

Full Committee

August 1, 2018

Meeting attendees: Phillip Ailiff, Neal Baxter, Paul St. Martin, Abigail Johnson, Tamir Ali Mohamud, Donna Hemp, Julia Curran, Barbara Olson, Peter Vader, Julia Tabbut; Matthew Dyr Dahl, Sarah Stewart, Julie Danzl, Rattana Sengsoulichanh, Carrie Christensen, Steve Mahowald, Emily Kettell, Millicent Flowers, Chris Kartheiser; Luís Dax, pedestrian; Ethan Fawley, Our Streets

Chair Julia Tabbut called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM, and asked all present to introduce themselves.

Approval of the minutes

Julia Curran moved the minutes; Donna seconded. Approved.

Orientation: Visioning and Strategic Planning—Matthew Dyr Dahl

Matthew asked members to consider the question, what should be the PAC's strategic priorities for the next biennium? We will address this issue at the next meeting of the P&P Committee.

Matthew next asked all present to consider these two questions: what has the City done well? Where has the PAC been effective? We pondered these a moment, and some of the responses included:

Barb: the new bumpouts and the zebra crosswalk striping.

Steve: 6th Ave. N., in the North Loop, has a wider sidewalk.

Donna: the APS signals.

Luís: Open Streets is growing.

Sarah: the new CIPs, and the persistent work on the Winter Maintenance Study.

Curran: The Complete Streets policy, and high attendance at our meetings.

MD: improved resolutions and strong participation in Mpls 2040.

Tabbut: there's a greater awareness of pedestrian needs.

Peter: corner snow clearance is a good change.

Phil: better curb cuts, more sharing of the sidewalk with bikes.

Matthew posed a second set of questions: what areas could have been more effective? What aspects have not been addressed much? How can the PAC be more effective? To which the following replies:

Curran: giving pedestrians parity over cars.

Peter: enforcement of traffic laws, blocking the box, for instance.

Steve: which is finally a moving violation under the law. Metro Transit is considering how to boost enforcement.

NB: getting acquainted with our City Council members.

Julia Tabbut: I'm going to send out an e-mail to everyone in order to plan more visits with them.

Steve: enforcement of red lights by means of cameras would help.

Barb: the new Nicollet Mall pedestrian policy.

Open Streets and the #wewalkmpls campaign—Ethan Fawley & Matthew Dyrdaahl

We've had 2 Open Streets events so far, and the next will take place on Sunday in Northeast. We have begun to think about the Open Streets line up for 2019. Six of this year's events will be among those considered for the 7 final choices for next year. All six are very successful. The City will ask for suggestions in the fall, and the City Council will approve the 7 events in January. Discussion followed.

Curran: how do we close streets to traffic more often?

MD: funding limits the number of events like this. Lyndale from Franklin to 40th is as long as we can handle.

Ethan: also, bear in mind that most people perceive Open Streets as an event. And, unlike other cities with this program, Minneapolis has a fine trail network for year-round walking.

Steve: please consider transit needs when thinking about new routes for Open Streets.

The #wewalkmpls campaign has begun. It's structured to work on the social media. We decided to focus on personal stories, not data, for this campaign. The goal is to emphasize the variety of people who walk, and their range of reasons. Engagement has run high, and the campaign will last until October. We approach this as a pilot program. We're going to focus soon on Cedar-Riverside in tandem with the Health Department. Please use the hash tag, and volunteer to add your photo and story to the campaign.

Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee Report—Barb Olson

All four projects we looked at last month were in the beginning stages.

Public Works will fill in sidewalk gaps around North Commons, in 2019.

Hoyer Heights, in Northeast, is scheduled for a residential reconstruction in 2019, complete with sewer and gas line work. The plan includes no bike facility, as Polk Street nearby has a bike lane.

Glen Gale Park, near North Star School, has a busy pedestrian crossing across Irving and 25th Avenue North. A Boys and Girls Club adds to the number of children crossing this intersection. The area has seen several pedestrian crashes recently, one of them incapacitating. The City will conduct a study to learn why drivers speed through this area.

Webber Park is a Hennepin County reconstruction project, scheduled for 2020. This is a very busy road, and a truck route. The County will assess whether limiting certain classes of truck is possible.

Programs & Policies Subcommittee Report—Julia Curran

We discussed the Transportation Action Plan update. We also heard from Matthew about the Greenway Study. The study will, we hope, clear up the confusion about the varieties of greenway in Minneapolis.

Findings for the Study will be included in the Transportation Action Plan.

September Field Trip

The PAC usually plans a field trip for the September meeting. Where shall we go this year? Two ideas came up, the Traffic Engineering Facility on Border Street, and Samatar Bridge. We decided to walk to Samatar Bridge, as the bridge and its approaches pose interesting pedestrian possibilities.

Resolution Updates—Matthew Dyrdaahl

Members wanted to know the status of the PAC's resolutions on the rainbow crosswalk striping proposal near Loring Park, and the new Nicollet Mall policy. Matthew said that both resolutions were noted by the parties we intended to reach. Neither resolution has yet a defined response. Public Works prefers uniform crosswalk striping, assuming that variety causes confusion.

Announcements

Sarah: the report on the temporary North Side Greenway pilot project is available on-line.

Steve: Metro Transit is short 90 drivers at present. This means that trips with low ridership will be cut for the time being. Look for an announcement from Metro Transit on August 18 about these changes.

Neal moved to adjourn; Barb seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 5:48 PM.