

**Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, September 7, 2016**

Present: Philip Ailiff, Neal Baxter, Shaina Brassard, Alex Cecchini, Julie Curran, Donna Hemp, Tamir Ali Mohamud, Dan Herber, Julia Tabbut; Matthew Dyr Dahl, Mackenzie Turner Barga, Sarah Stewart, Mike Mechtenberg; guests: Ebony Adedayo of Metro Stability, Alexis Pennie & Lindsay, neighbors

**Resolutions:**

1. The PAC supports the Uptown Pedestrian Oriented Overlay as presented, specifically elements that make walking safer and more attractive, as well as those that allow walkable development by-right. We encourage these additions to be included in all PO Overlays city-wide while expanding their geographic footprint.
2. The PAC supports the changes to the 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE reconstruction between Quincy and Monroe Streets as proposed, and appreciates city staff coming back to us for feedback this late in the design process.
3. The PAC approves the appointment of Lindsey Wallace as City Council Representative on the PAC.

**Welcome**

Shaina called the meeting to order at 4:12 PM, and asked all present to introduce themselves. The meeting was held along the route of the North Minneapolis Greenway Demonstration Project, starting at Irving & 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.

**Approval of August Minutes**

Donna moved to approve the minutes for August; Julia Curran seconded. Approved.

**Agency Appointment**

Matthew Dyr Dahl introduced Lindsey Wallace, aide to Council Member Lisa Bender, who was appointed PAC's City Council representative. Neal moved to approve the appointment of Lindsey Wallace as City Council Representative on the PAC; Tamir seconded. Approved.

**Programs & Policies Subcommittee Report—Shaina Brassard**

Brian Schaffer led a discussion of the proposed Uptown Pedestrian Overlay District and the re-zoning proposal for the Wedge (Lowry Hill East). Alex moved a resolution (#1 above); Phil seconded. Approved.

Julia C's pointed out that re-zoning the Wedge looks like a backwards step, per promoting density.

Shaina: it's encouraging to see someone from CPED (beside agency member Joe Bernard) at one of PAC's meetings.

We also discussed our Open Streets program. We need more volunteers at the next event, on September 10, when Broadway will be closed off from Lyndale to Penn. Meet at Bryant & West Broadway, between 11 AM and 5 PM.

**Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee—Alex Cecchini**

First, we want to recognize Kelsey Fogt, the new Associate Transportation Planner. She will work on PAC business, the parklets, and other agendas.

At the meeting we looked at the 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE reconstruction. The path under the railroad bridge will be narrow, forcing the bike path into the street. When the road rebuilds the bridge, the City will remove the path from the street. It was re-assuring that Public Works came to the PAC so late in the planning stage. Alex moved a resolution (#2 above); Julia C. seconded. Approved.

A discussion of the CIP followed, and Matthew led the committee through a few of the next steps. We came up with several categories which we believe will help us fill out CIP proposals.

**North Minneapolis Greenway Demonstration Project—Sarah Stewart**

Sarah introduced the project to the PAC as a test, unfunded, not permanent and more of a study in how to make greenways work better. The route was chosen because 1) it connects two parks; 2) those living in the vicinity embraced the project; and 3) the Council Members here wanted the project to connect their wards. The idea began to hatch in 2009 with residents. In 2010/2011, Transit for Liveable Communities engaged a broader area, and unearthed deep interest in the project. The Mpls Health Dept. joined in, and an effort to reach a population as diverse as the neighborhood began. The first 400 respondents did not reflect the diversity of area residents.

Ebony Adedayo: we dug deeper and committed more resources in several stages to find response among *all* segments of the local population. We finally reached 20% of renters and 50% of people of color. A very tailored engagement with residents in 2015 narrowed the gap in diversity of respondents. More creative ideas for the project resulted, too, like gardening and areas for children.

A common concern was gentrification, which Ebony defined as “losing home, business or access due to higher land values”. Alexis explained how his group specialized in bringing forward neighborhood concerns.

Lindsey, who lives along the Greenway's route, has supported the idea from the first. She sees the positive effects of the Greenway already, in bringing more neighbors out of doors into the street, playing and socializing together. The crosswalks slow cars on the cross streets. The street is cleaner; everyone seems to take more pride in it. Irving is a safer bike route than anyone enjoyed before, and she says crime is down around the area, since more neighbors are outside.

Alex: is the City evaluating this?

Sarah: Yes, on many levels. We're counting the cars now. In the winter we'll look at how snow clearance works, and more. Every block or two has a different design, so each block has a different impact. The 3500 block has the fullest treatment (no cars allowed) and those who live here are very supportive of the project. The next 3 blocks have chicanes, which slow but do not eliminate cars. The mixed environment has created a mixed reaction, and this design is not as popular as the car-free one. The 3000 block has the least change, with some car parking and fewer barricades.

Donna: Will the blind be able to discern where the bike lane is?

Sarah: No, we'd build a permanent bike lane so that the blind could distinguish it, but not for this demonstration.

Neighbor: what does this project cost?

Sarah: the City has yet to figure that out. The neighbors tell us the whole area benefits, so they feel the cost should be assessed more broadly. Also, this project is hard to evaluate, as the temporary installations don't feel real to everyone.

At this point, PAC members walked the length of the Greenway, from 36<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Julia C. moved to adjourn; Shaina seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 5:32 P:M.