

Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Present: Philip Ailiff, Greta Alquist, Neal Baxter, Alex Cecchini, Julie Curran, Christopher Hoffer, Christian Huelsman, Bob Loken, Donna Hemp, Tamir Ali Mohamud, Dan Herber, Julia Tabbut; Matthew Dyrdaahl, Mackenzie Turner, Joe Bernard, Julie Danzl, Heidi Schallberg, Kelly Yemen, Mike Mechtenberg; guest: Jill Chamberlain, Blue Cross

Resolutions:

1. The PAC supports Hennepin County's regional solicitation application. We're especially excited about the West Lake & Excelsior and 46th Street projects, and filling the sidewalk gap along Portland Avenue.
2. The PAC supports the City's regional solicitation application. We're especially excited about the 36th Street improvements.
3. The PAC tentatively supports the goals of the 8th Street reconstruction, but would like the City to engage with Metro Transit & MnDOT on downtown transit and its applicability to 8th Street in light of the new Complete Streets policy.
4. The PAC enthusiastically supports this project, especially the bumpouts, narrowed traffic lanes and crossings, protection from car traffic provided by boulevards and/or bike lanes, and the sidewalk gap infill.

Welcome

Greta Alquist called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM, and asked all present to introduce themselves.

Approval of June Minutes

Phil moved to approve the minutes for June; Donna seconded. Approved.

Extended Introductions—Julia Tabbut

We broke up into 4 smaller groups, and shared responses to questions Julia prepared, four topics (who are you as a pedestrian; what style of meeting do you prefer; what are your strengths and interests as a volunteer; what about the subcommittees, do you like them or want a change) that led to the following conclusions:
sending information on agenda items as early as possible would accommodate all abilities and needs at the meetings;
accessibility needs to be a focus where documents are concerned;
three meetings per month is a lot of time—are the agency representatives more useful at the subcommittee meetings, or the full PAC; and would a combined PAC/BAC engineering meeting, even quarterly, be useful

Elections for Officers

Chair—Bob nominated Greta Alquist; Neal seconded. Approved.

Vice Chair—Neal nominated Julia Tabbut; Phil seconded. Approved.

Secretary—Donna nominated Neal Baxter; Julia T. seconded. Approved.

Co-Chairs of P&P Subcommittee—Julia T. nominated Shaina Brassard; Neal seconded.

Donna nominated Philip Ailiff, who declined the honor.

Phil nominated Julia Curran; Alex seconded.

Julia C. nominated Alex Cecchini; Donna seconded. Alex declined, too.

By voice vote Shaina & Julia Curran were approved as co-chairs of the Programs & Policies Subcommittee.

Co-Chairs of I&E Subcommittee—Alex Cecchini nominated himself; Dan seconded.

Bob Loken nominated himself; Julia T. seconded.

By voice vote Alex & Bob were approved as co-chairs of the Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee.

Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee Report

Kelley reported on Hennepin County's application for the Regional Solicitation. The projects submitted for consideration include 44th/Webber Pkwy/Lyndale, where bike lanes will be added and the sidewalks repaired; replacing the bridge carrying Broadway over Highway 100; Portland from 60th to 66th, where 1 lane of traffic will become bike lanes, and a gap in the sidewalk network will be filled; West Lake & Excelsior, which will add a pedestrian island and crosswalks to clarify pedestrian routes; and 46th Street from Lyndale to Cedar, a sidewalk repair and signal improvements (APS and countdown timers) are planned. A sixth project, Marshall Street NE, was dropped from the application.

Alex moved the resolution (#1 above); Donna seconded.

Dan: are the Hennepin County and Minneapolis projects competing?

KY: yes, all jurisdictions compete against each other.

CHoff: do any neighborhood associations oppose these projects?

KY: No, and public suggestions contributed much to the final plan for West Lake.

Resolution #1 approved.

Mackenzie commented on the projects Minneapolis submitted with its application for the Solicitation: the Hennepin Avenue reconstruction, from Washington to 12th St., which will add bikeways; 37th Ave. NE, also adding bikeways and filling in a sidewalk gap; Nicollet Ave. bridge over Minnehaha Creek; Prospect Park Trail, turning an old rail line into a bike-ped trail; Queen Ave. from 44th to Bassett Creek, another bike-ped project; and replacing the current temporary bike-ped lane along 36th Street into a permanent bike route and sidewalk along Lakewood Cemetery. This last project would create a precedent for adding a temporary solution to the CIP list for permanent reconstruction. Neal moved the resolution (#2 above); Donna seconded.

CHoff: Any opposition to these projects from the neighborhood associations?

MTB: No.

Julia C. and Alex repeated PAC's concerns about the nature of the changes planned for Hennepin Avenue.

Resolution #2 was approved, with Dan Herber abstaining.

Matthew described the plan for 8th Street, from Hennepin to Chicago, which gives priority to pedestrians and transit and provides no bike lanes. Alex cited a 2010 report urging that no dedicated bus lanes on east/west streets be built through downtown, and then he moved resolution #3 above; Greta seconded. Approved.

Julia Tabbutt described the 42nd Ave. N. project, which adds 84 bumpouts from Xerxes to Lyndale, fills the sidewalk gap along Crystal Lake Cemetery, and accommodates a rapid transit route. Julia moved resolution #4 above; Neal seconded. Approved.

Programs & Policies Subcommittee—Alex Cecchini

Open Streets on July 10 was a success. Many thanks to all who planned and carried out PAC's bumpout and crosswalk demonstration at Washington & 3rd Ave. North. We'll repeat this exercise at another Open Streets event this summer.

The Comprehensive Plan committee meets again soon, and we'll discuss pedestrian issues exclusively. Send your suggestions to Alex before August, so he can propose them at the next meeting of the Comp. Plan committee.

P&P is planning to gather various organizations for a discussion of equity issues; Heidi Schallberg will speak to P&P about enforcement issues at our next meeting; and Hannah Pritchard will talk to the PAC in August about signals.

CIP (Capital Improvements Projects) Process—Matthew Dyrda

Matthew spoke with Steve Hay about PAC input into the CIP list, and he was interested. He'll come to PAC soon to discuss this with us. Matthew also advised him that the PAC is interested in developing a new program to include some of our wish list in the CIP. Kathleen Mayall will be evaluating CIP criteria from the perspective of racial equity, and on August 5 we'll get together with her.

Agency Announcements

Jill Chamberlain of Blue Cross came to announce that the biannual National Walking Summit will be held in St. Paul in September. She asked us to think about how this gathering might build PAC's agenda.

Joe Bernard announced that plans are underway to expand and change the Central Avenue Pedestrian Overlay District and its zoning regulations.

Christian Huelsman alerted members to an alley tour on July 27 at 6 PM, starting at Corner Coffee (514 N. 3rd St.).

Dan moved to adjourn; Alex seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 6:12 PM.