

**Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting
Summary Meeting Notes**

June 7, 2007

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Room 333, City Hall

Agenda

- 3:00 pm** **Introductions**
Approval of Meeting Notes
Announcements
- 3:10 pm** **Updates** - Pedestrian Master Plan & Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program
- 3:15 pm** **Committee Guiding Principles and 2007 Priorities** – The Committee will review the draft guiding principles and priorities resulting from last month’s discussion.
- 3:30 pm** **Physical Barriers to Walking** – Committee Member Jan Sandberg will present a brief summary of physical barriers to walking she encounters as a pedestrian.
- 3:40 pm** **Clean City Program** – Angela Brenny from the City’s Solid Waste and Recycling Division will discuss the Clean City Program and placement and maintenance of litter receptacles.
- 3:50 pm** **Coordinated Street Furniture Program** – Monique MacKenzie, Project Manager from SRF Consulting, will discuss and seek input on the City’s effort to create a coordinated street furniture program, which will replace and expand the City’s existing bus shelter and bus bench franchises. Street furniture elements being considered include bus shelters, benches, litter/recycling containers, multi-publication structures, postering/information kiosks, information/wayfinding structures, bicycle parking, and outdoor toilets.
- 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
X	Theresa Cain	Metro Transit	
X	Anna Flintoft	Minneapolis Public Works, PAC Chair	X

X	Anna Gillette	7 th Ward Citizen – North Loop	X
X	Loretta Grewe	Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities	X
X	Stephanie Gruver	4 th Ward Citizen	X
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
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
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
	Patty Bowler	Minneapolis Dept of Health & Family Support	
	Martha Hage	Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities	X

Summary of Items Discussed

Introductions/Approval of Meeting Notes/Announcements

There were no comments on the May meeting notes.

Updates - Pedestrian Master Plan & Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program

Anna Flintoft reported that the Pedestrian Master Plan funding is still being finalized, and procurement of consulting services will begin after the funding is approved. Shaun Murphy reported that the City of Minneapolis received approximately \$6 million in funding through the first round of the federal Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program for bicycle projects. Some of these bicycle projects also include pedestrian improvements, including:

- U of M Trail from Bridge #9 to the Gopher Stadium – bicycle/pedestrian facility
- Hiawatha LRT Trail – complete the connection through the Valspar parking lot in east end of downtown – bicycle/pedestrian facility
- 22nd Avenue Bicycle Boulevard will include traffic calming elements
- Lowry project (Hennepin County received) includes pedestrian countdown signals
- Several bike lane projects will include 4 to 3 lane conversions, which will also improve ease of pedestrian crossings

Committee Guiding Principles and 2007 Priorities

The Committee reviewed the draft Guiding Principles and 2007 Priorities based upon last month's discussion and recommended the following modifications:

- Guiding Principles
 - Streets not only feel safer, but also are safer, with people walking.
 - Walking serves visitors, as well as people who live, work and play in Minneapolis.
 - Need to include the concept of the desirability of being a pedestrian and the walk itself being enjoyable - the journey is as important as the destination.
 - Need to include the role of walking in building community interaction and social connectedness.
- Committee Responsibilities
 - Committee should utilize outside expertise.
 - The 2nd and 3rd Policy bullets should be more proactive.
 - Citizen participation should include corporate participation; citizen sometimes suggests legal citizen and public is better.
 - Enforcement shouldn't be limited to traffic laws – also street furniture placement, ADA issues, etc.
 - Committee will utilize community input, not just give out expertise.
- 2007 Priorities
 - “Facilitate” coordination of existing efforts may be more appropriate than “coordinate.”

Physical Barriers to Walking

Committee Member Jan Sandberg presented a Powerpoint presentation on the physical barriers to walking she encounters as a pedestrian. She took photos in a walk from her home in Loring Park through Nicollet Mall to the Mill City Farmers Market. She also distributed some verbatim responses she received from neighbors when she inquired about their perceptions of the walkability of downtown.

Some of her observations included:

- Some sidewalk elements don't stay in place. For instance newspaper boxes move frequently.
- While she loves the outdoor cafes and farmers market on Nicollet Mall, it can be difficult to walk on Nicollet Mall at certain times of the day and in certain locations. For instance, at 5pm outside Brit's Pub, servers and waiting customers block an otherwise ample through walking zone. Outside the Dakota, an inconveniently placed trash can and fire hydrant block the through walking zone. The most difficult walking environment she observed was the sidewalk café outside the Local, in which there are a narrow path along the building and a narrow path along the sidewalk, unclearly defining where the through pedestrian is to walk.
- She observed some blocks with tree grates and some blocks with raised planters and noted that while the planters are better for the trees, they can significantly narrow the walkable through zone. The planters outside the Carlyle, however, are well designed and allow ample space for the pedestrian through zone.
- Outside the Mill City Museum, a staircase intrudes deeply into the sidewalk, ending near a parking meter, allowing little space to maneuver.

Clean City Program

In response to a request by Committee Member Anna Gillette, Anna Flintoft asked Angela Brenny from the City's Solid Waste and Recycling Division to present the Clean City Program and placement and maintenance of litter receptacles. Three styles of litter receptacles are currently provided: square concrete containers with a smooth-flat exterior, which are sometimes painted; square concrete containers with a pebble-stone exterior; and the plastic containers, which may be emptied automatically by truck, making them efficient to service. In addition, there are non-standard, decorative containers in special services districts, which are serviced privately. Containers are placed by:

- council action at all bus shelters, at all intersections in downtown, and at all intersections on commercial corridors
- council ordinance in special service districts
- adopt-a-can program, by which property owners may request and receive a free container, bags, and gloves in exchange for regularly emptying the container, picking up litter and shoveling snow; property owners may also pay \$12/month to have the container emptied once a week.

The concrete containers are placed 8 feet from bus shelters and placed close to the curb line; they weigh 1 ton and do not move once placed. The plastic containers move more easily.

The Committee discussed the tradeoffs between container design and the ease of maintenance. Currently, the City Council has the authority to determine the design of litter receptacles. Angela Brenny invited Committee members to contact her at 612-673-2789 to report locations in downtown where litter containers may be missing.

Coordinated Street Furniture Program

Monique MacKenzie, Project Manager from SRF Consulting, briefed the Committee on the City's effort to create a coordinated street furniture program, which will replace and expand the City's existing bus shelter and bus bench franchises. Street furniture elements being considered include bus shelters, benches, litter/recycling containers, multi-publication structures, posterage/information kiosks, information/wayfinding structures, bicycle parking, and outdoor toilets.

Monique explained that the existing bus shelter and bus bench operating agreements will be expiring in the next few years. The City is developing an RFP to replace and expand these existing agreements with a broader street furniture program for a 15-20 year contract period. The RFP will include clear guidelines for the design and placement of street furniture, including maintaining a pedestrian clearway, appropriate scaled furniture, appropriate quantity of furniture, accessibility, and clear sight lines at intersections.

Committee questions and answers included:

- *Will the vendor have exclusive rights?*
The street furniture contract will need to be structured to provide some exclusivity to the vendor, but obliging them to provide furniture in more than just the high-traffic, high-

revenue locations.

- *Will the PAC have an opportunity to review the RFP?*
An executive summary can be made available for the PAC to comment on. This can also be made available for the Mayor's Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities.
- *How serious is the City about public bathrooms?*
We don't know yet whether our advertising market can support the installation and maintenance of public bathrooms. That is still being investigated.
- *How much direction will proposers be given on geographic differences?*
Locations with new streetscapes, such as Lake Street, are expected to have little new street furniture. A corridor undergoing reconstruction, such as Lowry, may justify an early street furniture program installation. Nicollet Mall is not expected to receive new street furniture through this program. However, all special services districts will be contacted to determine their interest in participating in a coordinated street furniture program.
- *What will the vendor maintain, and how will adequate maintenance be ensured?*
The vendor will be responsible for maintaining all street furniture elements and emptying litter containers. The vendor contract will include provisions to hold the vendor accountable for the maintenance. Both the City's Solid Waste Division and Metro Transit want to make sure the street furniture is well-maintained, as they will be assumed to be responsible if it is not.
- *How will citizens report problems with street furniture? Will they call 311?*
This is yet to be determined.
- Wayfinding information should be accessible to blind people.

Next Meeting

Thursday, July 12, 3:00 pm, City Hall Room 333