

**Monday, Oct. 2, 2023 – 6:00p.m. 901 SOUTH MOPAC EXPRESSWAY
BLDG 5, STE 300, 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 1832 or Isabelle.Solis@austintexas.gov by noon on Monday, October 2nd, 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)

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.

No speakers.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

2. Local traffic fatalities reported since previous meeting

September 6: Merced Junior Elizalde Cortez died in a single car crash at E 4th and I-35;
September 21: An unidentified male died in a single car crash in the 1500 block of E 51st;
September 24: Shane Conway died in a motorcycle crash in the 6600 block of Pleasant Valley Rd. His death is the 67th traffic death this year.

3. Candidate introductions and Elections Brittany Long and Andrea Tyrell spoke.

New Full: Chris Anderson, Connor Vanderhook, Ryan Graves, Andrea Tyrell, Katrina Miller, and Brittany Long.

New Alternate: Daniel Caddis, Arturo Terrazas, Bryan Pham, Melissa Namadezeh, Vanessa Anderson, Scott Magic, Arfar Razi, Rebekah Kohls.

Garrett moved to reelect us unopposed, Tetyana seconded.

4. Review of 2023 Accomplishments

Chris Anderson: Many people have presented to us: TxDot, and we issued a recommendation as a group (sometimes we issue formal recommendations, and we often do joint with BAC. We did six of those this year. Also, TPW did a Vision Zero briefing; Also, one on pedestrian hybrid beacons after a fatal accident; Congress Ave design; Mobility; Zilker Park; Shoal Creek Trail, etc. It's a mix of going out into the community and finding things to look at, and responding to things brought by staff. It's a very organic process. The other thing we've done is start a PAC/BAC Google drive that tracks all our recommendations, and tracks all our meeting materials and our bylaws.

Facilitator: Chris Anderson, PAC Chair

5. Annual Safe Routes to School Update (6:37)

Amir and Colleen from the City: Education team teaches grades 3-5 safety in school lessons. Engagement team heads up Bike on Wednesday Walk on Wednesday (BOWWOW), and helps get kids wanting to bike and walk, Then infrastructure team

(Colleen is on that and is presenting on that. They received \$27.5 million from 2017 bond and created a plan; walk audits, surveying schools, 50+ community meetings, internal review for overview of previous plans. Draft was released in fall of 2019. Final report released early 2020, then Covid shut them down. Now have another \$20 million from 2020 bond, which didn't have to be equally divided. Allows more focus on equity. Schools included are 137 schools, including Austin schools in other counties like Manor. Districts 5 and 9 have least number of schools. Districts 8 and 9 have the lowest barriers to walking and biking. 4600 recommendations would cost more than \$825 million. Lowest cost for barriers in 9 and 6. Looked at presence and absence of bike lanes, and shared use paths, and traffic calming. Whether shared streets would help. Also missing sidewalks, sidewalks needing repair. Also, signage needing improvement. New and repaired sidewalks were the number one request. Number two was crossing the street safely, with visibility and pedestrian islands, etc.

Analysis was done in half mile radius for walking, two miles for biking. Also crashes around schools, and how the streets are scored. Finally, engineering judgment. Equity was third part: Socioeconomic status of students, neighborhood income and makeup. Scoring encompassed all those. All the schools got their own recommendations, which are on their website. Some schools have multiple schools listed because they're close to another school and could benefit both. So, they have total \$47.5 to address \$825 Million in needs. So, they prioritize highest priority projects plus ones that benefit more than one school. They expect to leverage partnerships, Urban Trails, Vision Zero, Corridor, other Counties, Cap Metro. Quarterstaff funding for \$1 million from council districts. About 17 schools in planning phase, and 12 already in design or construction. Audit only focused on elementary and middle schools, but they are doing some improvements for high schools, and even a few charter schools despite not having defined catchment areas. Over 425 projects done out of 6200. Hope to wind up by calendar end of 2024. Sidewalks and shared use paths are a main focus, and more equity-lensed projects. In the middle of mobility planning process for next year, to forecast 2024 projects.

Chris wants to know if the money that hasn't been spent yet, where do they keep it in the meantime. 2016 dollars have to be spent by 2024, 2020 dollars by 2026. Colleen doesn't really know how it works except that her dollar amount is capped, so any interest isn't theirs to spend. Chris also has noticed there are cases where there are traffic lanes, and then a sidewalk right up against the road. He wonders if the new projects will all have a buffer for safety. She says there isn't always enough room for buffers. They try to put 5-foot-wide sidewalks, and they try to buffer on busy streets but the maintenance required for grass strips, etc., it isn't always workable. Brittany Long asked how costs were figured; Colleen said multiples of previous expenses plus size of the sidewalk, or ramp, or barrier. Crosswalks always have to have ramps, so when a crosswalk is created, they build ramps as well. They're also doing LPIs.

Daniel wants to know if they considered the land use structures around the schools, and also wondered if they're working with community partners for programming to

encourage more walking/cycling. Colleen says yes, Vamos Austin and other community groups, and have the schools do classroom competitions for how many kids will walk or bike one day. As for land use, a number of schools are in kind of industrial areas, may not be great for walking, so they try to do things like shared use/sidewalk paths. They don't normally buy land, though they work with ISDs on easements to allow them to build sidewalks or improved crossings. And in one area they have a crossing guard that walks kids from their apartment complex to the school; another guard walks them back in the afternoon, so they're protected.

Presenters: Amir Emamian and Coleen Gentles

6. Updates and Announcements

7. Adjournment of Meeting (8:00pm) Adjourned 7:31.

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