



**PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
*September 8, 2014***

The Pedestrian Advisory convened in a regular meeting on September 8, 2014 at One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Road (8th Floor, Conference Room 8A), Austin, Texas.

Elected Members in Attendance

Joe Almazan
Janet Beinke
Nancy Crowther
Valerie Fruge

Ramah Leith
Nathan Lynch
Nic Moe
Marva Overton

Luke Urie
Heyden Walker
Virginia Wilkinson

Guests in Attendance

Justin Fruge
Jennie Glasscock
Lisa Hinely

Richard Kelley
Daniela Radpay
Jeff Rowe

John Woodley
Ed Wallace

Staff in Attendance:

Robert Anderson
Aleksiina Chapman
Caitlin D'Alton

Lawrence Deeter
Christian Malanka
Stephen Ratke
Pamela Larson

Katie Mulholland
Francis Reilly
Andy Webre

CALL TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:12 p.m.

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

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

No citizen communication offered

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

A few changes were made in advance by Mr. Baird and Mr. Kinney. Mr. Almazan made a motion to approve the minutes. With no opposition the minutes were approved.

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

A. Bicycle Advisory Council / Urban Transportation Commission

Ms. Chapman provided information on the downtown stop at 4th Street, she assumes that the PAC will hear about this. The proposed plan includes a pedestrian plaza at 4th Street. The BAC recommended that the proposed improvements to the downtown gateway station remove vehicle access except for emergency vehicles. Chair Walker mentioned that it would be good to have.

B. Surgeon General's Call to Action on Walking

A report provided ahead by Kristy Hansen noted that the National Committee has not met since late July, but thinks that the 4th and final meeting will be soon. The Call to Walking is still expected to be issued this Fall.

5. NEW BUSINESS (6:15 to 7:30)

A. Transportation Network Companies – Discussion and Possible Action

Presentation by: Leah Bojo, Council Member Riley's Office

Ms. Bojo is providing a briefing on Transportation Network Companies such as Uber and Lyft coming to Austin. These companies are operating in town. APD has impounded about 50 vehicles out of the thousands of rides. The Stakeholder Group will be working on Code Solutions for TNCs and proposes to put them under Operating groups so they can continue to work for the year while the Stakeholder Group is working. There is believed to be a long-term solution, though it will take time, such as to define a TNC. The options would either to be to take large legal action and attempt to shut down the TNC, or to permit them. Ed asked how TNCs would work with other actual ridesharing companies such as Carma. Uber made a case that its work during SXSW was legal since there was not fiscal exchange during the ridesharing. City then defined for-hire as anything where the cost is less than \$0.56/mile federal reimbursement rate. Carma operates at the Federal reimbursement level, and operates without background checks for drivers. Ms. Fruge asked about the background checks for Uber drivers. Officer Malanka asked about the chauffeur's license which is required of even pedicab drivers. Ms. Bojo mentioned that this will not be required at-present, but the Stakeholders Group may request. There is also a \$1 million insurance policy. Ms. Bojo mentioned that there is the opportunity to enforce all groups legally Ms. Crowther mentioned that the disabled community has issue with TNCs as they don't have the same level of service. Ms. Bojo mentioned that speaking with Jennifer and David the present contract is not great, but, neither are taxis. Draft contract will ask for Uber and Lyft, and other groups, to set aside money from the compensation to figure out how to serve people with ADA accommodations. Chicago is hiring drivers with ADA-vehicles, which isn't adding new vehicles, just keeping them in motion. There is an opportunity to keep vehicles with ADA accommodations. Ed asked whether the drivers of ADA vehicles have to meet a higher level of expertise; Lyft is working on additional training, and this is being worked into Austin's contract. Ms. Beinke asked whether Lyft and Uber are held to the fare standards at the Austin Bergstrom International Airport. San Francisco does not allow Lyft and Uber to operate at the airport. Mr. Almazan asked about the operating hours of Lyft and Uber, which would be year round and at all hours.

B. Lightsey II Subdivision – Discussion and Possible Action

Presentation by: Ross Wilson, PSW

Chair Walker gave an overview that the stub street should connect per code however there is opposition from the neighborhood on this connection.

Mr. Wilson presented on the 4-acre tract on Lightsey and Del Curto which is on the boundary of the South Lamar Neighborhood. There are 16 lots and 31 units, Aldwich Drive will connect to Lightsey Road, and the consultant is working to extend the sidewalk onto Lightsey Road into Del Curto and will then connect to a pocket park. There are 16 heritage trees, and they will remove one tree to provide the road through the site, and have worked with low impact drive and curvature changes to protect the 15 trees. They are on the PC agenda for tomorrow, but, will likely be postponed.

Mr. Deeter asked for the purpose of presenting this project. Mr. Wilson is presenting since Cima Serena, a former project was requested, and PAC provided a letter of support for that project.

The SLN Executive Committee has adopted a position on the proposed connection between Aldwyche Drive and Lightsey Road. The SLNEC is in favor of a connection between these areas but only for pedestrians and bicycles.

SLNEC asks that only foot and bike traffic submitted by Nancy McClain, past president and executive secretary. Mr. Deeter lives in this area off of Lightsey Road and is nervous about cut-through traffic. Jennie Glasscock, former president of Barton Oaks presented on City Code, asks to BONA will take that section of code to the Board of Adjustments for the Code Section. SLNA worked on Lightsey I and provided their opinions of what they would want done to the Lightsey I parcel. Ms. Glasscock mentioned that the angle of entrance is 100 degrees, which is not the preferred angle for sight. Ms. Glasscock spoke to the angle of the turn of Lightsey and Del Curto. She also raised an issue that due to the large driveways Barton Oaks don't utilize on-street parking, but, that the denser development would push parked cars onto the existing segment of Aldwyche Drive. Ms. Glasscock mentioned that they have a Proposed Street "A" that puts two cul-de-sacs with a pedestrian connection. BONA will present to PC, Environmental Board. Mr. Almazan asked about the positions on Lightsey I. Lightsey I was denied a road because the proposal could not prove the stopping sight distance. PSW has asked that the curve be considered at 25 mph, and no car was over 23mph; Ms. Glasscock said that there was one car at 26mph and that there are 2700 cars a day. Mr. Moe mentioned that if there is a road built it would connect two neighborhoods that are adjacent but not connected and asked how the suggested pedestrian path would provide connections for the immense superblock in this area stretching from Bluebonnet to Ben White. Ms. Chapman asked of PSW why the pedestrian/bicycle easement which is proposes couldn't be done.

Mr. Anderson mentioned a key reason this case was accepted for discussion at the PAC was because access, mobility, connectivity are key themes in the subdivision cases the group has heard. There is a tension where older neighborhoods that do not have sidewalks are being connected to newer developments that will have sidewalks. Mr. Anderson has an interest in the PAC helping to identify solutions as these development issues will continue to happen.

Ms. Wilkinson mentioned that the increase in traffic on some of the roads in Austin as the city grows that there is detriment to the safety of the neighborhoods. Mr. Deeter mentioned that he is not opposed to connectivity but the neighborhood is built poorly for the pedestrian. There needs to be greater enforcement and pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure.

Ms. Larson discussed the width of the roadway on Aldwyche Drive in the extension will not enable high speeds for cut-through traffic. Ms. Glasscock mentioned that the roadway will open up into the existing Aldwyche and then traffic will flow at fast speeds. Ms. Larson mentioned that there is opportunity to provide traffic calming through the Neighborhood Partnering Program. Ms. Glasscock mentioned that all changes are reactive and not proactive. Mr. Kelly mentioned that the land has not been developed for 50 years.. Ms. Walker mentioned that throughout central Austin as we densify our corridors there will be many issues with how to slow the traffic and the answer is not present. A guest mentioned that the connection is important but if there is a way to keep traffic from moving fast through the neighborhood is important. Additionally on "Dead Man's Curve" there should be ways to slow the neighborhood. As multiple connections are made the tapestry of a connected street network will distribute traffic throughout and not create a burden. Ms. Wilkinson mentioned that traffic will be distributed from Manchaca where it queues and will then be funneled into Bouldin. There is a case for when improvements in connections are made there could be opportunities to trigger traffic calming. Officer Malanka mentioned that allowing connections will give up opportunities for pedestrian and bicycling connections and that speed humps/traffic circles do not have a high success of slowing down traffic for safety.

Mr. Wilson mentioned that they have worked collaboratively with Austin Transportation Department and variances on the roadway have been with the involvement of the City. There are sidewalks on both sides of the road, and are working on providing a safe pedestrian access to the park through collaboration with land owners and Public Works Department. PSW would like to improve safety on so-called "Dead Man's Curve".

If streets are not assigned a speed limit, we assume a 30 mph speed limit. Mr. Kelly mentioned that the Transportation Criteria Manual doesn't provide guidance for 25mph. Mr. Almazan mentioned that AASHTO provides guidance on roadway design on curves and slopes.

Ms. Crowther mentioned that we should reiterate our mission and focus on pedestrian issues. Ms. Kelly mentioned that if this was built out 50 years ago it would have connected and matched the character of the neighborhood. A guest asked the group to get in their cars and drive Aldwyche Drive.

Ms. Beinke mentioned that the PAC may benefit from meeting with Land Use Review and Transportation Staff so we can discuss the variety of connections. Chair Walker mentioned that there are problems with the TCM which governs our roadway design and we need to figure out ways to change what was done in the past.

No motion was offered.

6. OLD BUSINESS (7:30 to 7:50)

A. Subcommittee Reports

The Technical Subcommittee Chair is out of town. The Technical Subcommittee will monitor the Land Development Code, continue with Complete Streets, the Sidewalk Master Plan Update; interest was raised for the Downtown Wayfinding Program - the PAC will get a briefing on signage and kiosks, and potentially may help on design and layouts. The Technical Subcommittee may also pursue obstacles to pedestrianism during construction depending on the outcome of a meeting to discuss Wayfinding.

The Projects Subcommittee is continuing with a draft recommendation to City Council to create a Study Group to look at Vision Zero, a goal to reduce deaths and serious injuries in roadways to zero. The Project Subcommittee is working on developing a brief memo, research for figures, best practices in other cities, and pedestrian safety to present to Council along with a recommendation to create a Task Force to look more fully at the issue. Members of the Subcommittee have a work plan and will be presenting to boards and commissions through October.

A second item is looking at Agency Representatives on the PAC, who are invited to participate in the PAC, designated by their agency to be the liaison to the PAC. Liaisons include COA PDR, PWD, ATD; Travis County, State of Texas Facilities Commission Planning and Real Estate Management, and UT Parking and Transportation Services. Mr. Anderson mentioned some potential agencies which were suggested in the bylaws. Agencies which have been attending (such as APD and CapMetro) are interested in continuing attendance and do not need a specific liaison position. Chair Walker mentioned including the school districts and not Texas Facilities Commission as they often do not work frequently on different committees. Ms. Crowther asked for a representative for the visually impaired. Mr. Moe mentioned that there are also Organization Representatives Chris Cole has organization and mobility trainers, and HHS Disability and Rehabilitation Services. Motion was made for HHS DARS to be involved in place of COA PDRD. There is a Community Liaison Office within APD that could come for specific items. Mr. Anderson mentioned that removing an agency, such as PDR, which presently attends could have negative implications should staff move to other job responsibilities. The agencies include HHS DARS, COA PWD, COATD, TC, AISD and UT P&TS.

Chair Walker made a motion to replace COA PDR and TFC with HHS DARS and AISD. The motion passed without objection.

Ramah will reach out to DARS and Lawrence will connect with UT Parking & Transportation Services. Mr. Moe will begin reaching out to other groups. Mr. Almazan will reach out to PWD Staff. Mr. Almazan will discuss with PWD for connections to AISD, and PWD can be good for Safe Routes to School & the Transportation Criteria Manual.

7. FUTURE BUSINESS (7:50 to 7:55)

A. October - Elections for those serving partial terms

Mr. Anderson reminded that paper slips were drawn to determine the staggered elections: 5 seats will be up for re-election in Fall 2014, this includes Valerie, Joe, Delfin, Emily and Nancy. Mr. Anderson is interested in looking for 3-4 people who can serve on the election subcommittee, per the bylaws. The 3-4 person subcommittee should be made up of people not seeking one of the open seats. Alternates and people without full or alternate standing are welcome to serve on the subcommittee, and they will make recommendations. Daniela, Heyden, and Virginia volunteered serve on the re-election subcommittee.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPDATES (7:55 to 8:00)

- PARK(ing) Day will be Friday, September 19, 2014 on Congress Avenue.
- Lightsey II Subdivision to be heard by Planning Commission Tuesday, September 9.
- ***Complete Streets Workshop***, September 15, 2014, 6-8pm, Carver Museum Theater, 1185 Angelina Street, Austin, TX 78702

Registration is required. Please register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcoming-everyone-to-austins-streets-a-community-workshop-on-complete-streets-tickets-12837568513>

A workshop featuring facilitators from the National Complete Streets Coalition and Austin's Transportation Department Director to discuss how Austin's policy will be implemented and to provide input.

- [Bicycle Advisory Council](#) meets September 16, 6pm. Location to be determined.
- **Free Webinar on Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Operations**, September 17, 1:00-2:30.

To register, visit <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/306931298>

A webinar to discuss a new guide for conducting effective pedestrian safety enforcement operations. The guide, to be released this summer is entitled *Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Operations: A How-To Guide*. (These are recorded and can be seen after the date)

- [Urban Transportation Commission](#) meets on September 18. Location to be determined.
- **Distracted Driving Ordinance**
Council passed the distracted driving ordinance which PAC made recommendations on. Because of amendments, the law department is still finalizing language. Here is a [draft version](#). The ordinance requires hands-free operation of electronic devices and applies to motor vehicles and bicyclists, but not to pedestrians. The ordinance does not apply to motor vehicles stopped at stop lights which are at a complete stop.
- **Urban Trails Master Plan**
The Council did not hear this item at the August 28/29 meeting. Council will consider this item at the September 25 Council meeting. The draft Plan is [here](#).
- **Survey for Travis County land, water, and transportation plans.** The direct link to the survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/lwtp2014>
For Public meeting schedule, visit <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/lwtp/>

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:09p.m.

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*	July	Aug 27	October 1
F	Peter Baird (Chair)	•	no mtng	•	•
F	Nic Moe	•	no mtng	✓	•
F	Emily Risinger	○	no mtng	•	•
A	Carmen de la Morena-Chu	✓	no mtng	✓	✓
A	Kathy Rock	•	no mtng	•	✓
A	Luke Urie	•	no mtng	✓	✓
A	Virginia Wilkinson	○	no mtng	✓	•
C	Gwen Jewiss	✓	no mtng	✓	✓
C	Alix Scarborough	•	no mtng	✓	✓
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*	July 23	Aug 26	Sept 12
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.