



PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Nine members with full standing, ten alternate members, agency representatives, community liaisons, and citizenry from the public at-large met regularly on the first Monday of each month to discuss pedestrian issues and opportunities in Austin. Fourteen regular meetings were held between October 2013 and the end of 2014.

Full Members:

- Heyden Black Walker, Chair
- Emily Risinger, Vice-Chair
- Peter Baird, Technical Subcommittee Chair
- Nic Moe, Project Subcommittee Chair
- Joe Almazan
- Nancy Crowther
- Valerie Fruge
- Girard Kinney
- Ramah Leith

Alternate Members:

- Janet Beinke
- Dan Keshet
- Jessica Lemann
- Nathan Lynch
- Joel Meyer
- Carmen de la Morena-Chu
- Marva Overton
- Kathy Rock
- Michael Sledge
- Luke Urie

Staff Liaison:

Robert Anderson, Planner III
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Overview of the Pedestrian Advisory Council

The Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) shall advise City of Austin on pedestrian planning, policy, design, funding, education, and enforcement efforts regarding the creation, maintenance and operation of pedestrian facilities in order to ensure a safe and enjoyable circulation for both commuting and recreation within the City of Austin. The PAC's goal is to ensure sensitivity to pedestrian issues in the design and implementation of all public and private projects impacting pedestrians.

History

The PAC originated in 2013 when citizens interested in walkability convened for a summit on walkability issues led by America Walks. The intent of the summit was to catalyze community-based efforts to increase walkability, highlight walkability as an issue, and involve stakeholders with varied experiences and expertise. Participants at the 2013 walkability summit identified the need for an Austin-based pedestrian organization to emerge. Out of this summit, the Pedestrian Advisory Council was created.

Formal Recommendations

Since its inception, the Pedestrian Advisory Council has made numerous formal recommendations related to pedestrian advocacy within Austin. These include the following.

- Subdivision ordinance variance requests (Case #: C8-2013-0221.0A, Recommendation Number: 20140602-05B);
- Complete Streets policy (Recommendation Number: 20140602-06B);
- Texas Department of Transportation street design;
- Urban Trails and Bike Master Plan;
- South Shore Central Plan;
- Distracted Driving ordinance (RECOMMENDATION 20140707-6B);
- CodeNEXT Land Development Code; and
- City Council creation of a Vision Zero Task Force.

All recommendations, meeting agendas, records, and supporting documents are viewable through the City Clerk webpage: <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/pedestrian-advisory-council>.

Membership Diversity and Meeting Participation

In 2014, the PAC achieved its goal of membership diversity. Members represent a full-range of pedestrian interests and abilities as well as differing ages, genders, geographies, and economic perspectives. This ensured that members of the PAC represent the City as a whole. To establish operational procedures and to help perform the work of the Pedestrian Advisory Council, several subcommittees and working groups were created. These included a Technical Subcommittee, Project Subcommittee, Bylaws Subcommittee and Elections Subcommittee. Multiple departments, groups, and agencies attended meetings of the group to increase knowledge and dialogue about citywide efforts affecting pedestrian mobility and safety in Austin.

- **Planning and Development Review Urban Design Division:** Placemaking, Great Streets, and Wayfinding programs
- **Planning and Development Review:** Land Development Code recommendations, walkability assessment results and South Shore planning efforts
- **Public Works:** sidewalk program, urban trails master plan, safe routes to school, street reconstruction and sidewalk maintenance
- **Right of Way Management Division of Transportation Department:** pedestrian hybrid beacon safety devices, construction barriers
- **Active Transportation Program of Transportation Department:** Bike Master Plan, Parking Management Districts and Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, Complete Streets
- **TxDOT, Reconnect Austin:** I-35 cut and cap proposal, diamond interchange
- **Police Department:** jaywalking initiatives, community safety
- **Capital Metro:** Urban Rail and Downtown Station improvements



Special thanks to all of the community partners, organizations and individuals participating in Pedestrian Advisory Council efforts, events and dialogue in 2014!

- AARP
- Active transportation advocates
- ADAPT
- Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas
- AURA
- Austin Independent School District
- Austin Police Department
- Bike Austin
- Capital Metro
- Children's Optimal Health
- Disability advocates
- Federal Highway Administration
- Go! Austin/Vamos! Austin
- Neighborhoods from across Austin
- Planning and Development Review Department
- Public Works Department
- Reconnect Austin
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Transportation Department
- Urban Design/Planning firms
- Walk Austin
- Watershed Department

Pedestrian Advisory Council in the news!

Several Pedestrian Advisory Council efforts have earned media recognition. A few highlights from 2013-2014 are seen below.

- *"A Workshop Led to the Creation of WalkAustin: Congrats to the participants"* is a blog article on the creation of WalkAustin and the establishment of the Pedestrian Advisory Council:
- *"Walking, biking, bus initiatives pick up speed"* is a Community Impact newsletter article on the City Council and Urban Transportation Commission's support of WalkAustin and the creation of the Pedestrian Advisory Council
- *"A walkability agenda for Austin"* is an Austin on Your Feet article highlighting first meeting of Pedestrian Advisory Council leadership
- *"Where the Sidewalks End Austin's patchwork sidewalk system has a history – and just maybe a better future"* is an Austin Chronicle news article
- *"Transportation Solutions advance"* is a Community Impact newsletter article about pedestrian planning and the Pedestrian Advisory Council efforts
- *"Vision Zero initiative attempts to eliminate all traffic-related deaths"* highlights the approach of the Pedestrian Advisory Council's Vision Zero initiative

Get involved!

Interested in participating in the Pedestrian Advisory Council?

Join us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/PedestrianAdvisoryCouncil

Subscribe to our Google Group for online conversations and updates at:
<http://groups.google.com/group/austin-pac>

Visit our City of Austin webpage:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/pedestrian-advisory-council>