

**Austin Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC)
and Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC)
Joint Meeting Tuesday February 6th, 2022
– 6:00p.m.
901 South MoPac Expressway**

BAC

Full Members in Attendance Les Case (Chair), Russell Taylor, Christopher Heathcott, Curtis Rogers

Alternate Members in Attendance Lansing Pugh, Sara Boza, Alejandro de la Vega, Joshua Collier, Drake Hampton, Patricia Schaub, Zuzana Baranova, Nicole Mwei,

Full Members Absent Kathryn Johanson, Ruben Sanchez, Ali Sobhani, Spencer Schumacher (Vice-Chair)

Alternate Members Absent Cynthia Fedor, Beth Donnelly, Jeff Seiden, Faith Reed,

PAC

Full Members in Attendance; Chris Anderson, Kimberly Levinson, Tetyana Samiliv, Daniel Kavelman, Garrett Hall, Anna McAuley,

Alternate Members in Attendance Hayden Black Walker, Priya Patel, Dayna Diven Alexander Flores

Full Members Absent, Jonathan Gros, (Vacant)

Alternate Members Absent Jolene Holland, Aditi Ohri,

Call to Order.

PAC Chair Chris Anderson called the Meeting to Order at 6:04 PM

PAC Chair Chris Anderson motioned to elevate BAC Member Lansing Pugh to full member for the purpose of this meeting, BAC Vice Chair Spencer Schumacher seconded.

Without objection the motion passed.

Public Communication.

I. Local traffic fatalities reported since previous meeting

January 10: Unidentified pedestrian hit and killed by an unidentified driver in the 2000 block of E Oltorf; January 13: Pedestrian Kenneth Edward Wilson, White male, age 63, in the 1900 block of E William Cannon Drive; January 14: An unidentified driver who crashed January 3 in the 1300 block of Cesar Chavez succumbed to their injuries and died; January 14: Pedestrian Angela Maria Moreno was hit by a pickup in the 300 block of Howard Lane and died at the scene.

Austin has had 12 traffic-related deaths in 2023. There had been 10 traffic-related deaths on this date in 2022.

II. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

Unanimously approved

- III. Walk, Bike, Roll:** Katie Wettick informed us that ASMP will be amended to include the new Walk Bike Roll (WBR) plans that are centered on equity. Ideas that the public supported in outreach groups are bike share subsidies, a public transit subsidy, and more lighting. They will focus on improving access across barriers, and high density development near transit. Mitigating displacement is crucial. Community outreach will be key, and also maintenance once things are actually built.
- IV. Sidewalks:** The goal is to complete 100% of the missing Very High and High Importance sidewalks within ten years. WBR's goal is to connect all modes of micro mobility and to especially help those without access to cars.

Nathan Wilkes said the City is looking at floating parking in some areas such as SOCO, and Curtis Rogers asked if they would also consider eliminating left turn lanes in some areas. Nathan said maybe.

Heyden Black-Walker asked whether the City had the budget for sidewalks, and whether they could create a dedicated funding stream instead of relying on bonds. Nathan said maybe, but sometimes bonds were better because they could build with those dollars, but maintain with the funding stream the City already has dedicated to sidewalks. John Eastman agreed; said they build new projects with bond dollars while maintenance comes from operating budgets. This year \$9 million is dedicated to sidewalks.

Russell asked if City reassesses its plans with any frequency and Nathan said yes. He also said, in discussing flex posts for bicycle lanes, that doing those quickly is better than waiting.

Daniel Kavelman asked about pedestrian safety plans. Laura Dierenfield said the safety plans would currently focus on E Austin, for both equity and safety reasons. They want to improve at least half the highest priority pedestrian crossings within the next ten years. Nathan says

pedestrian crossings are underfunded worse than all other infrastructure, but in 2018 and 2020, they finally dedicated some funding for it.

Chris Heathcott wants a commitment to sidewalk maintenance; John Eastman said \$30 million per year is what is needed, and right now they only have \$9 million, but there has been a culture shift toward paying closer attention to maintenance; there is now a transportation maintenance fund that is dedicated and funded by user fees.

Tom Wald is not convinced people will be comfortable with flex posts on busy streets, and wants the City to study that and gather data on what makes people feel safe to use micro mobility.

Joshua Collier says gentrification seems to come before bike lanes, then the infrastructure follows; how do we mitigate displacement while we make things more accessible? And how do we teach people to use things when there may be language barriers?

Zuzana Baran asks the City to stop using Chipseal. Nathan says they will keep using it but they will try to be mindful of where they use the highest grade of it, as opposed to the lower grade.

Alejandro de la Vega concerned with the loose network of bicycles, and asks whether and how we should prioritize those likely to use them the most. Nathan agrees land use makes a difference; there needs to be something to bike to, there need to be connections to useful places like school, etc. He thinks the City needs to create a dedicated Connectivity Fund, which it currently does not have.

All our presenters think a recommendation from the BACPAC would help move things with the Council. We agree to work on one.

- V. **TxDot I-35:** Heyden informs us of their hearing on Thursday and that comments are due on their draft DEIS on March 7. BACPAC agrees that TxDot hasn't really changed and improved their design enough for it to deserve our endorsement. Heyden suggest we create a resolution to that effect; either a no-build or a vote of no confidence. Chris Heathcott agrees, as do the rest of us.

JOINT BACPAC MEETING on February 21; we will create TxDot resolution then. Meeting will be zoom only, NOT in person.

Heyden informs us that Austin is receiving \$22.8 million from the Federal Government, to help implement Safe Streets Austin. Also, America Walks has a walking college; enrollment is currently open. Applications can be found online.

VI. Updates and Announcements

VII. Future Agenda Items

PAC Chair Chris Anderson moved to adjourn, PAC Vice Chair Kimberly Levinson seconded the motion

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM

The February 6th, 2022 meeting minutes were approved on this the 21st day of February 2023 on Chair Anderson motion, Vice Chair Levinson second on 10-0 vote.