

## Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Present: Phil Ailiff, Greta Alquist, Emily Antin, Neal Baxter, Shaina Brassard, Alex Cecchini, Julie Curran, Donna Hemp, Christopher Hoffer, Christian Huelsman, Bob Loken, Dan Herber, Julia Tabbutt; Matthew Dyrdaahl, Kelsey Fogt, Mackenzie Turner Bergen, Lindsey Wallace, Joe Bernard, Sierra Saunders, Julie Danz

### Resolutions

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Street North & South Reconstruction (#1)**

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee is supportive of the direction of the 4th St North & South reconstruction project, and is encouraged to see the Complete Streets Policy clearly in action. Specific elements the PAC would like to see in the proposed layout include: Sidewalks designed to meet downtown minimums of 12' throughout the corridor, clear delineation of uses through design, and a raised protected bike facility to define the tone of the street. The PAC encourages the city to work with Metro Transit on potential transit priority in the south-east direction.

#### **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2018-2022 (#2)**

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee enthusiastically supports the list of projects presented, specifically the formation of the new Programs that allow focus on strategic issues identified in both the Pedestrian Master Plan and PAC Vision and Strategic Priorities. The PAC is appreciative of the effort taken to ensure geographic equity and addressing needs called out by partner organizations such as the Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council.

#3 The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee requests Transportation & Public Works staff undertake a freeway entrance and exit ramp intersection impact study to better understand the frequency and causes of collisions with vulnerable road users, as well as potential mitigation techniques.

#### **#4 Minneapolis Artist Junauda Petrus' Poem**

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee supports the inclusion of Minneapolis artist Junauda Petrus' poem "A Prayer for Pussies" as part of new public art associated with reconstruction of Nicollet Mall. As part of its Strategic Plan adopted in 2015, the PAC identified placemaking and the creation of a more attractive and engaging pedestrian environment as a priority. We believe that public art has an essential role to play in nurturing an engaging, affirming, beautiful and inclusive public realm. Another priority identified was equity. Works of art by people that represent the diverse backgrounds of Minneapolitans set the tone for who is welcome in our public spaces. Our streets need to be a safe space for women's bodies, especially the bodies of women of color, and representing them positively in art is a step toward that. Therefore, the PAC rejects the City's censorship of Ms Petrus' poem.

Chair Greta called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM, and asked all present to introduce themselves.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Shaina moved to approve the minutes for the December meeting; Julia Tabbutt seconded. Approved.

### **Signalization Discussion—Allan Klugman & Steve Mosing**

Allan: The first time we came to give you a presentation. This time we want to listen to what's on your minds.

JC: when are signals set in the design process?

AK: we set signals in area groups, in grids.

Chuels: tell us how you process feedback on signals.

AK: 311 calls are the best way for citizens to reach us. Not only do the calls go on record, but we are obliged to respond to 311 calls. I'll add that we use 3 plans per signal: morning rush hour, midday, and evening are set differently. Late night we use an off-peak plan. Many intersections have no detector, so the cycle may have to run automatically.

Steve: we get 4000+ requests per year via 311 and they go in a log. Thanks to the log, we can't overlook these requests. E-mail requests come in, too, but can be lost, as we all get so many e-mails.

Lindsey: what's the reasoning behind the long rush-hour cycles?

AK: they're a very common practice. We want to optimize for all users. By maintaining traffic flow at rush hour, we avoid long lines of polluting traffic.

JC: how can pedestrians learn which signals do what, and how do time and weather factor into setting signals?

SM: It's tough to gauge routines! The controller machine is good at adjusting signals, but not as good as a person would be.

AK: minimum pedestrian crossing times drive the basic signal times.

JC: can you change the system to accommodate weather?

AK: we have no "deep freeze" plan, no.

Dan: I'm confused by the relationship among City, County and State roads. Some of the County & State roads have no activation.

AK: the City operates all 810 signals in Minneapolis. We also upgrade signals with notice to the other entity. Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) means "WALK" appears whether or not you push the button. Recall signals don't need a push button for the WALK signal. 40% of our signals show WALK only after someone pushes the button.

JT: can a pedestrian differentiate among buttons?

SM: That's our challenge! The Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices; is our Bible. At the least, we have to follow its dictates. To make a change we have to notify the entity whose road is concerned.

Sierra: is there a standard threshold for pushing a button?

AK: nearly all the 200 signals downtown are pre-timed. Push buttons are found in the City's bigger intersections, the ones with left-turn lanes, etc.

Sierra: can each face of the intersection be timed differently?

AK: but the signal machine determines whether we can be that flexible.

Choff: how does right-turn-on-red affect signalization?

SM: we evaluated 16 intersections with no right turn on red, and found that these intersections had slightly more pedestrian crashes. That's baffling.

### **Snow Communications—Kathleen Mayell & Kelsey Fogt**

Shaina raised the issue of developing imaginative messages which encourage snow clearance. The City currently issues:

- a message at the start of winter, and the start of each snow storm

- an insert in all utility bills

- information in communication from City Council members

- Twitter, Facebook and Next Door

- we post information on the City's website and on the Public Work website

- we also make videos which appear on-line

JT: I miss the utility bill insert, as I pay automatically.

KM: we want to know what PAC thinks are the most effective; when, which media and what kind of message.

JT: how about more helpful tips, like, "It's a warm day, great for clearing away ice!"

JC: addressing the know-how gap with "training" videos. And explaining the full responsibility.

Lindsey: irresponsible landlords and owners of vacant lots pose create problems.

Emily: some people don't want to report their neighbors and be known as cranks. Any way to address that fear? Also, owners of corner lots don't always know they must clear both sidewalks.

Alex: how about loaning tools to those who can't afford them?

Chuels: pedestrian detours need to be shoveled, too.

Shaina: in Madison, Wisc., you can sign up for reminders to shovel.

### **Programs & Policy Subcommittee—Julia Curran & Shaina Brassard**

In November we met at Whole Foods on Hennepin, walked along Washington Avenue and looked at how the project was coming along. Then we turned into a restaurant to talk about that and eat.

### **Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee—Alex Cecchini**

We had four agendas. The Hiawatha LRT trail gap first. We discussed tactile trail markers and beautification.

Next, we looked at the 4<sup>th</sup> Street reconstruction project. Metro Transit intends to keep its bus lane (west bound to Hennepin).

We agreed that we wanted more consistency along the route. Alex read the resolution (#1 above); Julia Curran seconded.

Approved.

We next discussed CIP proposals. Matthew laid out the final list for the PAC. (\*See below)

Whereupon Alex read the resolution (#2); Bob seconded. Approved.

The next item came up as a question about freeway ramps and how they impact pedestrians. Alex read the resolution (#3);

Chris Huelsman seconded. Then Julia Tabbutt moved to table, and return the question to the P & P Committee; which Shaina seconded. Approved.

### **Resolution about a Poem by Minneapolis Artist Junauda Petrus**

This week, a poem proposed for Nicollet Mall was rejected. Julia Tabbutt read the resolution (#4); Julia Curran seconded.

Approved, with 1 nay vote.

Discussion:

Dan: speak to the censorship issue.

JT: the City's Mary Altman (Public Arts Administrator) said she rejected the poem due to a word in the title.

After discussion of whether to specify who rejected the poem, Joe Bernard advised to leave the resolution unrevised, as the City would get the message as written.

Alex: let's invite Ms Altman to a meeting once in a while, since art works affect the pedestrian environment.

### **Year-End Review—Matthew Dyr Dahl**

Matthew turned the PAC's attention to the City's many pedestrian-related projects and programs in 2016. These included street reconstruction projects, the parklets, crosswalk marking, and also PAC's Open Streets appearances.

### **Walk Summit Proposals—Matthew Dyr Dahl**

We have 7 ideas now, and the host committee meets on January 12. The ideas are:

Nicollet Mall  
Portland/Park Commons  
29<sup>th</sup> Street West Shared Street  
Safe Routes to School (St. Paul Schools will participate, too)  
Calhoun-Harriet Master Plan  
a walking tour of Seward neighborhood; Franklin & Minnehaha Avenues, esp.  
the North Loop as a growing pedestrian neighborhood

**Announcements**

Julie Danzl: Feb. 1 is Winter Walk to School Day. This year the state has adopted this, too.

Lindsey: a meeting will be held on January 26 on the proposed work on Hennepin from 31<sup>st</sup> to 36<sup>th</sup> Streets.

Greta called for a vote on adjournment, which passed unanimously. Adjourned at 6:05 PM.