new Land Development Code (text) and Zoning Map, to take effect concurrently;

Question 2, Option C - Provide greater housing capacity than Draft 3, through enhanced measures to allow construction of additional residential units – in a manner which ensures plentiful capacity such that a majority of growth expected in the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization region over the next ten years could occur within the City of Austin, along with complementary amounts of jobs, schools, and services;

Question 3, Option C - Provide for a greater range of housing types than Draft 3;

Question 4, Option C - Reduce the impact of compatibility standards on development to a greater degree than Draft 3;

Question 5, Option C - Reduce the impact of minimum parking requirements on development to a greater degree than Draft 3 – and specifically to end the practice of minimum parking requirements as part of comprehensive parking policy reform, while ensuring resulting policies will improve access by all modes for people of all abilities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the PAC recommends that Council use this opportunity to strongly, clearly state a preference for policies that reasonably allow access to walkable, urban housing, school, and work to be the norm in all neighborhoods as soon as possible, including asking staff to identify all policies that act as barriers to walkable access;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the PAC recommends Council ask the City Manager to examine all reasonable ways to end the practice of dictating separation of uses, to instead allow all neighborhoods the traditional, sustainable form of human habitat: walkable urbanism.

The recommendation was adopted on Levinson motion, Henderson second on a 7-0 vote with Mulcahy and Walker absent and alternate members Meyer and Wald voting in place of Bauereis and Wochner, respectively.

Adam Greenfield presented draft recommendation language for the PAC's consideration which, after debate and amendment, read as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the PAC recommends that, while taking into account a possible tight timeframe moving forward and building upon what has been accomplished in the CodeNEXT process to date,

public engagement in the process to update the LDC and implementing on an ongoing basis, rely heavily on visual images and physical models, and that such resources be employed to identify and illustrate concepts that might include the following:

The kinds of places, in Austin and in other places around the US and the world, that people like and want to see more of (Figures A & B)

The kinds of human needs, experiences, and interactions, the public would like the built environment to better foster (figure C)

Visual examples of publicly-identified existing problems and harmful practices in new development, which are common and possible under the current LDC, along with matching examples of improvements, which could be achieved, under a new LDC (figure D)

Using real-world examples, that show how a new LDC could be primarily an agent not of sudden, large-scale change but of graceful, steady, incremental change across all of Austin to foster more walkable, human-centric environments (figure E)

The recommendation was adopted on Wald motion, Levinson second on a 7-0 vote with Mulcahy and Walker absent and alternate members Meyer and Wald voting in place of Bauereis and Wochner, respectively.

8. City updates + general announcements:

- Tom Wald: draft micro-mobility definition and use ordinance item postponed at City Council's March 28 meeting to City Council's May 23 meeting

9. Future Agenda Items

- Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative (staff; May)
 - Subcommittee co-chair: Greenfield
- Micro-mobility definition and use ordinance (staff; May)
 - Subcommittee co-chair: Wald
- Railroad crossings (Schaub; TBD)
- Speed Management (Crossley; TBD)
- Project Connect (Henderson; TBD)
- Street Impact Fee Study (Mulcahy; TBD)
- I-35 Capital Express project (Walker; TBD)

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. by Chair Jay Crossley.