

Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Present: Phillip Ailiff, Neal Baxter, Donna Hemp, Dan Herber, Julia Curran, Christian Huelsman, Peter Vader, Julia Tabbut; Mackenzie Turner Bargaen, Sarah Stewart, Julie Danzl, Rattana Sengsoulichanh, Suzanne Murphy, Mike Mechtenberg, Carrie Christensen, Emily Kettell, Millicent Flowers; Luís Dax, Mary Blitzer, pedestrians; Simon Blenski, Public Works

Resolutions approved by the PAC, November 1, 2017:

(#1) 12th Street bikeway and sidewalk expansion

Overall the PAC supports the proposed 12th Street bikeway and sidewalk expansion. The PAC appreciates the shorter crossing distances. The PAC supports tactile and visual delineation between bicyclist and pedestrian areas. We urge attention to conflict zones between pedestrians, bicycles and motor vehicles. In particular, we urge tighter curb radii to prevent free right turns at NE-bound 2nd Avenue South and at SE-bound 12th Street South, as well as greatly reducing the width of curbcuts. We look forward to the inclusion of street furniture and lighting to give more pedestrian-oriented cues to all users.

(#2) Humboldt Ave Rail Crossing Improvement Project

The PAC supports a proposed 8' sidewalk on the west side and 10' shared use path/trail connection on the east side of Humboldt Ave N. We are glad to see ADA compliant rail crossings, narrowed streets for slower traffic, and additional cross-arm protections for pedestrians and bicyclists.

(#3) 2018 BP004 Pedestrian Safety Program

The PAC wholeheartedly supports curb extensions, shortened crossing distances, narrowed roadways, painted or durable crosswalks, and improved ADA compliance along 6th Street South in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood.

(#4) 4th Street Reconstruction

The PAC supports reconstruction of 4th Street to reduce travel lanes and increase pedestrian and bicycle space. We appreciate the inclusion of the bus queue jump to reduce transit delay. In particular, the PAC recommends the reconstruction include the following options:

1. Between 2nd Ave N and 1st Ave N we strongly support the inclusion of bumpouts to shorten crossing distances on both the north and south ends of 4th Street. Although we considered the volume of right-turning vehicular traffic during events, any event that increases vehicular traffic will also increase pedestrian volume, including pedestrians who may be unfamiliar with downtown street crossings.
2. Between 1st Ave N and Hennepin Ave, the PAC supports the installation of a long-term protected bikeway.
3. The PAC supports the selection of fewer traffic lanes along the full stretch, especially between 3rd Ave South and 4th Ave South.

(#5) Plymouth Bikeway and 18th Ave NE Bikeway Gap Update

The PAC supports the Plymouth Avenue and 18th Ave NE bikeway gap project as presented. We appreciate that this project improves bicyclist safety and separates bicycles from pedestrian zones. We

particularly appreciate the tabled crossing on 18th to increase pedestrian visibility for drivers, to reduce grade shift and fall risk for those with limited mobility, and to communicate pedestrian priority.

Chair Julia Tabbutt called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM, and asked all present to introduce themselves.

Programs & Policies Subcommittee—Christian Huelsman

First, we looked at PAC's strategic plan. Discussion included a reckoning of PAC's successes; what we should focus on now; exploring a possible influence on land use and zoning issues; how the PAC might influence developers; and what to learn from missed opportunities, including the absence of a police liaison on the PAC.

Suzanne: Police Chief Arradondo has informed me that he has designated Deputy Chief Art Knight as the department's PAC contact.

We also discussed Access Minneapolis, with Simon Blenski. Simon and the committee identified a number of accomplishments, among them the increase in numbers of people walking in Minneapolis, the parklets program and the capital improvement projects the PAC has contributed to the City's agenda. Among the plan's shortcomings we noted the lack of metrics and the absence of a clear approach for improving winter snow clearance measures.

Finally, Virginie Nadimi, an associate transportation planner in Public Works, examined the issue of historic streets.

Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee—Julia Curran & Peter Vader

We had a busy meeting, and we have 5 resolutions to put forward. The first deals with the protected bikeways planned for 2018. Blaisdell will have one, and bollards will be installed somewhere south of Lake Street.

Public Works plans to fill a short gap in the trail along a railroad crossing near Humboldt & Shingle Creek. Julia Curran read resolution #2 above; Chris Huelsman seconded. Approved.

Back to the bikeway project, and resolution #1, which Peter read and Dan Herber seconded. Approved.

The 3rd project fixes pedestrian issues on 6th St. between Cedar Avenue and the Cedar-Riverside light rail station. This is a project eagerly awaited and pushed by the neighbors. Permanent bump-outs and curb extensions with tactile elements will be added here. Peter read resolution #3; Curran seconded. Approved.

We looked at the project which will make the intersection of Franklin & Bedford SE safer for pedestrians. No resolution for this one; all interested parties should attend the neighborhood meeting on Nov. 14 at the Hampden Inn, on University Avenue.

The next project we examined will re-work 4th Street west of Hennepin Avenue. Among other improvements, the City plans to install a cue jump at the Hennepin corner for transit buses. Curran read the resolution (#4 above); Neal seconded. Approved.

The Plymouth Ave. NE bikeway gap came before the committee again. The committee had no objections to the project. Peter read resolution #5; Donna seconded. Approved.

We also heard again about the 5th St SE footbridge. The final design appears to lack the stair approaches for pedestrians, which cost too much. Benches and lighting will be added, however.

MTB: this project is completely funded by the State and federal governments. The new bridge will be built off-site, and the old one will remain until shortly before it is replaced.

Approval of Minutes

Phil moved the minutes; Dan seconded. Approved.

Announcements

Curran: a meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on November 15 at the Loring Park building to discuss the approaches to Loring Park under the latest plan for the area.

Peter & Curran: the Mayors' forum on Saturday, sponsored by Our Streets, was encouraging. All the candidates who attended showed appreciation for pedestrian issues.

Neal moved to adjourn; Donna seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 5:01 PM.