



**PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
February 2, 2015**

The Pedestrian Advisory convened in a regular meeting on February 2, 2015 at City Hall, 301 W 2nd Street, staff bull pen.

Elected Members in Attendance

Joe Almazan
Peter Baird
Janet Beinke
Nancy Crowther

Valerie Fruge
Girard Kinney
Ramah Leith
Nic Moe

Emily Risinger
Mike Sledge
Luke Urie
Heyden Walker

Guests in Attendance

Hatty Bogucki
Lisa Hinely

Daniela Radpay
Patricia Schaub

Tom Wald
John Woodley

Staff and Agency Representatives in Attendance:

Robert Anderson
Doug Ballew

Alan De Anda
Lawrence Deeter

Chelsea Donahue
Stephen Ratke

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:05

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

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.

John Woodley pointed out that the Pedestrian Advisory Council is not listed on the Board and Commission calendar. Staff clarified that the PAC is an associated entity and so is not listed with the official Boards and Commissions. The meeting calendar is on the PAC webpage.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Fruge moved to approve minutes. Mr. Almazan seconded. No opposition was expressed.

4. STAFF AND COMMISSION BRIEFINGS

A. Bicycle Advisory Council / Urban Transportation Commission

No staff present.

B. Surgeon General's Call to Action on Walking

Complications at federal level has delayed release until summer of 2015.

5. Staff Briefings

A. Safe Routes to School – Briefing and Possible Action

Presentation by: Alan de Anda, Chelsea Donahue, Public Works Department

Ms. Donahue presented. She said she is the Engagement Coordinator for Safe Routes to School Program.

Safe routes is an international movement with two goals: 1) Get more kids walking and biking; 2) Make routes safe.

In the late 1960s about half of children walked or biked. But, in 2009 only 13% walked, and 44% were driven to school.

The Safe Routes to School Program is located in the Community Services Division within Public Works. Also within the Division is the Urban Trails program and the Neighborhood Partnering Program. Safe Routes hires all crossing guards for all schools within City of Austin boundaries, performs safety education, and performs school engagement to encourage more biking and walking on their campuses.

Safe Routes under the Health Department previously.

Focus on the 5 Es: Education, Encouragement (walking school buses, walk to school day), Evaluation, Engineering (physically safe infrastructure present), and Enforcement (speeding in school zones).

Engagement team works with schools as schools self-identify, to help with event planning and implementation, training of parents, and hosting bike rodeos.

Launching 'the hub' active transportation tracking system to track who is walking and biking to school to encourage via competition.

Mr. De Anda discussed mapping efforts.

He said first they needed to identify what is a safe route. The first prototype of the map looked at Low speed limits, low traffic volumes, presence of sidewalks, and presence of bicycle facilities. These elements are not always present with schools.

The second prototype of the map looked at "Quiet Street" determined by lower speed limits, well-connected street grid. Park trails and bridges provide key connections. The maps for internal use and analysis include missing sidewalks.

Hill Elementary is a third school for which they are making maps. The school is surrounded by high speed roads which makes crossings difficult. For this map, not including where sidewalks are missing.

They are not quite to the point of recommending routes. Mr. De Anda said they are seeking comments from the PAC.

Ms. Hinely asked if there are risks or perceived risks other than traffic speed.

Ms. Donahue said maps will be developed individually for all schools. Depending on other concerns (loose dogs, for instance), they may be able to identify those concerns for each school. Crime is more difficult to map and said it is less of an issue during school hours. Ms. Hinely said APD has a really sophisticated mapping system to break down crime by hour.

Mr. De Anda also said that the maps will be static for the purpose of schools to print out for youth to use, and there is a limit to the amount of information they can convey.

Ms. Walker said in her experience crossings guards are mostly at corners. Ms. Donahue said they do provide guards at critical intersections. Pedestrian counts are done on semester basis to justify the continuation of, or evaluating the need for, a guard. She said there are budget constraints and lack of response to some job postings.

Mr. Kinney was not aware that crossing guards are paid positions. He asked if there is a way for individuals to volunteer? Ms. Donahue said, yes, they are happy to train volunteers. There are a few unpaid positions.

Ms. Fruge belongs to the African American Alliance for Healthy Living in Central Texas to focus on obesity through active transportation in people of color. She asked if anyone has done studies with obesity rates for people of color? Ms. Donahue said this hasn't been done through Austin's safe routes to school but many studies have done. She also says that Go! Austin/Vamos! Austin is a partner in initiatives.

Ms. Crowther asked about the lack of sidewalk information to inform sidewalk construction, particularly so individuals with disabilities can navigate to school. Mr. De Anda says internal maps convey more information, including missing sidewalk information. He said their goal is to convey important information in as concise a manner as possible.

Mr. Ballew congratulated staff on the production of maps to this point. Previous GIS mapping efforts were found to be too complicated. He also said diagrams of where students live can help to inform mapping and crossing guard location. School districts have maps of where students live.

Mr. Baird asked about whether the pedestrian counts that are performed could also be put on map to show what the most popular routes are. He said parents might feel more comfortable sending their children along a path with more children. Also, that information could direct attention away from the negative aspects of dangerous intersection, and instead on the positives of popular crossing points.

Mr. Moe said there is no way that children's residential density around schools would be made public, but could be useful to staff. Also, he said when he was in school a lot of his paths to school were not in the right of way, but were off of the street network. Mr. De Anda said his thought was to give maps to teachers and children to get feedback, to draw on maps to show their chosen paths. Ms. Donahue said that is a good tool but there are potential safety and liability issues of telling children to use off-road paths.

Ms. Donahue said children within 2 miles of a school do not qualify for bussing unless it's a hazard. But, many students within the 2 mile buffer aren't walking or biking. So, there are efforts to get them to use active modes, and to coordinate parental drop off points.

Ms. Crowther asked about railroad crossing points, too.

Ms. Donahue said most work has been with elementary schools. She said they are starting to work with middle schools. A program is about to launch called “Go Smart” targeted to middle school children. It is launching with 4 middle schools this semester with plans to expand.

Mr. Woodley said Palmer Lane and Metric is a big problem area with children crossing the street against the signalization. Ms. Donahue said that is exactly the point of the Go Smart program. She said they are hoping that next year all the middle schools will participate.

Ms. Donahue said their program doesn't staff crossing guards at middle schools or high schools.

Mr. Kinney said there is a lot of education needed in this area. He said that a lot of programs operate with incentives, but they need to be penalties, too, for repeat violators of street crossings that involve law enforcements, parents, etc. Ms. Donahue said some Principals are very involved and create a culture where students obey. She said some programs such as detention would be of interest to them.

Ms. Walker asked who decides where school zones are located? Ms. Donahue said they've recently had meeting with Lamar Middle School. Qualifications for school zones are quite specific – the interest is in keeping them as short as possible. Lamar Middle School has some TXDOT roads, so more complicated.

Ms. Donahue offered to speak more in detail for individuals that are interested.

6. PROJECT SUBCOMMITTEE

A. Vision Zero Update – Discussion and Possible Action

Presentation by: Nic Moe, Project Subcommittee Chair

First Vision Zero Task Force met nearly two weeks ago. He said he was very impressed with the group assembled, and the excitement.

Mr. Moe said the introductions component, in particular, was really useful to hear the particular skills and perspectives of those involved.

He said there were fifty-three people invited, and thirty-eight attended. Mr. Moe said there was a conversation about missing stakeholders. Some groups identified were AISD and UT police, state health department, business groups including DAA, the service industry, more neighborhood representation, CAMPO, taxi drivers, homeless community, and delivery industry/freight industry.

He said the group talked about the history and theory of Vision Zero. And, an exercise was performed to help identify what the goals of the group were for the year.

The meeting also discussed the timeline for the year.

Lisa mentioned that our Vision Zero Task Force runs longer than the city budget cycle and so we should consider that.

Ms. Walker asked if the group should send name recommendations to staff for Task Force holes. Staff confirmed that he would receive recommendations.

Peter mentioned he had a conversation on Vision Zero with Mayor Steve Adler. He was not aware of our efforts.

7. TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

A. Construction Barriers – Briefing and Possible Action

Presentation by: Peter Baird, Technical Subcommittee Chair

Peter asked if there were comments on the note. Mr. Woodley said the stripes weren't repainted post-construction on Guadalupe.

Mr. Baird said it might be programmed to be repainted but the mechanism is still to use 311.

Ms. Donahue confirmed that there is sometimes simply a lag between construction projects and repainting.

Ms. Risinger discussed the memorandum. She said it outlines challenges to construction projects for maintaining pedestrian access.

She said the Technical Subcommittee researched best practices and documented local problems through photographs. Mr. Moe gave a presentation previously to the full PAC on how to use the 311 app for reporting construction barriers. Mr. Redfern of the Right of Way Management Division of the Transportation Department also briefed the Technical Subcommittee and presented on his goal to create certification program for standards.

Ms. Risinger said the PAC recommendation is to support the creation of a certification program and to encourage everyone to continue using 311.

Ms. Walker said it would be helpful if full PAC voted to endorse recommendations. Ms. Crowther moved to endorse, Mr. Kinney seconded. No opposition was expressed.

B. Sidewalk Master Plan – Briefing

Presentation by: Peter Baird, Technical Subcommittee Chair

Mr. Baird provided an overview of work to date on the Sidewalk Master Plan update, including meeting with Public Works staff and presenting to the full PAC on shared streets which is one element of the update.

Mr. Baird said it is time for the Technical Subcommittee to meet again for this project (February 19). He said he is interested in a clearer timeline from the project staff.

He said there is also a need for the PAC to develop its work plan.

Mr. Kinney said Stevie Greathouse (Planning and Development Review staff) met with Upper Boggy Creek Contact Team to discuss evolution of Sidewalk Master Plan and funding. He said there is a need to identify all potential funding sources for sidewalk construction.

Mr. Kinney said the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association was asked to update their sidewalk construction priorities.

Mr. Sledge said a lot of these questions were directed to John Eastman to inform Sidewalk Master Plan process.

Ms. Walker suggested the Sidewalk Master Plan should be disseminated through the staff responsible for Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams.

Mr. Kinney asked if there was any information on the evolution of the 2018 bond proposal. Staff said he did not have any information.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Bylaw Amendments – Discussion and Possible Action

Presentation by: Robert Anderson, PAC Staff

Staff presented on bylaw changes made since the last meeting. Changes include language clarifying that subcommittee chairs are responsible for attendance and minutes of subcommittees, and includes language for a Vision Zero subcommittee to avoid members of the PAC already serving on that project from being required to serve on another subcommittee. All other changes were discussed at previous meetings.

Peter asked to transfer language from first sentence of page four (“All Full members must be a member of either the Project Subcommittee or Technical Subcommittees....”) to also be on page 9, replacing the text which is the second paragraph under Article IX, Section 1A.

Nic asked if we would have to vote on this next month. Staff confirmed that if we agree on the language tonight, we can vote on it next month.

Ms. Walker asked if there is opposition. No opposition received.

B. Creation of Vision Zero Subcommittee – Discussion and Possible Action

Ms. Walker said the rationale for creating a Vision Zero Subcommittee is to avoid individuals being required to serve on multiple subcommittees.

Ms. Risinger also said that the rationale was to support Mr. Kinney’s recommendation to maintain the Project Subcommittee in case a project arose that required their attention.

Ms. Fruge moved to create the Vision Zero Subcommittee. Girard seconded.

No opposition.

Ms. Walker clarified there is a need for a Chair. She asked if Nic wanted to be the Chair. Nic Accepted

Nic said he is willing to remain Chair of the Project Subcommittee or to allow someone else. Girard recommended the Chair position for the Project Subcommittee remain vacant until the subcommittee is needed and a Chair position is required.

Mr. Kinney asked about alternative attendance requirements for regular PAC meetings. He said the rubric for the full meetings should apply similarly (*in some fashion) to the subcommittees. Staff said he is leaving that administrative element to the subcommittee chairs and expressed a preference for the Subcommittee Chairs to use similar criteria.

C. Alternate Member Vacancies – Discussion and Possible Action

Heyden said there has been an issue with attendance. Dan Keshet and Nathan Lynch have indicated their interest (to Heyden and Girard) to not participate. Ms. Heyden suggested reaching out to Mr. Meyer and Ms. Leman for participation.

Staff said the broad question is whether the group wishes to maintain at 10 alternate members or to hold elections after resignations have reached a “critical threshold”. The resignations last month and the lack of attendance raises questions about how many active alternate members are present in meetings.

A decision was reached to offer elections for next month’s meeting for alternates.

Mr. Kinney offered recommendation that the elections be open to others who have not attended previously. Ms. Risinger said that the application stipulated a requirement to have had attended a meeting to be eligible.

Ms. Beinke recommended geographic diversity be a factor, too, in electing members. Mr. Kinney said that 10-1 district boundaries would be a way of achieving that. Ms. Beinke said that would also be helpful to get the word out.

Ms. Fruge said her employer has a large meeting room available (corner of Springdale and MLK). She said the community room is free to everyone.

9. FUTURE BUSINESS

A. First Annual Report

The bylaws reflect sentiment within the group to provide report-outs to the community, potentially through an annual report.

Mr. Moe asked if the Facebook page would satisfy that bylaw requirement (Article II, Section 4B). Ms. Crowther said the Google list serve also works. Mr. Bair said an annual party would help to celebrate successes. Ms. Crowther also said a list of accomplishments would be good to reflect back upon.

Ms. Walker and Ms. Risinger and Ms. Crowther volunteered to help with a report to show a list of accomplishments and actions that can be used to communicate to other groups and the community.

Mr. Black said a simple chronological list of actions would be useful to refer back to in the future. Ms. Crowther said it would be a good recruiting tool.

Mr. Woodley asked if there is anything concerning media relations. Ms. Walker suggested Community Impact. Mr. Moe said he and Ms. Risinger did speak to a reporter and said they would follow up with the reporter on that.

Ms. Donahue said Safe Kids Austin has recurring segment on morning spot. She said she is on the board of Safe Kids Austin.

Mr. Moe said Mr. Williams on Vision Zero Task Force might be a good contact.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPDATES (7:55 – 8:00)

- [Urban Transportation Commission](#) meets on February 10, 6pm. The meeting is held in Board and Commissions at City Hall.

- [Bicycle Advisory Council](#) meets February 17, 6pm. Location to be determined.
- Proposed changes City Council Committees includes replacing the Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committee with a Mobility Committee to include all transportation aspects, including pedestrianism. Council held a public hearing on January 22 and plans to take up this (among many proposed changes) proposed change at the first meeting, set for January 29, 2015.

Mr. Kinney said he spoke before Council to encourage the continuation of land use and transportation issues in a single committee. He said he was profoundly disappointed that the Council separated land use and transportation considerations through their committee structures.

Mr. Woodley said he wants someone's help to put together a recommendation to Council. Mr. Kinney and Mr. Almazan said they would help.

- [A Resident's Guide for Creating Safer a Communities for Walking and Biking](#) includes information, ideas, and resources to help residents learn about issues that affect walking and biking conditions; find ways to address or prevent these problems; and promote pedestrian and bicyclist safety. The Guide provides examples from other communities working to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety and also contains fact sheets, worksheets, and sample materials that can be distributed or adapted to meet the needs of a community. References to other resources and materials are also provided.

Ms. Walker said there is a webinar on this but it is still very car-centric.

- **Update: national safety performance measures** — A directive in the 2015 federal Omnibus Appropriations Act passed in December [requires the US DOT to establish and define a separate set of measures for non-motorized safety](#). Separating non-motorized users from motorized is important in creating transportation networks that are safe for all—and especially important when overall fatalities are down, but those bicycling are increasingly killed and those walking aren't seeing improvements. Representative Larson (WA), Representative DeFazio (OR), and Delegate Holmes Norton (DC) have asked the Government Accountability Office to study the causes of non-motorized fatalities, including the influences of speeding and road design. [Read more >>](#)

Ms. Risinger said there is an I-35 open house Thursday, February 12 at Ridgetop Elementary. She will send out information.

Ms. Walker also said there are plans to put in place traffic circles at 51st Street.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:17.

Pedestrian Advisory Council – 2014/2015 Regular Meeting Attendance

	Name	Oct 6	Nov 3	Dec 1	Jan 12	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
F	Joe Almazan	○	●	●	●	●							
F	Peter Baird	●	●	●	●	●							
F	Nancy Crowther	●	●	●	●	●							
F	Valerie Fruge	●	●	○	●	●							
F	Girard Kinney	●	●	●	●	●							
F	Ramah Leith	●	●	●	●	●							
F	Nic Moe	●	●	●	●	●							
F	Emily Risinger (Vice-Chair)	●	●	●	●	●							
F	Heyden Walker (Chair)	●	●	●	●	●							
A	Janet Beinke	●	●	●	●	●							
A	Ken Craig (resigned 1.12.2015)	●	●	●	●	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
A	Dan Keshet (informed of resignation 2.02.2015)	✓	✓	✓	✓	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
A	Jessica Lemann	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
A	Nathan Lynch (informed of resignation 2.02.2015)	✓	✓	✓	✓	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
A	Joel Meyer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
A	Carmen de la Morena-Chu	✓	●	●	✓	✓							
A	Marva Overton	✓	●	●	●	✓							
A	Kathy Rock	●	●	●	●	✓							
A	Mike Sledge	○	●	●	●	●							
A	Luke Urie	✓	●	●	✓	●							
A	Virginia Wilkinson (resigned 1.12.2015)	●	●	●	●	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
F = Full Member, A = Alternate Member ● Present ○ Excused Absence ✓ Unexcused Absence													

Pedestrian Advisory Council – 2014/2015 Technical Subcommittee Attendance

	Name	Oct 15	Nov 20	Dec	Jan	Feb 19	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
F	Peter Baird (Chair)	•	•	NA	NA	•							
F	Girard Kinney	•	•	NA	NA	•							
F	Nic Moe	•	•	NA		•							
F	Emily Risinger	•	•	NA	NA	✓							
F	Heyden Walker	•	✓	NA	NA	•							
A	Carmen de la Morena-Chu	•	✓	NA	NA	✓							
A	Kathy Rock	•	•	NA	NA	•							
A	Luke Urie	✓	✓	NA	NA	•							
C	Gwen Jewiss	•	✓	NA	NA	✓							
C	Alix Scarborough	•	✓	NA	NA	✓							
F = Full Member, A = Alternate Member, C = Community Member • Present ○ Excused Absence ✓ Unexcused Absence													

Pedestrian Advisory Council – 2014/2015 Project Subcommittee Attendance

	Name	Oct 6	Nov	Dec 9	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
F	Ramah Leith	●	NA	●	NA	NA							
F	Nic Moe (Chair)	●	NA	●	NA	NA							
A	Janet Beinke	●	NA	●	NA	NA							
A	Virginia Wilkinson	●	NA	✓	NA	NA							
C	Hatty Bogucki	●	NA	○	NA	NA							
C	Capital Metro (Lawrence Deeter or Caitlin D’Alton)	●	NA	●	NA	NA							
C	Christian Malanka	●	NA	✓	NA	NA							
F = Full Member, A = Alternate Member ● Present ○ Excused Absence ✓ Unexcused Absence													