

Full Committee Wednesday April 4, 2018

Meeting attendees: Julia Tabbut, Neal Baxter, Shaina Brassard, Dan Herber, Rachel Bell, Julia Curran, Olivia Hovland, Barbara Olson, Christian Huelsman, Peter Vader, Aaron Berger; Chris Kartheiser, Sarah Stewart, Suzanne Murphy, Steve Mahowald, Mackenzie Turner Bargaen, Heidi Schallberg, Emily Kettell; Millicent Flowers; Luís Dax, pedestrian, Jaime Makepeace, Mayor's office, Deitan Dubuc, Minneapolis Police Department Julia Tabbut, Philip Ailiff, Neal Baxter, Shaina Brassard, Donna Hemp, Dan Herber, Rachel Bell, Julia Curran, Olivia Hovland, Barbara Olson, Christopher Hoffer, Tamir Ali Mohamud, Christian Huelsman, Peter Vader, Aaron Berger; Matthew Dyr Dahl, Sarah Stewart, Rattana Sengsoulichanh, Suzanne Murphy, Steve Mahowald, Mackenzie Turner Bargaen, Emily Kettell, Julie Danzl, Carrie Christensen; Millicent Flowers, Chris Kartheiser; Luís Dax, pedestrian

Resolutions approved by the PAC:

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee would like MnDOT to work with city staff to develop designs for the 3rd Avenue Bridge over the Mississippi River. We support maximizing non-motorized space, ideally by transitioning the roadway from 4 travel lanes to 2 travel lanes for the maximum length possible. If that's not possible, minimizing the barrier width and minimizing the shoulder width. We support separating bicycles and pedestrians within the non-motorized space. We also request that the railing height be set to a minimum of 4 feet. In addition, we request benches and human-scale lighting.

Chair Julia called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM, and asked all to introduce themselves.

With the consent of the PAC, the chair allowed Officer Dubuc, sitting in for Deputy Chief Erick Fors, to answer questions.

Christian: Does the department track pedestrians in crime reports, statistics, etc.?

Dubuc: Yes, we do.

Shaina: we don't believe pedestrian activities like jaywalking and loitering are crimes. We want to encourage walking and a vibrant street life.

Dubuc: the police would love to help with that.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Shaina moved to approve the minutes for March; Aaron seconded. Approved.

Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee Report—Julia Curran

We looked at 3 projects again last month. We heard about the Hennepin Avenue reconstruction through downtown. This project will come before the committee again in May.

We discussed at length the width of the sidewalks, and the long bus stops. Construction begins in 2020.

SB: no dedicated bus lanes, and 5 lanes of traffic. We need to send a resolution about this project.

Curran: there's not a lot of focus on pedestrian needs here that we've seen.

Kartheiser: the project will involve no loss of pedestrian space, with more added in some places. Business owners will bear the expense of "extras" like benches. Flexible space is under consideration, too, like closing a lane of traffic during certain times of day.

Neal offered a resolution, and read it (*see below), which Shaina seconded. After some discussion, Shaina moved to table, Dan seconded. Approved.

We agreed to interrupt the committee report to allow our guests to present their business without waiting.

Dockless Bike Share—Joshua Johnson

Nice Ride is changing their rentals from stations to a more flexible approach, with bikes that lock the rear wheel onto street features. The City Council will have to approve a separate license and a new ordinance.

The Council's Transportation committee will look at this proposal on April 17, with full City Council approval expected on April 27.

Olivia: how many new bikes will they add?

JJ: Nice Ride proposes adding 1500 the first year, no earlier than August; they currently have 1800 bikes.

The City will draw up a site plan for each right of way Nice Ride wants, looking at how the new feature fits in with poles, traffic signals, etc., already in place. When the site plan is approved, the firm will have to apply for a permit for each location. Then signage will be approved for each. Locking the bikes will be allowed at specific places at each site.

This proposal is a form of pilot project, which will allow the City to assess what dockless bike rental involves.

Suzanne: how about bikes in winter?

JJ: that has been discussed, and could be written into the agreement with Nice Ride.

Dan: Are other cities including pedestrian equipment, grocery carts for example, in similar rentals? I'd like to see pedestrians benefit, too.

JJ: I've not seen anything like that, but I'll look for it.

MTB: are scooters allowed?

JJ: we'll see, in Phase 2.

Hennepin Avenue Regional Solicitation Request, Douglas to Lake Street—Becca Hughes

This project is scheduled for 2023. Jefferson School is hosting an open house about this work on April 11.

The federal application will not be linked to a specific layout. The City can receive up to \$7 million in federal funds for this project, according to specifics. We'll discuss specific proposals in 2019/2020. For now, we want to gather comments from the local residents and business owners.

SB: we were told the modal priorities would govern these projects.

BH: that depends. We have to assess local needs.

Dan: when do the federal people want the specific layout?

BH: specificity is rewarded with more funds. We're not making any promises about the roadway.

MTB: what's the functional class of Hennepin here? A minor?

BH: Yes, it's a minor arterial roadway.

Dan: surely the funds aren't awarded to a reduced roadway. What does the federal government look for in these applications? And the plan has to meet the State-Aid rules, no doubt?

BH: Yes, it must meet the State-Aid requirements.

CH: will the bus lane come to an end south of downtown?

BH: we're looking for consistency and continuity from Washington Ave. to 36th Street.

Curran: the neighborhood leaders represent only a portion of opinion in the area. How will you engage the majority?

BH: we're looking at ways to do that, like 3 open houses, and approaching people on the street. We'd appreciate your suggestions.

Programs & Policies Subcommittee—Christian Huelsman

We discussed PAC recruitment first. Suzanne & Rattana have sounded various groups that are interested in our agenda, who will spread the word. Be aware that the deadline for applications is April 20.

We discussed visits with City Council Members next. We still have a few gaps. Please look at the spread sheet and make this engagement robust.

We also critiqued the annual report to the TPW committee, and also drew up a list of ideas for future meetings.

Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee Report—Julia Curran & Peter Vader (redux)

We saw more plans for the Chicago Avenue sidewalk gap. Unfortunately, cost rules out including a boulevard. The sidewalk will be installed in 2018.

The reconstruction of the 3rd Avenue bridge occupied the balance of the committee's time. The historic nature of the bridge makes raising the rails on the bridge controversial, but this looks possible.

MTB: feel free to suggest improvements right now. The railing height (for safety and comfort) and the four lanes of traffic aren't fixed yet, just a starting point. More ideas from the PAC will be more, not less, useful. Mackenzie read a resolution passed by the BAC; Shaina seconded. Approved.

Neal moved to adjourn; Shaina seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 6:00 PM.

***Resolution**

The PAC respectfully declines to support the proposed plan for downtown Hennepin Avenue. Not only does the proposal add nothing to the aesthetic or tourist interest of the City's major thoroughfare, but the proposed changes ignore the modal priorities of the City's Complete Streets policy. The City can do better.

Further, we suggest that, if the plan has been watered down in order to comply with federal mandates and specifications, then the PAC would prefer the City reject federal money with such strings attached, and rebuild Hennepin without it.