

**Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting
Summary Meeting Notes**

October 1, 2008
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Room 333, City Hall

Agenda

3:00 pm **Introductions**
Approval of Meeting Notes
Announcements

3:05 pm **Operating and Maintaining the Pedestrian System**
Review of current practices, challenges with current practices, opportunities for improvements:

1. Snow and Ice Clearance
2. Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Maintenance
3. Crosswalk Pavement Marking Maintenance
4. Encroachments and Other Elements in the Pedestrian Zone
5. Construction and Temporary Closures

3:50 pm **Funding and Implementing Pedestrian Improvements**
Review of current funding and implementation approaches, challenges with current practices, opportunities for improvements.

Attendees

PAC Member	Attendees	Representing	Present
X	Jim Adams	Senior Citizens Advisory Committee	X
X	James Andrew	Metropolitan Council	X
X	Patty Bowler	Minneapolis Department of Health	X
X	Theresa Cain	Metro Transit	X
X	Aaron Day	City of Lakes Chamber	
X	Anna Flintoft	Minneapolis Public Works, PAC Chair	X
X	Anna Gillette	7 th Ward Citizen – North Loop	
X	Loretta Grewe	Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities	
X	Stephanie Gruver	4 th Ward Citizen	
X	Diane Hansen	12 th Ward Citizen	X
X	Sarah Harris	Walking Minneapolis Foundation	X
X	Elizabeth Haugen	Minneapolis Communications Department	X
X	Steven Hay	Minneapolis CPED	X
X	Robin Hennessy	City of Minneapolis Attorney's Office	X
X	Mary Jackson	Minnesota Department of Transportation	X

X	Karen Nikolai	Hennepin County	X
X	Jennifer Ringold	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	X
X	Mike Rumppe	Minneapolis Fire Department	
X	Jan Sandberg	7 th Ward Citizen – Loring Park	X
X	Steve Sanders	University of Minnesota	
X	David Smith	Minneapolis Public Schools	X
X	Mackenzie Turner	Bicycle Advisory Committee	
X	Kathy Waite	Minneapolis Police Department	
X	Mary Watson	6 th Ward Citizen	X
	Martha Hage	Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities	X
	Kristen Klingler	Minneapolis Department of Health	X

Summary of Items Discussed

The PAC discussed the draft document on Current Practices for Operating, Maintaining, Funding and Improving the Pedestrian System. Below is a summary of comments.

1. Snow and Ice Clearance

- Add to list of challenges:
 - i. Snow plow pushing snow into curb ramps often create icy pile of snow that is very difficult to clear.
 - ii. Vacant and boarded properties – Who is responsible for clearing snow on them? It can take a year between foreclosure and bank taking property.
- How many snow complaints are received per year?
- Clarify that snow clearance by property owners is 4/24 hours of *daytime* after ceasing of snowfall.
- Add to list of opportunities:
 - i. Improving use/awareness of 311.
 - ii. Use sentence to serve to help clear snow. Robbinsdale currently does this.
- Add to current practices info on communications:
 - i. November utility bill insert on snow emergencies, sidewalk snow clearance and garbage receptacle snow clearance
 - ii. City snow website (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow/>)
 - iii. News release kicking off snow season
 - iv. Media event early in the season (sidewalks could be added)
 - v. Automated phone calls on snow emergencies (no info on sidewalks currently)
 - vi. Snow emergency email alerts (no info on sidewalks currently)
 - vii. News release information for council members newsletters
 - viii. Media inquiries and interviews with staff
- Obtain more information on current assistance programs through senior ombudsman’s office.

- PAC members did not feel that heated sidewalks were valuable. Nicollet Mall had heated sidewalks at one time, and they were removed due to maintenance difficulties.

2. Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Maintenance

- Add to current practices how Park Board clears/prioritizes snow clearance adjacent to and within parks.
- Get more information on standards for “defective” sidewalk. It’s not always clear to property owners why one sidewalk panels needs replacing when another sidewalk panel does not.
- The Park Board would like input on prioritizing where need sidewalks/trails – adjacent vs. within parks. Jennifer Ringold explained that they are considering interior loops, rather than exterior sidewalks. Some PAC members felt that there should be sidewalks on both sides of the street whether residential or park.

3. Crosswalk Pavement Marking Maintenance

- MnDOT has a policy against striping free right turns.
- Provide more clarity on the cost/benefit of various marking materials.
- Consider cost savings associated with outsourcing work.
- Need to include assessment of when crosswalks actually improve safety. Make sure that putting investments in the right places.
- Consider hierarchy of pedestrian priority areas – give more weight to maintaining crosswalks in these areas.
- Look into St. Paul Pedestrian Safety Campaign and neighborhood signage.

4. Encroachments and Other Elements in the Pedestrian Zone

- There was some concern stated with endorsing implementation of the Coordinated Street Furniture Program until more of the details of the program are available. The concern stated related to the content and placement of advertising, particularly in downtown.
- Add to the challenges that overgrown vegetation reduces visibility not only for pedestrians, but also for drivers.

There was insufficient time to cover all of the agenda items. A second October meeting was tentatively scheduled for October 15.