

**Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting
Summary Meeting Notes**

October 4, 2007
3:00pm to 4:30 pm
Room 333, City Hall

Agenda

- 3:00 pm** **Introductions**
Approval of Meeting Notes
Announcements
- 3:05 pm** **Vital Winter Cities** – Sarah Harris will provide an overview of the upcoming Vital Winter Cities conference and solicit committee input on the issues related to walking in the winter.
- 3:20 pm** **Ambassador Program** – Shaun Murphy will discuss the City’s planned and funded Bicycle and Pedestrian Ambassador Program.
- 3:45 pm** **Pedestrian Website** – Anna Flintoft will brief the committee on the content and release of a new walking section within the City’s website.
- 4:00 pm** **Pedestrian and Bicycle Counts** – Shaun Murphy will present the results of recent pedestrian and bicycle counts in Minneapolis.
- 4:15 pm** **Pedestrian Master Plan** – Anna Flintoft will update the committee on the Pedestrian Master Plan consultant selection and seek input on the public involvement approach.
- 4:25 pm** **Review of Action Items**

Attendees

PAC Member	Attendees	Representing	Present
X	Jim Adams	Senior Citizens Advisory Committee	
X	James Andrew	Metropolitan Council	
X	Deborah Boyd	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	
X	Theresa Cain	Metro Transit	X
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	Janee Harteau	Minneapolis Police Department	
X	Elizabeth Haugen	Minneapolis Communications Department	X
X	Diana Hawkins	City of Lakes Chamber	
X	Steven Hay	Minneapolis CPED	
X	Robin Hennessy	City of Minneapolis Attorney's Office	
X	Mary Jackson	Minnesota Department of Transportation	X
X	Karen Nikolai	Hennepin County	X
X	David Rak	Minneapolis Dept of Health & Family Support	
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	Mackenzie Turner	Bicycle Advisory Committee	X
X	Mary Watson	6 th Ward Citizen	
	Shaun Murphy	Mpls Bicycle & Pedestrian Programs Intern	X
	Martha Hage	Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities	X

Summary of Items Discussed

Introductions/Approval of Meeting Notes/Announcements

There were no announcements or comments on the meeting notes.

Vital Winter Cities

Sarah Harris briefed the committee on the upcoming Vital Winter Cities conference being jointly sponsored by Urban Land Institute, University of Minnesota, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and the Regional Council of Mayors. Speakers will include Jan Gehl from Copenhagen and Gil Penalosa from Toronto. As part of the conference, Walking Minneapolis is hosting a workshop to determine what short-term actions can be taken to make walking in winter more attractive. She distributed a list of public agency principles developed by Walking Minneapolis that will be discussed during this workshop and asked the committee to provide input on them. The principles included:

- Enable vendors, artisans and events to occur in the public right-of-way.
- Encourage/reward properties/developments that interact favorably at the street level through greater use of lighting, landscaping, glass, doors/openings, and other methods that create a softening, transparency and connection to the street rather than harsh, opaque or closed barrier at the street level.
- Review and correct timing of pedestrian crossing at intersections to be viable for all pedestrians (young, old and disabled) not just timed for vehicles.
- Enforce existing ordinance for no bicycles allowed on the sidewalks in commercial areas. Consider ordinance amendments that reduce pedestrian/bicycle conflicts.
- Enforce and amend ordinances to require newsstands and other street furniture to be well designed, neat and orderly, out of the pedestrian walkway.
- Enforce existing ordinances for sidewalk cafes and other uses to maintain adequate clearance for pedestrian traffic.

- Increase enforcement of concrete repair and replacement of sidewalks (assess adjacent properties). Repair or replace with new, aesthetically acceptable materials (not black asphalt).
- Enforce and increase livability crime penalties.
- Strengthen and enforce ordinances restricting panhandling.
- When non-public sources of funds are used (including business improvement district taxes generated specifically for this purpose), enable the private sector to manage, maintain, repair and program activities in the public right-of-way without public procurement constraints (e.g., bidding requirements, SubP, city forces, etc.).
- Review, revise and amend ordinances and practices regarding Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to maintenance of all trees in right-of-way.
- Review current lighting levels for appropriate revisions for winter conditions.

Committee discussion included:

- Timing traffic signals for pedestrians, not just cars
- Improving snow removal, particularly at curb cuts, and establishing goals for the amount of time needed for the sidewalks to be cleared of snow.
- Current city ordinances, if enforced, could provide sufficient improvements in the organization and appearance of newspaper boxes on sidewalks; ordinances would have to be modified to allow newspaper “condos,” instead of the existing “corrals.”
- Ensuring that the sidewalk inspection and repair program includes downtown
- Ensuring accessibility of sidewalks during construction and alternate routes
- Enforcing no bicycle riding on sidewalks in downtown and ensuring adequate bicycle facilities are available where sidewalk riding conflicts with pedestrian movement. Also clarifying that walking with bicycle is okay.
- Clarifying that *aggressive* panhandling is undesirable.
- Winter lighting refers to not so much the quality and amount of light, but ensuring that lighting is turned on earlier in the winter, particularly on Nicollet Mall.
- Planning Department is considering changes to the minimum parking requirements for new development.

Ambassador Program

Shaun Murphy distributed the Comprehensive Work Plan for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Ambassador Program and discussed the program. The City of Minneapolis Public Works Department has been awarded a Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program grant to operate the program to increase the rates of bicycling and walking in Minneapolis and the adjacent communities over a three-year period. The Committee discussed ideas for outreach strategies for increasing walking. Ideas included walking clubs and use of pedometers. The program work plan will be posted on the city’s website.

Pedestrian Website

Anna Flintoft presented a draft of the City’s new pedestrian website, which is to go live next week at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian. Committee comments included: adding a reminder to call 311 for sidewalk maintenance requests and linking to the Downtown Council for pedestrian activities in downtown.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Counts

Shaun Murphy presented a summary of the pedestrian and bicycle counts conducted in September 2007 at over 40 locations throughout Minneapolis. This information will be available on the city's website. Committee members commented that this was very valuable information.

Pedestrian Master Plan

Anna Flintoft briefed the committee on the status of the Pedestrian Master Plan. The City Council has authorized city staff to hire T. Y. Lin to develop the plan. She is in the process of finalizing the contract and hopes to have the consultant working in early November. She distributed a draft letter to be sent to neighborhood organizations seeking a primary contact person for the planning process and asked committee members to help identify other stakeholder groups. Potential stakeholders included the Downtown Council, Chamber of Commerce, Meet Minneapolis, business association, multicultural chambers of commerce, TMO, post-secondary institutions, places of worship, healthcare facilities and senior citizen organizations.

Next Meeting

Thursday, November 1st, 3:00 pm, City Hall Room 333