



**PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MONDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2016 – 6:00 PM  
CITY HALL – ROOM 1029  
301 W. SECOND STREET  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

**DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**

**Attendees:**

Mike Sledge  
Robert Anderson  
Nic More  
Nancy Crowther

Carrie Gimmell  
Patricia Schaub  
Janet Beinke  
Valerie Fruge

Carmen de la Morena  
Zacq Lockrem  
Marva Overton

**Guests:**

John Woodley  
Louis Alcorn, Cap Metro  
David Wittie

Girard Kinney  
Lisa Hinley  
Ingrid Edlund-Berry

James Hoskins, Cap Metro

**Staff:**

Mike Schofield

Alison Mills

Laura Dierenfield

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm by Hayden Walker.

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL (6:00 – 6:10)**

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.

Robert Anderson – Wants the Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) to be aware of opportunities for fully funding the Bicycle Master Plan and Sidewalk Master Plan. Wants to know more about the Austin Transportation Department's (ATD) plans and criteria for pedestrian infrastructure and would like to see a presentation from the signalization unit with ATD.

Laura Dierenfield – Announced the Designing for Pedestrian Safety workshop. Will occur Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 6 PM at City Hall. Presenters will facilitate a community workshop.

David Witty – With ADAPT of Texas. Concerned about pedestrians and people using wheelchairs to get around using city infrastructure being struck by cars, having crosswalks they need to use blocked, and facing unsafe conditions due to drivers failing to yield. Wants more information on what it means for vehicles to "yield" to pedestrians according to state transportation codes. Planning to write a letter on this subject to the Attorney General and encourages the PAC to do so as well.

Vice Chair Hayden Walker asked David Witty to share his letter with the committee so they can review it and decide whether to write their own letter.  
Peter Baird, chair of the PAC Technical Subcommittee, will give his contact information to David.

## **2. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING SUMMARY (6:10 – 6:15)**

Robert Anderson asks that the PowerPoint reference under Item 4 be posted on the PAC webpage. Laura will confirm if it has been posted.

Girard Kinney motioned to approve the minutes for January. Nancy Crowther seconded. Meeting Summary unanimously approved.

## **3. VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN - PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION (6:15-6:45)**

Art Fortune, Commander, Austin Police Department  
Francis Reilly, Planner, Planning and Zoning  
Jim Dale, Assistant Director, Austin Transportation Department

*See PowerPoint presentation.*

Discussion on the Vision Zero Action Plan is found under Item 4.

## **4. PROJECTS SUBCOMMITTEE (6:45-7:30)**

Discussion and Possible Action: Report on Vision Zero Action Plan Comments

- Carmen De La Morena: Wants data, data gathering process, & data accuracy to be more highly prioritized in Vision Zero and addressed moving forward.
- Girard Kinney: Address police report protocol and insurance company data in regards to data collection and accuracy. Emphasize educating people on the current laws in place as part of the education piece of Vision Zero.
- Tom Wald: Expressed concern that the current Vision Zero Action Plan and presentation is misleading by overemphasizing the factor of behavior in causing crashes over the factor of infrastructure engineering and design.
  - Carmen De La Morena: Agrees: sees important need to emphasize and focus on infrastructure over behavior. Described confusing and dangerous situations that drivers and pedestrians frequently have to navigate. Supports taking measures to prioritize pedestrian safety such as not allowing right turns on red lights.
    - Jim Dale emphasized the importance of the city gathering accurate data and using data to make those kinds of arguments to improve safety.
- Nancy Crowther: Asked how ATD and TxDOT can work together on infrastructure decisions, such as issues with frontage road design, and options for the city to realize cost savings on Vision Zero-related projects by partnering with TxDOT.
- Robert Anderson: Emphasized addressing any current problems with collecting necessary data. Would like to see PAC's role in prompting task force and land use/development's role in safety issues, and specifically speeding, emphasized more clearly in the Action Plan. Would move to strike mention of pushing road signs and poles along transit corridors further from the curb from page 49 of the plan because of their potential to further degrade the pedestrian realm.

- Art Fortune mentioned talks about agencies (ATD, TxDOT) working together on a data “fusion center”, using the same data sets.
- John Woodley: Expressed concerned about safety of people with disabilities trying to get in and out of vehicles. Expressed curiosity about how automated vehicles will affect pedestrians and Vision Zero.
- Nic Moe: Emphasized the need for more of a “systems approach” to the Action Plan. Thinks that the current plan is too dependent solely on one data source (behavioral data from APD), which he doesn’t believe captures the majority of severe crashes. Wants actions that can be taken now with data we have now to be communicated more clearly, rather than giving the impression that we need to collect more data before taking action. Wants staff to take care to emphasize design, positive possibilities and de-emphasize behavior in media interviews about Vision Zero. The point of Vision Zero is to make the system set up in such a way that mistakes are not fatal and do not lead to serious injuries.
  - Art Fortune: Reminded group of the intention to treat the Vision Zero plan as a living document to be constantly improved.
- Patricia Schaub: Concerned that aspirational, holistic concept behind Vision Zero is laid out well in the beginning of the Action Plan, but lost in the language around critical actions.
- Robert Anderson: Would like the statistics cited through October 2015 to be updated through December 2015. Would like to see list of goals organized into short, medium, and long term goals.
- Nic Moe: Agrees that goals need to be more clearly quantified, including time and cost estimates.
- Emily Risinger: Would like to see savings estimations as well, in regards to dollars saved by avoiding costly, dangerous crashes.
- Tom Wald: Concerned about the average citizen’s limited access to crash report data, would like the data used to make decisions to be more transparent.

#### Discussion and Possible Action: Report on Work Plan for 2016

- Committee Ideas:
  - i. Intersections
  - ii. Corridor studies
  - iii. Safe Routes to School
  - iv. PAC capital project involvement
  - v. CodeNext
  - vi. Sidewalk Master Plan
  - vii. Imagine Austin

### 5. TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE (7:30-7:40)

- Peter Baird, Technical Subcommittee Chair

This item was discussed after Item 6.

Peter was no longer on the phone so Nic Moe delivered the update. Laws that involve pedestrians are complicated.

Girard: So much ambiguity and conflict between laws. The community needs to know what the laws actually are and what changes should be made to those laws. Cities have a lot of authority and could pass local laws if they don’t conflict.

Officer Richman confirms there is a lot of ambiguity, thinks talking to the attorney general would help.

## **6. NATIONAL WALKING DAY APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2016 (7:40-7:50)**

- Ingrid Edlund, Presenter

Ingrid described a training program that provides a safe and enjoyable way to walk, and their upcoming National Walking Day event. Activities start at 6:30 AM on Far West Blvd on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **7. STAFF AND COMMISSION BRIEFINGS (7:50 – 7:55)**

- Bicycle Advisory Council Update
  - a. Tom Wald: Bicycle Advisory Sub Committee yet to meet. Lengthy discussion on Northern Walnut Creek trail crossing.
    - i. Call for a markings maintenance request. This could pertain to crosswalk markings.
    - ii. Robert asks that there be information sent to PAC on how to submit faded markings so they can give input on pedestrian elements.
    - iii. Girard knows of locations and he called to report and they said it would be remedied in 3 to 8 weeks.
    - iv. Tom Wald discusses new TxDOT positions.
- Urban Transportation Commission Report – nothing to report.

## **8. FUTURE BUSINESS / ADJOURN (7:55 – 8:00)**

- Safe Routes to Schools subcommittee request.
- Robert requests an update on the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan
  - Also update on how ATD approaches pedestrian count down devices and push buttons
- Patricia asks about the status on new Capital Metro rail station designs.
- Girard wants to remind everyone that many believe that the frontage roads should become city streets. He thinks this is something we should have out there.
  - Heyden says the Mayor has been calling for an IH 35 component in next bond election. Many are insisting that Active Transportation be part of this. One of the elements would be making frontage roads safer. They've talked to TxDOT about this extensively. Could frontage roads be turned over to City? FHWA says no.
  - Tom wants to add support of PAC to getting frontage roads seen as a pedestrian issue. Talk of inviting Karen Lorezini to talk about these things. Frontage roads and bridges were left out of roundabout discussion.
  - John Woodley wants to see TxDOT take responsibility before turning them over.
- Robert wants to come up with a list of future agenda ideas and rank them. What's time sensitive and critical? It is decided that the subcommittee meeting meet again.
- John Woodley wants to know if TxDOT has an urban transportation plan. Could the PAC ask that they implement one so they can update urban transportation infrastructure?
  - Heyden says she saw some plans pertaining to that to a certain degree.
- Carmen wants someone to be invited to discuss CodeNext
- Carmen mentions the 35<sup>th</sup> street project going to the water treatment area. Near Pecos and Balcones. There are doing lots of sidewalks. She has been calling 311 about it and wants PAC to give some input. Chad Crager may be managing. She wants to know if the PAC wants her to contact them about the project.
  - Robert wants to know in what capacity would we way in? Engineers to adhere to standards and ADA. Tom Wald thinks in talking to John Eastman that there should be options.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm. Motioned by Robert Anderson and then seconded by Heyden Walker.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPDATES

### - City Council Calendar

- Mobility Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month, unless listed otherwise. The meeting is held at City Hall Boards and Commissions room starting at 3pm.
- Planning and Neighborhoods Committee meets the third Monday of the month at 4pm unless otherwise noted. The meeting is usually held at City Hall Council Chambers.
- Public Safety Committee meets the fourth Monday of the month at 4pm. The meeting is usually held at City Hall Boards and Commissions room, unless listed otherwise.
- Urban Transportation Commission meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm. The meeting is held at City Hall Boards and Commissions room, unless listed otherwise.
- Bicycle Advisory Council meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6pm. The meeting is held at City Hall, Room 1029 (Bull Pen), unless listed otherwise.
- CAMPO Calendar
  - CAMPO Transportation Policy Board Meeting meets the second Monday of the month at 6pm. The meeting is usually held at Joe C. Thompson Conference Center, 2405 Robert Dedman Drive unless otherwise noted.
  - CAMPO Technical Advisory Committee Meeting meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2pm. The meeting is usually held at One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Road, Suite 300, unless listed otherwise.
- ADA Access and Sidewalk Task Force – Check listings for next meeting.
- Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities meets the second Monday of the month at 12pm. The meeting is held at City Hall Boards and Commissions room, unless listed otherwise.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call Laura Dierenfield at the Austin Transportation Department, at (512) 974-7189, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Pedestrian Advisory Council, please contact Laura Dierenfield at (512) 974-7189 or [laura.dierenfield@austintexas.gov](mailto:laura.dierenfield@austintexas.gov).