

Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting Minutes
Monday May 6, 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 6:03 p.m. by Chair Jay Crossley.

Full Members in Attendance:

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

Full Members Absent:

Branigan Mulcahy

Alternate Members in Attendance:

Jackie Ahmad	Nicole McGrath	Tom Wald
Sarah Gamble	Dana Meyer	

Alternate Members Absent:

Bradley Brey	Katherine Cox	Michael Deolloz
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City Staff in Attendance:

Emily Smith, Austin Transportation	Jacob Culberson, Austin Transportation
Joel Meyer, Austin Transportation	Nathan Wilkes, Austin Transportation
Laura Dierenfield, Austin Transportation	David Taylor, Public Works
Marissa Monroy, Austin Transportation	John Eastman, Public Works
Jason JonMichael, Austin Transportation	Tom Vocke, Austin Fire
Jason Redfern, Austin Transportation	

Guests in Attendance:

Priya Patel, UT Austin, Black + Vernooy Architecture	Geoff Willard
Michael Levy	Jason VanFickell
Anne Adkins	Joe Deshotel, Lime
Bo McCarver, Blackland CDC	

1. Introductions

2. Public Communication: Mike Levy spoke in support of Vision Zero and reducing traffic fatalities.

3. Approval of April 1, 2019 Meeting Minutes: The April 1, 2019 [meeting minutes](#) were approved as amended on Levinson motion, Bauereis second on a 7-0 vote with Mulcahy absent.

4. Traffic Fatalities Reported Since Last PAC Meeting: Adam Greenfield read aloud the names and ages of fourteen people whose deaths due to traffic crashes on Austin streets were reported since the PAC last met as well as the locations at which the crashes occurred:

1. *Earnest Turner, 53 - 3100 block of N IH 35, S of Wells Branch Pkwy*
2. *Illianna Martinez, 5 - Palo Blanco Ln and Teri Rd*
3. *Garrett Evan Davis, 27 - 517 E. Slaughter Lane*
4. *Keaton Michael Carnley, 27 - 517 E. Slaughter Lane*
5. *Hannah Jagers, 25 - E. Wells Branch Parkway/S. Heatherwilde Boulevard*
6. *Wing Cheung Chou, 69 - 14000 block of N. SH-45 @ Parmer Lane*
7. *John Monroe Guiling, 86 - 11200 N. Mopac SB*
8. *James Taylor Bourgeois, 55 - 5600 block of S. Congress Avenue @ Stassney Lane*

9. Michael Cannatti, 70 - Jollyville Rd. and Balcones Woods Drive.
10. Unidentified male, 19 - 8000 block of West U.S. 290, W of Hwy 71
11. Elvira Cadena Trujillo, 77 - FM 973 and Pearce Lane
12. Aric Maxwell, 46 - 5300 blk N. IH-35 SB, N of 51st St
13. Leon Rogelio Andres Salmeron, 23 - 8200 block of Research Blvd SB Service Road
14. Unidentified male - 8700 block of N. Lamar Blvd.

Greenfield noted that there have been 26 traffic fatalities this year. At this time in 2018 there had been 22.

5. **Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative Final Project Report:** David Taylor, Public Works Department, gave a [presentation](#). Adam Greenfield, PAC Vice Chair, presented draft recommendation language for the PAC's consideration which, after debate and amendment, read as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Pedestrian Advisory Council recommends the following elements be included in the Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative:

- *The amenity area proposed in the Design Initiative feature "flexi-spaces", of at least the same number as current parking spaces, that contain small kiosks and other temporary structures and which can be used for a curated balance of revolving commercial and non-commercial purposes such as art galleries; performance spaces; children's activities; public gathering spaces and bookable meeting rooms; visitor information; police services; and cafes, restaurants, and other types of businesses*
- *Prior to the installation of flexi-spaces, fund a PARK(ing) Day program that includes temporary conversion of all parking spaces on Congress to other uses*
- *To maintain continuity with the proposed number of vehicle lanes on the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge, the number of vehicular lanes on the rest of Congress to the north be reduced or reconfigured such that space is reallocated to wider sidewalks, a wider amenity area, protected bicycle lanes, and other elements*
- *Encourage regular street events and fund a City-organized Open Streets program that test the degree to which a portion of Congress could function as a permanent or semi-permanent car-free space by converting the blocks between 7th and 11th Streets to a "festival streets" design and by creating regulations that reduce the burdens of organizing street events and encourage such events to occur more often, for a broader range of time periods, and with wider programmatic variety*
- *On Congress between 10th and 11th Streets, work with the State of Texas to replace the rows of parking spaces closest to the sidewalk with small street-facing sidewalk-accessible building structures to be used for a variety of purposes or in some other way activate the street to a more optimal use than a surface parking lot*
- *Discourage vacant properties and storefronts on Congress*
- *The City of Austin execute a comprehensive downtown parking strategy that integrates the PAC's parking recommendations made in February 2019*
- *All streets identified in the City of Austin Downtown Austin Master Plan for one-way to two-way conversion undergo such a conversion*
- *Install public restrooms every couple of blocks*
- *Funding for upgrading Congress be obtained and allocated in portions that reflect certain priorities, such as near-term safety improvements being made as soon as possible on Congress at any location that is unsafe and/or where death or serious injuries have occurred, conversion of all parking spaces into car-free flexi-spaces, and regulatory changes to encourage street events.*

The [recommendation](#) was approved on Levinson motion, Bauereis second approved on a 7-0 vote with Mulcahy absent and Henderson off of the dais.

6. Shared Micro-Mobility Policy and Ordinance Changes: Jason JonMichael, Jason Redfern, and Jacob Culberson of Austin Transportation gave a [presentation](#). PAC member Patricia Schaub presented draft recommendation language for the PAC's consideration which, after debate and amendment, read as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the PAC recommends the immediate funding and rapid buildout of the Sidewalk Master Plan / ADA Transition Plan and the Bicycle Master Plan to provide more space for people walking, bicycling, scooting, and other low-speed modes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PAC recommends the following for safe, unimpeded sidewalk access and to encourage street riding:

- *Retain the original language of 12-2-15 (C) (1) about street parking on the curb instead of deleting it. [Recommended text: "(C) A person may park a bicycle or a micro-mobility device: (1) against a street curb and in designated spaces marked for such use"],*
- *Encourage and provide incentives for scooter parking in the street (rather than sidewalks) e.g. adjacent to driveways, intersections, and other curb cuts,*
- *Work with scooter service providers to pilot a charger program that deploys scooters in street parking areas instead of in sidewalk areas;*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PAC recommends that Public Works or Transportation Department systematically identify and repair potholes and roadway imperfections, prioritizing zones highlighted by heat maps of micro-mobility injury crashes (shown in Figure 5 of the APH report), anticipated risk areas, and areas of current overall use (such as slide 6 of the March 18, 2019 presentation to the Urban Transportation Commission);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PAC recommends the inclusion of Service Inspection Requirements and standards for dockless mobility devices to the amendments of Chapter 13-2: Ground Transportation Passenger Services (or Mobility Services) to require streetworthy devices with uniform requirements for durable kickstands, robust braking and suspension systems, adequate wheel sizes, stable platforms, and other standards established through best practice use;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PAC recommends 20-mph speed zone for all vehicles downtown for all traffic;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PAC supports City staff's draft Sidewalk Mobility Management Process that includes a hierarchy of solutions ranging from signage, education, enforcement, fleet management, to pedestrian-only zones;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pedestrian Advisory Council recommends an education campaign by the City encouraging safe and responsible use by residents and visitors alike, with emphasis on observing the principle of prioritizing pedestrian safety;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PAC recommends that measurable, objective criteria be established within the Sidewalk Mobility Management Process, such as defined speed limits or minimum distances for safe passing on sidewalks which provide greater clarity for enforcement officers regarding what constitutes "reasonable and prudent" behavior.

The [recommendation](#) was approved on Levinson motion, Ahmad second on a 7-0 vote with Mulcahy absent, Henderson and Wochner off of the dais, and Wald and Ahmad voting as full members.

7. Pedestrian Refuge Islands for Blackland Neighborhood (and citywide): Tom Vocke, Austin Fire, Nathan Wilkes, Austin Transportation, and John Eastman, Public Works, briefed the PAC on the inter-departmental process for the design and upcoming installation of pedestrian refuge islands at the intersections of East 20th St and Chicon St, East 22nd St and Chicon St, and East 21st and Chestnut St funded by the 2016 Mobility Bond. A delay in the approval of the designs had occurred due to a lack of transportation staff bandwidth to develop dimensional plans and drainage analyses requested by Fire Department staff reviewing the design, but the project is now moving forward.

8. City updates + general announcements:

- Heyden Walker: City Council adopted the final [Austin Strategic Mobility Plan](#) on April 11
- Jay Crossley: Council adopted policy guidance regarding a [Land Development Code](#) rewrite on May 2
- Staff liaison Emily Smith encouraged all to attend and/or promote the following events:
 - Project Connect open houses - [Orange Line Corridor Conversations](#) from May 8 to May 20
 - [Webberville Road and Oak Springs Drive](#) Open House on Thursday, May 16 from 6 - 7 p.m. at the Willie Mae Kirk Branch library
 - [Bike to Work Day](#) on Friday, May 17

9. Future Agenda Items: No discussion due to time constraints

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. by Chair Jay Crossley.

DRAFT