

Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Present: Greta Alquist, Emily Antin, Neal Baxter, Shaina Brassard, Alex Cecchini, Julie Curran, Christian Huelsman, Bob Loken, Dan Herber, Julia Tabbut; Matthew Dyr Dahl, Kelsey Fogt, Mackenzie Turner Barga, Lindsey Wallace, Joe Bernard, Mike Mechtenberg, Sarah Stewart; Jennie Borden, Sierra Saunders; guests: Ethan Fawley, Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition

Resolutions:

Resolution #1: Pedestrian and Bicycle Detour Practice and Protocol

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee supports forming a joint task force with the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) to work on policies and practices for detours and road closures and for the task force to report back to the PAC by January 2017.

Resolution #2: 5th Street/Samatar Crossing

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) enthusiastically supports the revised design of 5th St/Samatar Crossing presented on 11/17/16 including omission of vehicular traffic from bridge; separate pedestrian and bicycle facilities; conversion of one-block segment of 5th St from one-way to two-way traffic. The PAC desires that the resulting green space east of the I-35W trench be activated with programmed uses with attention given to visual and acoustic screening from the I-94 entrance ramp.

Resolution #3: Glenwood Avenue Reconstruction

Consistent with its resolution of April, 2016, the Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) supports the design for Glenwood Ave reconstruction presented on 11/17/16. In particular, the PAC supports the reduction of vehicle lane width and the addition of planted boulevards on both sides of the street. Since the PAC's April resolution we understand that the North Minneapolis Bicycle Advocacy Council (NMBAC) has advocated for protected bike lanes in lieu of the city's proposed on-street bike lanes. The PAC supports this in concept but, absent a specific design, we are unable to evaluate. We request a design alternative to review.

Chair Greta Alquist called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM, and asked for introductions from everyone.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Bob moved to accept the November minutes; Alex seconded. Approved.

20-Year Street Funding Plan—Kathleen Mayell

Kathleen began with an overview. In April 2016, the City Council nearly doubled the capital budget for 20 years to improve infrastructure on an accelerated basis. During May and June, Kathleen, et al., prepared a method and principles for choosing additional projects. In the summer, Kathleen's group looked at data on racial & economic equity, asked for further insight from a PAC/BAC ad hoc group, and then reviewed what they'd learned in September. In October, Public Works presented the amended CIP to the Council's Ways & Means Committee.

Principles driving the 20-year funding are two: use data to choose projects, and seize & create opportunities. Kathleen's group asked: What does equity mean? How do we gauge success in addressing equity? What inequities exist now?

The PAC/BAC group provided insight into potential users, and called for giving weight to the new modal framework and existing users. The group also suggested giving roads with bike improvements extra points and stressed the need for a sidewalk inventory, updating the Master Plan and continuous improvement in community engagement.

The selection process focused on local streets under the City's sole jurisdiction, and half the points allotted were based on road condition. Equity considerations included non-white majority, high incidence of poverty, availability of vehicles, modal needs and total users. Other considerations included a project's fit with other goals and nearby projects. Also, all projects in the 2017-2021 CIP list were included, some were moved forward, the year 2022 was added and reconstruction projects were given priority. In the end, pedestrian improvement mileage in the CIP rose from 17 to 33 miles, and equitable distribution jumped from 25% to 42%.

Next steps? PAC's recommendations and the data collected this fall on pavement conditions will be evaluated.

Shaina: Give an example of a big pedestrian improvement due to this process.

KM: The process was about pushing projects forward faster and using pedestrian-friendly criteria to prioritize them. Better individual designs weren't our focus.

MD: Pedestrian-friendly data and criteria other than which roadways were in the worst shape were used to prioritize these projects.

2017 PAC Calendar—Matthew Dyr Dahl

Matthew passed out the proposed calendar for all PAC meetings in the coming year. One or two dates were changed, and the whole met with the approval of members.

Voting Procedures—Neal Baxter

This presentation is in response to a confusing and frustrating vote in October, when many of us abstained from voting. Neal read pertinent parts of PAC's bylaws, explained that our current quorum and majority requirements mean that PAC can

never pass a resolution with fewer than 5 Yea votes, and also explained what abstention is. He suggested that members with a financial interest in a vote of the PAC should recuse themselves, and the chair might refuse to hold a vote on a resolution if fewer than 5 voting members remain in the meeting room.

Programs & Policies Subcommittee Report—Julia Curran & Shaina Brassard

We discussed how to get all PAC members up to a basic level of acquaintance with acronyms, resolutions, and what-not. Next we discussed suggestions to give the Comp Plan team. Also, Jill Chamberlain joined us by phone and talked about ideas for workshops and seminars for the Walking Summit in 2017. If PAC members have ideas, submit them to Matthew.

Greta: How about a PAC seminar?

Shaina: that hasn't come up yet!

Greta: I'll start working on it.

MD: other ideas in the works include: Open Streets and PAC, our capital improvement program for pedestrian projects; Kelsey is working on pedestrian safety programs and parklets; Kurt is working on pedestrian counts; Sarah Stewart is planning two, on the North Mpls Greenway and the High-Rise Council.

Next, Julia introduced Resolution #1, as a way to promote consistent information and practice on detours and the like.

MD: January seems pretty soon for a finished product.

JC: I thought of the resolution as an idea-gathering report, to stimulate discussion on how to form the task force.

Julia T. moved the resolution, Neal seconded. Approved.

Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee—Bob Loken & Alex Cecchini

Attendance is pretty low and the format puts people off. We're looking into ways to change that.

The Samatar Crossing project came up again at our meeting. The committee was unhappy with the first design, and the design we saw at this meeting met our objections. We especially like limiting the crossing to pedestrians and bikes. We learned that building another crossing at the LRT will cost as much as Samatar Crossing.

Shaina moved Resolution #2; Bob seconded. Approved.

The Glenwood Avenue Project focuses on pedestrian needs due to the LRT, not on road conditions. A local group wanted a different bike path, so Public Works sent this project back to the PAC & BAC. Alex moved Resolution #3; Bob seconded. After discussion of the resolution, Shaina moved to amend, and Bob seconded. Approved. The resolution was then approved as amended.

CIP Recommendations were introduced by Matthew, who told the PAC the following:

he's focusing on developing SW002 (a Sidewalk program) and also working on a crossing design project, a Safe Routes to School CIP and how to take advantage of grants from Hennepin County.

He then asked whether we prefer working on the final draft of this at the Dec. 15 I & E meeting, or at a separate meeting.

After lengthy discussion, the PAC decided to leave approval of the CIP proposals to the I & E committee.

Dan moved to adjourn; Bob seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 6:07 PM.