

**Joint Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory
Council Minutes
Monday, Nov. 6, 2023 – 6:00p.m.
901 SOUTH MOPAC EXPRESSWAY BLDG 5, STE 300,
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746**

ATTENDANCE:

PAC FULL: Chris Anderson (Chair), Kimberly Levinson (Vice Chair), Alex Flores, Daniel Kavelman, Brittany Long, Katrina Miller, Andrea Tyrell.

PAC Alternate: Vanessa Anderson, Daniel Cadis, Dayna Diven, Rebekah Kohls, Bryan Pham, Arfar Razi, Arturo Terrazas, Anna McAuley, Heyden Black Walker,

BAC FULL: Spencer Schumacher (Chair), Alejandro de la Vega (Vice Chair), Heather Buffo, Chelsea Burns, Les Case, Lansing Pugh.

BAC Alternate: Marion Martin, Nicole Mwai, Kari Kuwamura, Meredith Wong, Ryan Graves, Sara Boza.

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.

Meredith Wong speaking on Safe Routes to School about 4 Points Blvd near River place. Her son was hit riding to school. There is an incomplete sidewalk and no bike lane, so kids can't safely bike to school. There is no safe place to cross, no crosswalk. Need one near but not on 620, need to have safe places to walk and bike. Three schools within 1.8 miles. Would only cost about \$500,000 to fix it. Spencer says we will make sure we get resolution done next meeting.

- 1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** Chris moved approval, Kimberly seconded. No objections, approved unanimously.
- 2. Local traffic fatalities reported since previous meeting**

Sept. 30: Motorist Angel Javier Parra died, in the 1000 block of Old Bastrop Hwy NB.
October 15: An unidentified motorist died in the 3600 block of I-35 SB.
October 18: An unidentified pedestrian died in the 12200 block of the MoPac Svce Rd SB.
October 22: An unidentified pedestrian died in the 700 block of E Braker Ln.
This was Austin's 75th 2023 traffic death. Last year on this date there were 88 deaths.
- 3. Briefing and Possible Action on Project Connect Light Rail and Austin Transit Partnership Follow-Up**

Presenters: Yannis Banks and Lisa Storer, Austin Transit Partnership
Lisa Storer, sustainability mgr. ATP formed with 2020 vote to handle Project Connect. Runs from 38th to Riverside aligned with Trinity. Working on DNA diagram
Anticipating federal funding, for NEPA process. Over next couple of years the base design will be developed, finalized by summer 2025. NEPA process begins next year,

will take two years. Need a design that comes from Austin itself to change Austin into a transit city culture.

Landscape and sustainability a big part of it. Team went about four main ways: Data collection; analysis; mapping; culture. One issue is crosswalks not where people want and need them. Then the space itself researched: Spaces and facades are even more important to pedestrians than sidewalks. People need streetscape to look at. Also, micro mobility an issue, can block sidewalks. Then team did biometric mapping to get points of stress and points of relaxation, doing heart rate monitoring on volunteers. Tracked bicycle, peds, wheelchair users, and that was key. Wheelchair users had anxiety, that no one would see them. Then had workshops with various groups: Wheelchair users, deaf, low vision, plus large general groups. Pyramid in the presentation. Safety/security, comfort, and community the three main ranks.

Upcoming outreach meetings: November 16, UT Texas 11-12 am; November 16, Texas School for the Blind 5-6 pm; December 5, Lively Middle School, 5-6 pm; December 6, Montopolis Recreation Center 5-6pm. December 13 a virtual meeting.

Spencer asks them to touch on separation of powers between ATP, Cap Metro and City Project Connect. Yannis says Cap Metro focusing more on rapid bus and station access, and possible street upgrades. Bus stops may need to move around to put in the light rail. Heather asked about design workshops; Yannis says they're getting feedback, making sure the community's designers know what Austinites want and will represent Austin correctly.

Lisa says that some opportunities for engagement, will be accompanying surveys for people to give input. Utilizing images part of it. Les wants to know if Austin Resource Recovery has been included in it. Lisa says not yet, in this timeline. But ARC members working to make sure their projects are included in this, and especially zero waste and the climate equity plan. There is a subgroup working on materials circularity. Dayna wants to know greatest distance to travel on light rails. 9.8 miles of rail, with 10 stations. Marion asked why façades are of less interest to bicyclists. Lisa says it's because it engages the peds more; cyclists go by faster. Daniel Cadis asks how close they are to getting the FTA funds, and what happens is they don't get the 50% funding. Lisa says they are reentering project development in 2024 for the redesigned rail. FTA already working with them. Spencer asks about former input; they are using that. They will do new engagement only for redesign. He asks about designing stations case by case, or holistically. They say they are looking at overall work, not one by one. Lansing wants to know what will happen for bicyclists; what will happen at the stations, or between them, how it works with bike network as well as how to get on. Lisa says they are very focused on bicyclists, Lansing will be pleasantly surprised. They just didn't highlight it in this presentation. Chelsea wants to know about the increased presence of cars on route. Spencer's joint BAC/PAC draft recommendation: Wants to prioritize bike/ped over expanding or even maintaining car traffic. We have been looking at improvements station by station; we want a true multimodal network that works for all modes.

Public needs a voice in where urban trails are, crosswalks, scooter parking, etc. Need public engagement.

Spencer pointing out we seek consensus. Joint resolution has to be passed by both councils, majority of both full members on each. First Whereas comes directly from BAC bylaw. The part about multimodal was part of a recent UTC resolution so we will be seconding. Dayna wants to add a Whereas clause, Spencer accepts it as a friendly amendment. Lansing wants to know are we asking for more studies; Spencer says no, just that Project Connect allow public engagement on the work they're already doing. Lansing wants to make sure we're not recommending spending scarce dollars on it since they've already cut so many neighborhoods due to lack of funds. Spencer agrees we can take out wording about citywide study to make it clear we're talking about only on the alignment. Says we should have some trust that they'll stay focused on their mandate. Yannis says they will be engaged and talking to the community the whole way through anyway. Lots about the light rail vehicle itself, station design, etc. Heather asks about difference; Yannis explains first meetings just about setting the principles up with basic design. More thorough engagement later. Daniel Cadis also wants not to have excess funding spent on citywide study. Alex agrees. Spencer says he's just trying to open up feedback for holistic whole-network design, instead of 16 different engagement meetings. Changing recommendation to read: Incorporate community input in whole design process. Chelsea wants to know why ATP is trying to add cars back in to process. Yannis says they still aren't sure what the Drag will look like; even in former 30% design they weren't sure. Chris moves, Spencer seconds. PAC passes with no objections. BAC passes with no objections.

4. New Member Orientation and 2024 Meeting Dates

Facilitators: TPW Staff Liaisons, Chris Anderson, PAC Chair, Spencer Schumacher, BAC Chair. BAC documents pulled up first for their orientation. Next meeting a joint meeting on December 4. Spencer goes over what BAC does, on giving feedback to city and draft resolutions to many other agencies besides City Council, and act in an advisory role. Very different from advocacy; we need to know what is possible and what it's wise to advise. We don't want to lose credibility by asking for things that aren't possible. We are most effective when we can tie into a direction people are already trying to go. We also need to understand what direction the City and other agencies want to go. BAC existed as an informal group for a long time, from early 90's or late 80's. First Bike Council in 1995; in 2007 it reoriented to current form. Resolution in 2013 officially founded the PAC. Now our 10-year anniversary, we'll celebrate next month. Chris says all of this is very important, we have a lot of flexibility and our voice is important. What you put into it is what you'll get out of it. Spencer says whenever UTC passes something it goes to City Council mobility committee, so when we can pass something to the UTC it goes to Council. Daniel Kavelman says UTC wants to engage more with us, Spencer says they are friends, we just need to improve communication. Chris advises that everyone will have access to the Google drive, all the bylaws and information is there, and our past

resolutions. Chris says we keep track of attendance; please email us in advance if you're going to miss a meeting. Attendance rule is you must make 75%; if you miss three meetings in a row you can be removed. Laura says there are two dates we may need to swap next year. Spencer says if you want to hear about something, or you have a recommendation, you fill out an item request form and email the chair and vice chair and city staff. We finalize the agenda at leadership meetings with staff. Chris says the official staff are the intermediaries between us and the city and they are incredibly helpful. Laura putting up a couple of slides orienting people to the regional agencies, and divisions within the agencies, and other occasionally involved agencies like Parks and Rec. We are very much appreciated for the way we collaborate with them to get things done. CAMPO is metropolitan planning. They're the purse strings. Laura heads Active Transportation Dept. Agencies come and brief both groups. City webpage has the different groups, and links to them. Chelsea wants to know how we know when something is timely to weigh in on. Spencer says we respond to public comment requests; we also make recommendations and then people respond to that. Plus, our City liaisons often keep us up to date, and you can always do a request form. Alejandro says we are still trying to focus on doubling down on the stuff we really care about. We also have few rules about when to jump in, you're free to jump in as long as you're respectful.

5. **Updates and Announcements** Spencer says BAC may meet elsewhere in January, will know by December meeting. Project Connect Community Advisory Committee taking applications, will send out implications. Laura says dates moving. PAC will move January to the second Monday, same with September. Les says Vision Zero will address both groups soon; there are discrepancies between cyclist injuries and deaths and their numbers. The APD form doesn't keep good track and injury severity isn't often known until the person goes to the hospital. So deaths are tracked but not injuries. They did a deep dive study for a month and have now realized how their data was off. They are trying to figure out how to get the data from hospitals; there isn't any way to alter APD crash reports or file new information after the fact. No way to track deaths afterward.

6. **Adjournment of Meeting (8:00pm)** Chris moves adjournment, Spencer seconds.

The minutes were approved at the 12/04/2023 meeting on BAC Chair, Spencer Schumacher's motion, PAC Vice Chair Kimberly Levinson's second on 8-0 vote.