

Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Full Committee Minutes

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Present: Phillip Ailiff, Neal Baxter, Paul St. Martin, Julia Curran, Olivia Hovland, Barbara Olson, Christian Huelsman, Peter Vader, Aaron Berger, Abigail Johnson; Emily Kettell, Steve Mahowald, Suzanne Murphy, Sarah Stewart, Chris Kartheiser; Luis Dax, Kathy & Roy Williams, pedestrians

Actions

1. **Golden Valley Road project, Girard to Xerxes**

Resolution: The Pedestrian Advisory Committee supports the addition of marked bike lanes along this corridor. We encourage further discussion to determine if protected bike lanes are possible. We request that travel lanes be reduced to 10 feet lanes as a traffic calming strategy and that parking along this corridor include physical restrictions near pedestrian crossings to improve sight lines for both drivers and pedestrians, to ensure crossing safety.

2. **Industrial Boulevard shared use trail**

Resolution: The Pedestrian Advisory Committee enthusiastically supports the lane removal and width reduction of travel lanes on this project. We support the plan to create a green barrier with the addition of trees on the boulevard. We also support the refuge island at the Godward crossing, with the request that physical barriers be part of that island to ensure pedestrian safety. Finally, we request that there be further examination of the possibility to fill any existing sidewalk gaps on or adjacent to this project, including the gap to the south of the Wendy's.

Vice-Chair Christian called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM, and asked all present to introduce themselves.

Approval of the Minutes

As we had no copies of the minutes for September, we chose to delay approval until next meeting.

Scooter Share Update, Josh Johnson, Minneapolis Public Works

Josh's job title is now Advanced Mobility Manager for Public Works.

The City's pilot for these scooters began the first week in August; this week there are 200 rental scooters in the city. Fifty are also delivered to the U of M campus each weekday morning. Use of these scooters has reached 100,000 rides so far.

The rental scooter market is governed by state law and city ordinance. Under state law, a scooter is powered by internal combustion or electric engine; has handlebars and a platform to stand or sit on; wheels no more than 12 inches in diameter; and has a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour on a flat surface. The operator doesn't need a helmet if over 18 years of age; can ride on bike trails and paths; and cannot ride on sidewalks or with a passenger. The provider has signed a 4-month license agreement with the City (August to November) to supply a maximum of 200 scooters for the first 2 months, 400 during the final 2 months. Scooters not in use must be parked by kick stand in special zones, out of the pedestrian path and the bus stop.

Josh and staff will analyze problems with right of way, user behavior, the providers (cost, equitable distribution) over the winter, and he will return to the PAC in the spring to discuss what he learned.

Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee Report—Barbara Olson

We heard first about the County's Golden Valley Road project. This mill and overlay will include re-striping a marked bikeway here. The County will also look at how much parking this road needs. Work will begin in 2019 or 2020. We will see this project again.

A shared use trail is planned for Industrial Blvd. NE, from I-35W to Broadway; work to begin in 2019 or 2020. This segment will close a gap in the network. The trail will have a 2-way bike path and a pedestrian path; work also includes an ADA ramp and pedestrian refuge near Godward Street.

Next we looked at a preliminary design for the Queen Avenue North Bicycle Boulevard, from 44th Avenue to Bassett's Creek. Construction is planned for 2020. The project will address the absence of bike paths on Penn Avenue, and create a safe connection to local parks and schools.

Barb read 2 resolutions from the committee. Curran moved #1 above, and Aaron seconded. Approved. Phil moved resolution # 2 above; Aaron seconded. Neal moved to amend, and Aaron seconded that motion. Approved as amended.

Emily: please come to a neighborhood presentation on the Golden Valley Road project, at North Commons on Oct. 16.

Programs & Policies Subcommittee Report—Peter Vader & Julia Curran

Forrest Hardy presented the pedestrian crossing study, and handed out a list of bad intersections that are not due for work soon.

We also discussed standards and guidelines for those presenting before the PAC. Items to consider here include needs of members with limited hearing and vision; maps of the area around the project that show signalized intersections, average daily traffic; etc. We continue to work on this item.

Chris Kartheiser also led a visioning exercise, and Julia reported the progress of the Transportation Working Group.

Meetings with City Council Members—Peter Vader & Abigail Johnson

Peter and Abigail met with CM Palmisano recently. They found the meeting productive, discussing Vision Zero, Complete Streets and more. Ms Palmisano is well-informed about PAC concerns and business. She expressed her concerns about the area around Market Plaza and Excelsior Boulevard, which poses problems for transit users and pedestrians.

Olivia recently met with Ward 6 staff.

Announcements

Abigail: it came to my attention recently that the police close Lagoon Avenue Uptown around bar closing time, on their own initiative. The rationale given is pedestrian safety. Perhaps we might urge the police to close other streets more often to promote pedestrian safety.

Suzanne: we could also have a member of the Licensing staff talk to the PAC for more insight about street closings.

Neal moved to adjourn; Peter seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 5:29 PM.