

Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Present: Phillip Ailiff, Neal Baxter, Shaina Brassard, Tamir Ali Mohamud, Julia Curran, Olivia Hovland, Barbara Olson, Christian Huelsman, Christopher Hoffer, Peter Vader, Rachel Bell, Aaron Berger, Dan Herber, Julia Tabbut; Matthew Dyrdaahl, Lindsey Wallace, Heidi Schallberg, Julie Danzl, Rattana Sengsoulichanh, Sierra Saunders, Mackenzie Turner Bargaen, Carrie Christensen, Millicent Flowers, Hope Capp; guest: Luís Dax, pedestrian

Resolutions

Resolution #1

The PAC supports the **Hiawatha Trail Gap** project as presented with the following requests:

1. Provide trees in the boulevard as a physical barrier between pedestrians and vehicles.
2. Address safety of bicycle/pedestrian interaction at northern trail terminus.
3. Separate pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Pursue MnDOT variance for turn lane length at 32nd Street to guarantee separation.
4. Provide green conflict markings at Lake Street crosswalk.
5. Consider night time use, in particular glare from northbound vehicle headlights.
6. Provide benches.

Resolution #2

The PAC supports the **28th Ave S., 58th to 59th St** Project as presented.

Resolution #3

The PAC supports the **Mid-City Industrial** project and appreciates the integration of some boulevards within the limited right of way; and the improved intersection at Kennedy and Stinson. The PAC urges the design team to pursue such a direct pedestrian connection via sidewalks on both sides of Arthur to the Diagonal Trail in order to help link this rather isolated neighborhood to the rest of the city and reconnect the grid. The PAC also would like to see the sidewalk on Taft extend north of the existing railway tracks to the intersection with Traffic Street.

The PAC requests consolidation and narrowing of curb cuts wherever possible, as well as clear delineation of sidewalks where driveways cross over them to minimize potential conflict between drivers and pedestrians. The PAC opposes 14' lanes, including on R St. NE and Arthur St. NE. The PAC requests that lanes be narrowed to 10' default width.

Resolution #4

The PAC recommends that Public Works make the following **process improvements for detour/construction practices**:

1. Improve complaint reporting about detours via 311. Require signage as part of street construction projects that require pedestrian and/or bicycle detours directing people to 311.
2. Research best practices for detours of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including situations under which the closure of pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities is prohibited. Modify existing practices based on research.
3. Define requirements for provision of temporary pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities when the

closure of permanent pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities is unavoidable due to private or public sector construction projects.

4. Equalize fees charged for closing vehicular travel lanes, bicycle facilities, and sidewalks. (Currently, the closure fee is lower for bicycle and pedestrian facilities than for vehicular travel lanes, providing an incentive for private construction to close bicycle and pedestrian rather than travel lanes).
5. Add pedestrian and/or bicycle construction detours to complete streets checklist for street projects.

Resolution #5

The PAC recommends the following actions by Public Works related to the freeway on and off ramps and approaches:

Identify freeway on and off ramps that have high pedestrian crash rates nearby.

Include proximity to freeway on and off ramps as a criterion for selecting projects in the Pedestrian Safety Capital Program.

Undertake a freeway on and off ramp study.

Vice Chair Julia Tabbut called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM. She asked all present to introduce themselves.

Election of Officers

Julia turned the meeting over to Matthew, who presided until a chair was elected.

Matthew first explained the duties of each position.

Chair: Julia Curran nominated Julia Tabbut for Chair, Phil seconded.

Phil nominated Julia Curran, and Christian Huelsman seconded; Julia declined the honor.

The members approved Julia Tabbut and she was elected.

Vice Chair: Julia Curran nominated Phillip Ailiff for Vice Chair, Julia Tabbut seconded.

The member approved Phil as Vice Chair and he was elected.

Secretary: Christian Huelsman nominated Neal Baxter for Secretary, Phil seconded.

The members approved Neal as Secretary and he was elected.

1st Programs & Policies Subcommittee Co-Chair

Christian Huelsman nominated himself for Co-Chair, Shaina seconded.

The members approved Christian as Co-Chair and he was elected.

1st Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee Co-Chair

Shaina nominated Julia Curran as Co-Chair, Tamir seconded.

The members approved Julia Curran as Co-Chair and she was elected.

2nd Programs & Policies Subcommittee Co-Chair

Shaina nominated herself as Co-Chair, Julia Tabbut seconded.

The members approved Shaina and she was elected.

2nd Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee Co-Chair

Neal nominated Peter Vader as Co-Chair, Shaina seconded.

The members approved Peter as Co-Chair and he was elected.

Approval of the Minutes

The members voted to approve the minutes for the June meeting.

Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee Meeting—Matthew Dyr Dahl

We first heard about the Hiawatha Trail Gap from project manager Don Pflaum. The work is scheduled for 2018. The trail's intersection with Lake Street poses a challenge. PAC's concerns include lighting and the connection to the Midtown Greenway. We want a separation of the paths.

Matthew read the resolution (#1 above). Shaina moved, Neal seconded. Resolution approved.

The reconstruction of 28th Avenue South came up next. This was a 30% layout, which means the City Council must vote to approve the project. If the Council, as expected, approve, the engineers then draft the final plan. The project as planned allows the City to add a bike route to the airport here in the future. PAC likes the plan.

Christian moved the resolution (#2 above), Rachel seconded. Approved.

Lastly, we looked at the Mid-City Industrial zone reconstruction. This plan does not fill in all the sidewalk gaps here, which is a disappointment for the PAC.

Dan: The City Council must OK exceptions to the Complete Streets requirement to fill in sidewalk gaps, does it not?

C Hu: The exception made for the front-end loading zone along Arthur seemed needless.

Neal moved the resolution (#3 above), Barbara seconded. After much discussion, Shaina called the previous question, and Julia Tabbut seconded. Resolution approved.

Mackenzie asked whether future use was in the Complete Streets checklist. Dan read the language— Yes, it is.

Programs & Policies Subcommittee Meeting—Shaina

Christian Huelsman gave a presentation on Living Alleys, creating vibrant alleys that are reclaimed for pedestrians and allow water run-off to soak into the ground.

He also gave us his impressions of the problems freeway on & off ramps pose for pedestrians. Shaina read and moved a resolution (#5 above) and Neal seconded. Approved.

Lindsey presented the recommendations of her detours group, made up of PAC & BAC members and others to study the closing of sidewalks and bike paths. Shaina read and moved Resolution #4 above; Olivia seconded. Approved.

The committee also discussed how to usefully orient new members of the PAC. Some of these ideas will be put to use today.

Finally, we talked about the Open Streets events. The crosswalk design we modeled at last year's events is now standard city practice. The new Our Streets organization will carry on at Open Streets, and the committee encourages PAC members to pursue the pedestrian agenda with Open Streets this year.

Orientation Activity—Julia Tabbut

We asked at the June PAC meeting what made PAC great for members. Replies included: showing up for meetings, the subcommittee meetings add depth, the value of listening before asking questions or adding comments, and getting acquainted with other members.

Julia divided the members into smaller groups, and asked everyone to answer the following questions:

What impact do you hope to have? What impact do you hope to have on society? What are your personal reasons for joining the PAC? What's your pedestrian perspective? What skills do you bring to the PAC?

After getting acquainted, the meeting came together again to hear 3 examples of PAC successes. Shaina mentioned how the new CIP list came to be; Neal talked about the PAC's impact on the recent 42nd Ave. N. project; and Julia Curran explained how the PAC changed the Complete Streets policy for the better.

Matthew will send useful PAC resources to the new members by e-mail shortly.

Announcements

Shaina: the next Open Streets event takes place on July 23, along Lake Street.

C Huelsman: Our Streets is looking for volunteers to talk about pedestrian issues at Open Streets events.

MTB: another meeting is scheduled on the 5th St. SE bridge project. Time: July 13, at 6 PM, at First Congregational Church.

MD: Open Streets is beginning to plan their 2018 season.

Rattana: racial disparities in housing and the developing Comprehensive Plan will be under discussion at Open Streets, too.

Neal moved to adjourn; Tamir seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 6:01 PM.