

June 5th 2023 PAC MINUTES

Monday June 5th 2023 – 6:00p.m. 901 SOUTH MOPAC EXPRESSWAY, AUSTIN, TEXAS

Residents wishing to watch or listen in to the meeting may join the WebEx link

<https://bit.ly/BACPAC2023> or call 1-844-992-4726 and enter the access code 2481 313 2075

*Some members of the **Pedestrian Advisory Council** may be participating by videoconference **public comment will be allowed via telephone and or Webex video conferencing for items not on the agenda.** All speakers are encouraged to call or email the PAC staff liaison in advance at (512) 974 1150 or Isabelle.Solis@austintexas.gov by noon on June 5th, with the following information: name, item number(s) they wish to speak on, and a telephone number or email address.*

Agenda

Call to Order (6:00pm) Chris at 6:04

Attendance: Full PAC Present: Chris Anderson (Chair), Kimberly Levinson (Vice Chair), Alex Flores, Garrett Hall, Daniel Kavelman, Tetyana Samiliv.

ALT PAC Present: Heyden Black-Walker, Dayna Diven, Anna McAuley.

General Communication (6:00pm – 6:10pm) The first three speakers signed up prior to call to order will be allowed a three-minute allotment to address the PAC regarding items not included on the agenda.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (6:10pm – 6:15pm)

2. Local traffic fatalities reported since previous meeting (6:15pm – 6:20pm)

Friday, May 12, David Earl Bedford, Black male, in the 2300 block of E 7th Street;
Saturday, May 20, an unidentified pedestrian in the 4900 block of I-35 N Svce Rd;
Thursday, May 25, Devin Graves, White male, in the 1400 block of N MoPac Blvd;
Friday, May 26, an unidentified pedestrian in the 900 block of Ben White Svce Rd;
Friday, May 26, an unidentified motorcyclist in the 10200 block of Research Blvd.

3. Tiny Transit Presentation (6:20pm-6:50pm)

Presenter: Susan Engelking, Institute for Community MicroMobility

Tiny transit can happen very quickly, saves lives, reduces climate impacts, cheaper to build, and helps people get around without a car. Over 3 million dockless scooter trips already. Things can be easily incorporated into both existing and new infrastructure. The keyword is intentional simplicity; not proposing a large bond package to pay for it. Most solutions are less expensive, like movable concrete barriers, and can ask the new developments to put them in in many cases. Kyle creating 80 miles of multi-use paths so that everyone can get around in golf carts. A bond scenario takes two to three years to set up, then pass it, then re-envision projects and fund them. We can do better simply by changing the city codes to require these in new developments, though some public funds will still be needed. Market forces will persuade the other developments to retrofit. They have drafted two resolutions that will 1) declare public health crisis in traffic deaths; and, 2) declare a mobility opportunity. Ask people to go to Peachtree GA to see their planned community.

Chris asks how the City prioritizes it now, as opposed to what CMM wants. And how do you solve the gaps. She says need a demonstration project in each district that isn't funded with public funds, to show what's possible.

Daniel asks if she's connected with Lewis Leff; they're updating Walk Bike Roll and may have some money they could put in.

4. Congress Ave. Urban Design Initiative Briefing (6:50pm-7:20pm) Presenter: Laura Dierenfield, Austin Transportation and Public Works Dept.

Laura and Jana McCann and Lee Frieberg updating us. Full project team advancing design, at the 30% level now. 1.2 miles in overall length from Capital down to Riverside. This is one of four named projects in 2020 transportation bond. 120 ft right-of-way, which is rare. Will be 5 lanes plus bike lanes of 7.5 feet. Then an amenity zone with trees and maybe café tables in some places, and then 9.5 foot walking zone. Then 8 foot storefront zone that lets businesses use it. Will have greenery/rain gardens and shade. There will be consistent line of trees, and street lighting poles in line with them, and same pavers for walking zones. Will likely be one single type of tree and will choose one that will create shade and make a canopy. Will phase them in as each area is done. Have to be ones that can really survive in an urban environment. Special soil and planting arrangement as well.

Kimberly asks if they are powder-coating benches for coolness; they will do so. In area near Capital will have removable furniture for the civic events. Maybe public restrooms, definitely public art.

Laura says they have to operate in strategic phases, especially due to underground utilities. Bridge options evolving; the utility study will show what is actually possible. City will be offering the community some design involvement prior to construction.

Tatyana asks about how intersections will operate. Laura says LPI will be in.

Chris asks timeline; Laura says near-term goal is to bring ideas to community this fall. Chris asks how to keep it safe and clean, once it's built. Too many mental health and sanitation issues right now; how to deal with it. Laura says there will be an operations and management plan needed, to manage that. Jana also says they will address the ADA issues that are currently problems.

5. Bylaw Amendment (7:20pm -7:40 pm) Facilitator: Chris Anderson, PAC Chair

7:33 Chris explains that it is not by right, and people are just getting their bearings. Chris moves, Tatyana seconds. Passes unanimously.

6. Updates and Announcements (7:40pm – 7:50pm) None

7. Adjournment of Meeting (8:00pm)

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 email or call Isabelle Solis at the Austin Transportation and Public works Department at Isabelle.Solis@austintexas.gov or (512) 974 1150 for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711. For more information on the Pedestrian Advisory Council, please contact Isabelle Solis at (512) 974 1150 or Isabelle.solis@austintexas.gov

The minutes were approved at the July 18, 2023 Joint BAC and PAC meeting on PAC Chair Chris Anderson motion, and PAC Vice-Chair Kimber Levinson, second for the PAC and BAC Chair Les Case, second for the BAC on a unanimous vote.