



**PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
July 7, 2014**

The Pedestrian Advisory convened in a regular meeting on July 7, 2014 at George Carver Library, 1165 Angelina Street (room 2), Austin, Texas.

Elected Members in Attendance

Joe Almazan
Peter Baird
Nancy Crowther
Valerie Fruge

Girard Kinney
Joel Meyer
Nic Moe
Carmen de la Morena

Marva Overton
Emily Risinger
Delfin Salazar
Mike Sledge

Guests in Attendance:

Hatty Bogucki
Carolyn Culliven
Betty Dickson
Sharon Ellerby
Justin Fruge

John Harcketts
Linda Hardy
Justin J.
Ramey Ko
Rosemary McKnight

Daniela Radpay
Sebastian St. Troy
Ed Wallace
John Woodley

Staff in Attendance:

Robert Anderson
Will Bozeman
Aleksiina Chapman

Lawrence Deeter
Pamela Larson
Katie Mulholland

Francis Reilly

CALL TO ORDER

Emily Risinger, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS (6:00 to 6:05)

Mr. Salazar asked the full and alternate members present to stand and introduce themselves. Mr. Kinney stepped in as a full-time member in Ms. Black's absentia. Mr. Mike Sledge volunteered to step in for Ms. Crowther, who resumed her full membership upon later arrival.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL (6:05 to 6:08)

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.

Mr. Salazar asked for a working group to come forward to study when pedestrian infrastructure is not being installed. He mentioned places in Hyde Park where sidewalks are going through the fee-in-lieu process and looking at when data is collected. Mr. Kinney asked if we were to assign

this to a Subcommittee, would this happen on the next agenda. Mr. Kinney made a motion to put the data/sidewalks Subcommittee on the next month's agenda, and Ms. Fruge seconded.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (6:08 to 6:10)

Ms. Fruge made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Almazan seconded. Mr. Kinney mentioned that he did not read the minutes while he was out of town and asked to postpone until later in the meeting. Mr. Salazar mentioned that this is okay today, but, at subsequent meetings all should read the minutes which are online. Ms. Risinger approved the request to bring the minutes for approval to later in the meeting.

Mr. Kinney made a correction to the eighth paragraph on page 3, to change "alley" to "access easement" and to ask for the access easement to be constructed to public street standards. Ms. Fruge made a motion to approve, Mr. Kinney seconded.

4. STAFF AND COMMISSION BRIEFINGS (6:10 to 6:15)

A. Bicycle Advisory Council / Urban Transportation Commission No updates were made on behalf of the BAC or the UTC.

B. Surgeon General's Call to Action on Walking Ms. Hansen will provide an update at the August PAC meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS (6:15 to 6:45)

A. Distracted Driving Study Group

Presentation by Edward Sledge and Ramey Ko, Distracted Driving Study Group

The Public Safety Commission made a motion to look at the issue of distracted driving, and Austin City Council passed a resolution for a Study Group to look at distracted driving specific to motorists. The Study Group expanded the resolution to look at more users of the roadway. Presenters commented that there is little controversy that the use of electronic devices is dangerous, 1/2 of the respondents say that they use electronic devices and within these respondents, 2/3 use hands-free.

The study group will be making a final recommendation by August 1st, and it may be possible to move forward to a hands-free restriction, or a complete ban. University of Utah research shows that the device is not true danger, rather, the act of talking on the phone. Mr. Edward Sledge mentioned a controlled study where drunk drivers fared better in vehicle operation than sober drivers speaking on the phone. Mr. Kinney asked about whether electronic devices extend to in-vehicle navigation systems. Mr. Ko mentioned that it likely will not, however, the Study Group does look to extend the definition of electronic devices.

Mr. Edward Sledge mentioned that the 2009 ordinance is highly unenforceable. Mr. Edward Sledge is concerned about pedestrians moving out of their protected paths while using electronic devices, but, mentioned that he is likely the only one in the study group who will support extending the recommendations to pedestrians. He hopes the PAC will support these safety recommendations if/when presented to Council. Mr. Salazar mentioned that mobile phone companies profit from minutes which are used. He applauds the work which is being done. Mr. Ko mentioned that stakeholders have discussed distracted driving with companies sensitive to the issue, and AT&T is neutral to a hands-free policy and AAA is supportive of hands-free; he sees that the City of Austin could be a model to have a strong policy for its

employees that could later be modeled in the community. The Study Group also mentioned that opportunities for education exist, such as working with radio stations to remind call-in/text-in audiences to only do so when safely pulled over. Amarillo and Corpus Christi have passed hands-free ordinances.

Mr. Kinney mentioned that the Agenda does not list “Discussion and Possible Action” with this agenda item. Ms. Risinger mentioned that we can have a discussion. Mr. Anderson said that this is his mistake, and we can take action when Mr. Moe presents the working group’s recommendations. Mr. Kinney mentioned that the recommendations to pedestrians who are in the public roadway (not right-of-way).

Mr. Ko mentioned that distractions outside of the vehicle have more impact than those inside (radio, conversations). Mr. Kinney mentioned that there is a lot of research (stemming from billboards) which show that it is the external distraction. Mr. Ko mentioned that one of their group members has looked at billboards. Ms. Crowther mentioned that AARP has a simulation to work on skills that sharpen driving and help to make a vehicle operator more aware of distractions.

Mr. Woodley asked whether the comments which are made in the Google Group are part of the discussion. Ms. Risinger clarified that we would need to repeat some of the comments as the discussion is in-person, unless Mr. Anderson has asked for specific input by a deadline. Mr. Woodley mentioned that he is opposed to extending “distracted driving” to pedestrians as there is a slippery slope to what becomes a distraction, such as a lively conversation.

6. OLD BUSINESS (6:45 to 7:45)

A. Land Development Code Working Group – Discussion and Possible Action

Presentation by: Peter Baird, Technical Subcommittee Chair

Mr. Baird refreshed the group on the role of the Comprehensive Plan, Imagine Austin, to revise the Land Development Code which addresses what can be built, how much can be built and where. Our recommendations are greatly related to the LDC document. The consultant team (local and national consultants and City Staff) have been working since summer 2013, presenting to the PAC in February 2014. PAC/BAC Working Group has met four times March-June 2014, presented to the BAC which approved the recommendations on June 17, which highlight (1) importance of Priority Programs (2) encourage density, diversity, destination accessibility, transit accessibility (3) connectivity standards, and (4) continuation of working with the PAC. Next steps are to answer questions from the PAC and move ahead.

Mr. Salazar asked about the specific recommendations, and whether PAC members have reviewed the document. Mr. Baird and Mr. Anderson mentioned that the Working Group meetings have been available to all, publicized to the listserv, bcc’d to individuals not in the Google Group, and involved PAC members. Ms. De La Morena mentioned that it would be beneficial to have one location to see all documents. Mr. Anderson said time is critical to submit the document as soon as possible because CodeNEXT continues to make progress on revisions to the Code. He said it would not be possible to take action on the item in 10 days as per Mr. Salazar’s request because action has to be taken in a regular meeting. Ms. Chapman mentioned that the BAC moved to support the recommendations even though not all members of the group had read the document. Several individuals working on the

document spoke on behalf of specific areas of the document to inform the others. Mr. Salazar asked how the PAC will suffer if we wait a month; Mr. Anderson mentioned that the CodeNEXT team is working to have alternative approaches developed by the end of the summer. Mr. Moe mentioned that at each meeting there have been more than a dozen attendees who look at the document line-by-line. Mr. Kinney mentioned that we as a group need to have trust in the core group or we will not move forward. Ms. Crowther mentioned that she has been involved and has read the document and finds herself responsible to vote to recommend. Mr. Anderson mentioned that it is the expectation of the members to prepare ahead of the meeting in order for the meeting time to be effectively used.

Ms. Risinger mentioned that since there is disagreement, she will invoke Robert's Rules of Order for the full-standing members to take a vote. Ms. Risinger made a motion to recommend the PAC Recommendations as written and Ms. Crowther seconded. Mr. Salazar elected to discuss and feels comfortable with the mindset of most in the room, but, does not want the group to be doing business through Google Groups. Ms. Risinger thanked the Working Group for the integrity, content and comprehensive nature of the content. Full-Standing members in support: Almazan, Baird, Crowther, Fruge, Kinney, Moe, Risinger, Delfin Salazar (Mr. Salazar had not read the document before the meeting and so offered his support the following day by phone to Mr. Anderson.)

Mr. Kinney asked for the group to be notified that there will be Action on an item. Mr. Baird mentioned informing the group at the meeting ahead of time, and then highlighting in the agenda. Mr. Anderson mentioned that this is listed on the present agenda by "Discussion and Possible Action."

B. Subcommittee Reports

Presentation by: Nic Moe, Projects Subcommittee Chair

Mr. Moe mentioned that that a new Projects Subcommittee on Distracted Driving met last week. Ms. Crowther asked about whether the group is meeting regularly. Individuals interested in attending who have not already expressed interest can contact Mr. Moe.

Distracted Driving Projects Subcommittee met last week. The Subcommittee represented diverse interests and came up with three recommendations:

- (1) Unanimously agreed that clarifying what electronic devices composes distracted driving
- (2) State of Texas licenses those operating cars, but, there is no licensure for pedestrians. We should look at this from the opinion of drivers.
- (3) Regarding bicyclists: can be looked at as (a) vulnerable road users (b) including them as motorists (c) not addressing bicyclists in the recommendations.

Ms. Overton mentioned that the final sentence *the PAC would not support any new ordinance to ban these electronic distractions for pedestrian* lets pedestrians off the hook for culpability. Ms. De La Morena mentioned that it is a driver's responsibility to look for pedestrians. Mr. Salazar brought up that there is post-traumatic stress involved in any collision and the pedestrian should take responsibility. Ms. Bogucki made a clarification that there are already laws in place that hold a pedestrian responsible for traffic infractions and we do not need a second layer of laws. Ms. De La Morena mentioned that there are other aspects of law that don't provide for safety in the roadway, such as the built environment (Land Development Code), traffic & pedestrian signals which are in conflict (Transportation

Criteria Manual), or advertisements (Land Development Code). Mr. Kinney brought up a previously raised question that when there is a crossing of two streets, it is an implied intersection, and the pedestrian has the right-of-way, whether it is marked or unmarked. This allows a texting pedestrian to be able to cross an unmarked crossing and have the right-of-way.

Mr. Salazar summarized comments to two areas of concern, where the built environment puts a pedestrian in danger, and that a pedestrian can put herself or himself in danger. Ms. Bogucki mentioned that *if* a general application of the proposed distracted driving recommendations were to apply to pedestrians, it would make it illegal to talk on the phone in a neighborhood without sidewalks. Mr. Moe mentioned that the recommendations include an education component.

Ms. De La Morena mentioned to put the sentence stating “Pedestrians obeying traffic lights...” Before “Crosswalks must remain inviolable spaces for pedestrians...” to establish that the prior sentence expresses a law-abiding pedestrian.

Mr. Edward Sledge mentioned that he will forward a study to the group. Mr. Kinney mentioned that if we raise the point that pedestrians are not licensed, we should ask the bicycle community to address the same point, since they also are not licensed. Ms. Chapman mentioned that there has been an online conversation within the BAC on this topic, but, there is no study group. Ms. Mulholland asked the PAC to take a stance on a complete ban. Mr. Edward Sledge brought back up that a hands-free ordinance is not safer than an ordinance that allows a person to be distracted by electronic devices. Ms. Crowther asked for us to research State Law and how it handles “distractions”; Mr. Baird confirmed that there is a paragraph that discusses distractions. Ms. Bogucki brought up that we really need to be careful with how we define electronic devices, as this can now include automobiles themselves. Mr. Anderson mentioned that we presently have a “no texting while driving” rule.

Mr. Moe asked the group to weigh in on a stance towards bicyclists (A, B, or C in the document). Mr. Mike Sledge mentioned it may be an issue of how they are using the roadway. Mr. Baird mentioned that it may be best to leave this to the BAC. Mr. Anderson spelled out the difficulty of addressing on behalf of both groups as presenting to the BAC and looping back around would not happen before the Study Group’s timeline of August 1. Ms. Chapman stated that if the group wants to have a stance towards bicyclists they can go ahead and address this.

Mr. Moe asked for recommendations given the changes discussed (1) citation in paragraph 1, (2) addressing pedestrian right-of-way and (3) adding State Driver’s Handbook information. Ms. Ringer asked to make wording changes to state “accessible design” since design is subjective. Mr. Mike Sledge spoke to how devices built into vehicles’ consoles provide the same level of distractions. Mr. Baird suggested “The use of electronic devices, either handheld or built in...” to expand the definition of electronic devices. Mr. Kinney made a motion to endorse the group’s recommendations, and Mr. Almazan seconded.

C. Full-Member Re-Election Identification

Four full-members will serve their time through October 2014, and five full-members will serve their terms through October 2015, as written in the bylaws. Members were asked to draw slips of paper to determine their date of re-election to achieve staggered elections.

Re-election October 2014: Joe Almazan, Nancy Crowther, Valerie Fruge, Emily Risinger, Delfin Salazar

Re-election October 2015: Peter Baird, Ramah Leith, Nic Moe, Heyden Walker (Alternate members drew slips on behalf of Ms. Leith and Ms. Walker who were not physically present)

7. FUTURE BUSINESS (7:45 to 7:50)

A. CTG Walkability Assessment Results

Results of walkability assessments will be presented at the following meeting.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPDATES (7:50 – 8:00)

- Summer meeting locations:
 - Aug. 4: Twin Oaks Branch Library, rooms 1 & 2, 1800 S Fifth St.
 - Sept. 8: Little Walnut Creek Branch Library, 835 W Rundberg Lane
(NOTE: This meeting has been scheduled for September 8 because of the Labor Day Holiday).

Mr. Anderson mentioned that rooms may change since the PAC's Technology needs to facilitate meetings for all members.

- Complete Streets Policy adopted unanimously at June 12 City Council. PAC comments were not integrated into the policy.

Mr. Kinney asked how the recommendations were shared. Mr. Anderson mentioned that the recommendations were shared to Staff and to a Council aid. Mr. Kinney mentioned that we should follow up expressing the group's disappointment. PAC will address how this may be when Chair Walker returns.

- Cima Serena Homes subdivision was approved (street was connected) as per Code requirements and consistent with PAC recommendation.
- Leadership Austin – The Imagine One Information Series
 - Monday, July 28 – Land Use and Transportation
LRCA Dalchau Service Center, 3505 Montopolis Drive

To register:

<http://leadershipaustin.org/2014/06/13/the-imagine-one-austin-information-series/>

- Navigating MAP-21 Workshop: The Route to Federal Funding for Your Community
 - Monday, August 4th
With a focus on the new transportation bill, participants will learn how to maximize funding in the new Transportation Alternatives program and utilize all MAP-21 funding programs for bike/ped at the state and local levels.

We invite you to register for this one-day workshop, locally hosted by TxDOT, CAMPO, and Bike Texas.

To register:

<http://www.advocacyadvance.org/trainings>

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 without objection.

Pedestrian Advisory Council Attendance

	Name	June 2	July 7	Aug 4	Sept 8
F	Joe Almazan	○	●		
F	Peter Baird	●	●		
F	Nancy Crowther	●	●		
F	Valerie Fruge	●	●		
F	Ramah Leith	●	●		
F	Nic Moe	●	●		
F	Emily Risinger (Vice-Chair)	●	●		
F	Delfin Salazar	●	●		
F	Heyden Walker (Chair)	●	✓		
A	Janet Beinke	●	✓		
A	Ken Craig	●	✓		
A	Dan Keshet	✓	✓		
A	Girard Kinney	●	●		
A	Jessica Lemann	✓	✓		
A	Nathan Lynch	✓	✓		
A	Joel Meyer	✓	●		
A	Carmen de la Morena-Chu	●	●		
A	Marva Overton	✓	●		
A	Kathy Rock	●	✓		
A	Mike Sledge	○	●		
A	Luke Urie	✓	✓		
A	Virginia Wilkinson	●	✓		
F = Full Member, A = Alternate Member ● Present ○ Excused Absence ✓ Unexcused Absence					

Technical Subcommittee Attendance

	Name	June 11*			
F	Peter Baird (Chair)	●			
F	Nic Moe	●			
F	Emily Risinger	○			
A	Carmen de la Morena-Chu	✓			
A	Kathy Rock	●			
A	Luke Urie	●			
A	Virginia Wilkinson	○			
C	Gwen Jewiss	✓			
C	Alix Scarborough	●			
F = Full Member, A = Alternate Member, C = Community Member ● Present ○ Excused Absence ✓ Unexcused Absence					

* Members of first Technical Subcommittee meeting will be allowed an excused absence.

Project Subcommittee Attendance

	Name	July 1*			
F	Ramah Leith	●			
F	Nic Moe (Chair)	●			
A	Janet Beinke	○			
A	Virginia Wilkinson	○			
C	Hatty Bogucki	●			
C	Capital Metro (Lawrence Deeter or Caitlin White)	●			
C	Christian Malanka	●			
F = Full Member, A = Alternate Member, C = Community Member ● Present ○ Excused Absence ✓ Unexcused Absence					

* Members of first Project Subcommittee meeting will be allowed an excused absence due to short notice.