

September 11 PAC Minutes

Monday, September 11th – 6:00p.m. 901 SOUTH MOPAC EXPRESSWAY, Bldg. 5 Ste. 300 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746

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- 1832 or Isabelle.Solis@austintexas.gov by noon on September 11, 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)

PAC Full members: Chris Anderson, Chair; Kimberly Levinson, Vice Chair; Alex Flores; Garrett Hall; Daniel Kavelman; Tetyana Samiliv;

Pac Alternate members: Dayna Diven; Anna McAuley; Heyden Black-Walker;

General Communication - The first three speakers signed up prior to call to order will be allowed a three-minute allotment to address the BAC regarding items not included on the agenda. Speaker: Zenobia C. Joseph, on N Lamar being a dangerous, high-speed corridor. Title Six violation—race means the corridor is being ignored despite the dangers. 801 Chinatown needs to be moved to the CVS Pharmacy instead of the mid-block stop. Also, another one that is midblock in an area with no pedestrian island. Also, Dessau near Howard Lane, where density has increased so much, between Samsung and Apple, needs safer stops. ADA Sidewalk needed near 801 Chinatown. Not compliant, was supposed to be done through 2020 bonds. \$22.8 million available; should prioritize this area.

- 1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Local traffic fatalities reported since previous meeting**

August 2: Nathan Baker, crashed his SUV in the 8200 block of Burnet Rd. He died in the hospital on August 7.

August 8: Unidentified pedestrian, killed in the 300 block of S Congress Ave.

August 19: Unidentified male pedestrian, killed in the 100 block of N Lamar Blvd.
August 20: Frederick Terrell Waite, white male, crashed in the 6900 block of N Lamar Blvd. He died August 26.
August 21: Unidentified male pedestrian, killed in the 7400 block of I-35 Northbound.
August 25: Unidentified driver, killed in the 4500 block of S Pleasant Valley Rd.

3. Get There ATX Briefing

Presenter: Jacob Barrett, Austin Transportation and Public Works Dept. Handles the Demand Management side of the equation. 2039 ASMP goal is a 50-50 goal for commuting, for drive alone vs. all other options. Maintaining existing vehicle capacity, adding other options. 2% walk to work now; want to double that by 2039 by expanding sidewalks and shared streets; need to add shade to encourage walking. Up to 41% of their shade goal completed now. Next ASMP data release is December 2023; five-year federal Census Bureau estimates. City augmenting their data with their pedestrian and bike counters to better count active transportation users. City also working with Movability on an up-to-date survey. Survey will be distributed later this month, will be every year for the next five. Movability is the regional Transportation Management Association (TMA). They fund employee commute improvement programs, etc. Ghisallo Cycling is the bike equivalent; they help educate people about biking. Led Bike to Work Day last year, and had largest turnout ever. Get There ATX is effectively the mouthpiece on social media, works better for outreach than City social media. They hold events too and have a monthly newsletter. Will be outside ACL, etc. Offer swag, people love that. Their stuff is artistic and usable. Applied for \$6.6 million TxDot grant to improve MetroBike system. Tetyana glad they mentioned shade analysis. Wants to know if they will survey private land as well as public. Jason says Office of Sustainability has applied for a federal grant, for improvement. **Daniel Kavelman** wants to know how to better encourage transit benefits; Jacob says the City offers employee paper passes, working on how to make them digital. Ryan asked about the equity piece in transit; also, how special event transit happens. Jacob says they are trying hard to do more content featuring east Austin; will table at various fairs there to educate people and interact. Infrastructure equity they take very seriously; clear data on who uses transit. Laura Dierenfield says the Shared Streets and equitable planning are going to Council soon. Jacob says GoGrant has built in equity requirement; they work with Hutson-Tillotson and other east Austin groups and fund them. Laura says they're still working on Eco-Counter to measure more accurately. Garrett Hall asked about city employees using transit for work trips; City is looking at incentives. Maybe add money to employees who give up their parking space.

4. Active Transportation and Street Design Project Update

Presenter: Laura Dierenfield, Austin Transportation and Public Works Dept. Laura updating us on progress of her various projects. Willow Creek Dr between E Riverside and Oltorf is getting resurfaced, and preparing way for sidewalks. Sendero Hills Pkwy by E MLK is getting traffic circle, two-way protected bike lanes, new pedestrian islands and crossing. Kramer Lane getting new pedestrian beacons. Burton Drive near Willow Creek getting 5 new pedestrian crossings, preserving parking. Metric Blvd resurfaced, new bike lanes. N Loop Blvd and 53rd St. They're working on pedestrian crossings. Rosewood Ave getting new pedestrian crossings. Springdale between 7th St to Airport getting new pedestrian crossings and protected bike lanes. N Hills Drive between Mesa and Balcones getting school safety treatment, new floating bus stop. Sunshine Dr west of Lamar getting new pedestrian crossings and protected bike lanes. Working closely with TX School for the Blind, which is in the area. Bull Creek Rd getting new sidewalks, and protected bike lane to Hancock. Bluebonnet Lane getting new crossings and corners, for kids going to Zilker Elementary. 51st between Airport and 35 new protected bike lane, and building a new sidewalk. Bruning protected intersection with bike and pedestrian new safe crossings underway. Yager Way finally getting a shared use path and protected bike lanes. Chestnut Ave added protected pedestrian islands, and bike lanes. Wants to mend 24-34 street gap in the Shoal Creek Trail, and fix the washout area. Weigh in on the options online. austintexas.gov/sctgaps. Alex wants to know the scope of projects in corridors and how they influence them; Laura says they want to come present. Alex says small design elements show that there are different groups doing it; would like more consistency in especially pedestrian details. Laura agrees, wants to do more standard detail efforts, and are working with that already to influence designs. Daniel says everyone please fill out the survey. Wants to know which team did S Congress and Stassney project because the bridge between isn't big enough to fit with the two great projects on either side. Laura says the bridge is TxDot, they're working with them right now trying to figure it out. They'll get back to us. Chris says his three worst areas: Oltorf near 1-35, Riverside between 1-35 and Oltorf, and Barton Springs. Says no bike lane or space between sidewalk and road lanes. Laura says multilane roads like that CAN have better treatments but it's harder; often not enough drainage or right of way. They try to present the projects as complete streets. Ryan Graves wants to know about bike and pedestrian guidelines; Braker pushes bikes into traffic in one section. Laura says she's willing to find out more.

5. **Updates and Announcements:** New faces introductions. Conner, UT Grad student for Regional Planning, had taught public school. Fired up about transportation planning. Andrea Tyrell avid bicyclist; volunteers at transit orgs. Brittany Long, found out about us yesterday, attorney, loves sidewalks and pedestrian access. Chase Bryan just graduated UT design program, land use planning. Was a travel guide at one time. Vanessa Anderson is an event manager, learned about us a few days ago, always interested in sidewalk planning. Bekah, originally an Americorp member, works for a non-profit group that engages; Kashmala Tahir, from Pakistan, UT graduate student, doesn't own a car. Either takes buses or walks; sidewalks in West Campus just end sometimes. Ryan Garcia, lobbyist with Bingham Group, lives in W Campus/N Campus, and Cruise is one of her

clients. Just looking for info to take back to her clients about what we do. Ryan Graves is a transportation planner in the private sector, applying for membership.

6. Adjourn (7:35) Chris moved to adjourn, Kimberly seconded.

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The minutes were approved at the Oct. 2, 2023 meeting on PAC Vice-Chair, Kimberly Levinson motion, and PAC Chair Chris Anderson, second on a unanimous vote.