

**PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
June 19, 2018
10:00 A.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Ellington, Chairman
Bessie Brown, Vice – Chair, Pilot
International
Ron Wildman, Citizen
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Rob Ryals, Facilities Management

Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
Violet Poe, Citizen
Captain Brad Wolfe, BCSO

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

David Gowan, Board of Education
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
Sam Henderson, Mayor's Representative
Chris Tsavatewa, MBC Health
Department
Michael Ryan, Citizen

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kimberly Lowe, Middle GA Regional
Commission
Beverlyn Ming RN, MBC Health Department
Harold Tukes, Citizen, US Postal Service
Scott Davis, BCSO
Charlie Witkowski, Transportation Control
Systems
Greg Brown, MBC Planning & Zoning
Rachel Hollar, Bike Walk Macon
Barbara Neeley, Citizen – Lake Arrowhead
Camille Watson, MBC Health Department
David Dickey, Citizen
Kevin Poss, MBC Facilities Management
Kaye Cleveland, Recording Secretary

Chairman Tom Ellington called the meeting to order.

On motion by Mr. Robert Ryals, seconded by Ms. Bessie Brown and passed unanimously, the May 15, 2018 minutes were approved.

Policy and Legislation

No report

Engineering

No report

Enforcement

No Report

Public Communication

The movable billboard was located on Emery Highway at Spring Street near Krispy Kreme for the month of May, and is located in the 500 Block of Riverside Drive near the Best Western Hotel for the month of June. Monthly Public Service Announcements are still on the air and rotating on three of the IHeart Media radio stations, and the window wraps are still displaying the pedestrian safety education campaign message on two of the MTA Paratransit buses.

The Public Service Announcements (04/30) and printed materials (04/18) were changed to reflect the updated ranking of the pedestrian fatality rate in Macon-Bibb County. The updated statement provided by Dr. Thomas Ellington reads as follows: Macon-Bibb County currently has one of the highest rates of pedestrian fatalities per capita in Georgia.

The second PEDESTRIAN “On The Move” community outreach grant activity was held on Wednesday, April 25th, from 10:00AM-2:00PM in the parking lot of the Walthall/Exxon (closed), 893 Riverside Drive (SR 87) at the corner of Riverside Drive and Spring Street. Ten volunteers were on-hand to assist with this activity, and a total of 62 individuals were given a pedestrian safety education card and phantom flash armband during this activity. The information on the education card and how to properly use the phantom flash armband was explained to each individual during the distribution.

The third PEDESTRIAN “On the Move” community outreach grant activity was held on Thursday, May 24th, from 10:00AM-1:00PM in the parking lot of Sheridan Solomon LLC REALTORS, 2618 Riverside Drive (SR 87) at the intersection of Forest Ridge Drive and Pierce Avenue (SR247). Ten volunteers were on-hand to assist with this activity, and a total of 49 individuals were given a pedestrian safety education card and phantom flash armband during this activity. The information on the education card and how to properly use the phantom flash armband was explained to each individual during the distribution.

The fourth PEDESTRIAN “On the Move” community outreach grant activity was held on Tuesday, May 29th, from 10:00AM-1:00PM in the parking lot of SUNOCO, 2510 Pio Nono Avenue (SR 247) at the intersection of Pio Nono Avenue and Eisenhower Parkway (SR22). Five volunteers were on-hand to assist with this activity, and a total of 78 individuals were given a pedestrian safety education card and phantom flash armband during this activity. The information on the education card and how to properly use the phantom flash armband was explained to each individual during the distribution.

The next street corner activity for the PEDESTRIAN “On the Move” project will be held on Thursday, June 21st, from 11:00AM-2:00PM in the parking lot of VALERO Gas Station, 1290 Gray Highway (SR 11) at the intersection of Gray Highway and Shurling Drive (SR49).

On Tuesday, June 5th and Wednesday, June 6th, Bibb County School District (BCSD) Resource Officers Regena Johnson, Russell Criswell, and Sgt. Ulric Bellaire did mini-presentations to a total of 590 campers (ages 5-15) at seven (7) of the summer camp locations of the Macon-Bibb County Recreation Centers. The presentation topics included personal and pedestrian safety, Georgia crosswalk laws, and the importance of crosswalk use.

A special thanks to Deputy Chief Stephanie Prater of the BCSD Campus Police Department and Dominique Lewis of the Macon-Bibb County Recreation Department for partnering with the

Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board and the “CROSS THE WALK” Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign for the third summer in a row.

During the monthly meeting of the Macon Coalition to End Homelessness on Thursday, June 14th, Violet Poe provided 100 color copies of the PEDESTRIAN “On The Move” Education Cards to Naomi Ladson, Committee Chair for the coalition members to review periodically with their clients and place in their files.

On Monday, June 18th, a copy of the PEDESTRIAN “On The Move” Education Card was provided to Chris Floore to place on the PSRB website, per the request of Dr. Thomas Ellington. The first PEDESTRIAN “On the Move” instructional, educational, and training session will be held on Thursday, July 12, 2018, 7:30AM-10:00AM at the Douglass Theatre, 355 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd in downtown Macon. The session will target the Automobile Industry and Public Safety. A continental breakfast will be provided (7:30AM-8:15AM) in the Douglass Annex, with the session to follow (8:30AM-10:00AM) in the theatre. The five remainder sessions will be held on Thursday, July 26th, August 9th, August 30th, September 13th, and September 27th at the same location and time.

Observations of Concern:

Concern #1: A large volume of bus riders waiting at MTA bus stops are constantly texting on their phone, causing them to not be attentive of their surroundings while they wait at intersections on heavily-traveled roadways throughout Macon-Bibb County.

Suggestion: To install a 6 X 10 metal sign below the MTA bus stop sign, with the life-saving message, While you wait...Heads up, Phones down (which will include graphics). The life-saving message would be a partnership between the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board and the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority, and is currently a part of one of the “CROSS THE WALK” Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign’s Public Service Announcements, written by board member, Chris Tsavatewa. On April 9th, Andy Stroud of the Macon Transit Authority has researched the federal guidelines and found there are no federal restrictions for this additional signage on the bus stop post, if it is approved by the Pedestrian Safety Review Board and the Macon Transit Authority Board of Directors.

Concern #2: The witnessing of a near-fatality of a female pedestrian at the intersection of Riverside and Spring Street on Thursday, April 12th at 10:01AM, in which the pedestrian entered the roadway three times in the pathway of several vehicles, and was almost struck by two of the vehicles. After approaching and talking with the pedestrian, it was discovered she is totally blind in one eye, and the other eye is barely functional. The pedestrian (Nicole Smith 520 Baxter Avenue Apt. 16 Macon, GA 31201) was trying to cross Riverside Drive to get to the MTA bus stop, located in front of Krystal on Spring Street, but cannot see the digital hand or man on the crosswalk traffic control device, and can barely see the red traffic light.

Major Concern: Ms. Smith depends on the sounds of the vehicles to cross the street because of her blindness.

Paratransit Services Assistance: Ms. Smith was not familiar with the MTA Paratransit Services. Therefore, a request to assist Ms. Smith with obtaining the services was asked of June Slaughter, MTA Paratransit Manager. Ms. Slaughter made contact with Ms. Smith on April 13th

and involved various social services entities to assist Ms. Smith filling out the necessary paperwork to begin use of the paratransit services for her transportation needs.

Interagency Coordination

No Report

Citizen Concerns

Mr. David Dickey, Citizen, expressed concerns regarding Riverside Drive and Spring Street. He suggested a sign should be installed at the entrance to the Interstate on North Avenue by McDonald's that says "Look out for Pedestrians." Mr. Dickey informed the board a car almost hit a pedestrian in a wheelchair in the area.

Ms. Barbara Neeley, Citizen – Lake Arrowhead, expressed concerns regarding Rosa Jackson Center and Maynard Street. The Board was advised children often cross the street at the center but cars still violate the speed limit. Ms. Neeley suggested speed bumps should be installed or a crossing guard should be hired to ensure children cross the street safely.

Mr. Harold Tukes, Citizen – United States Postal Service, expressed concerns regarding pedestrian safety at the Main Post Office on College Street. The group was advised of the busy traffic and the dangers of crossing the street at the post office. He suggested traffic calming measures installed on Montpelier Avenue should be installed at the post office. On motion by Chairman Ellington, seconded by Ms. Brown the Pedestrian Safety Review Board will request relevant departments to examine areas of citizen concern and require action or a report back from said departments.

Criteria for locating raised crosswalks

Mr. Ryals advised the Board the Engineering Department would have to perform a traffic study to find out the requirements needed for locating the crosswalk and then said department would have to send a report to the Facilities Management Department detailing work needed and other requirements.

Mr. Nigel Floyd further discussed the criteria for crosswalks. He reiterated to the Board Mr. Ryals comments regarding the process for locating crosswalks. The Board was advised plans for crosswalk enhancements on College Street are being discussed.

Recent Pedestrian Fatalities

Moved to July Agenda

Presentation – New Cell Phone Legislation

Captain Brad Wolfe presented legislation regarding the new cell phone law taking effect July 1st. The Hands-Free Cell Phone Law prohibits drivers from holding a cell phone with their hand or supporting a cell phone while driving a vehicle. Enforcement of the law will have a grace period for warnings and punishment for violation will start.

Anthony Road Improvements

Mr. Floyd briefed the Board regarding improvements to Anthony Road. A road diet will be performed to find appropriate traffic calming measures to make road improvements. Mr. Floyd advised the board a presentation of said improvements will be presented at the next meeting.

Presentation – Audible Pedestrian Crossings

Mr. Charlie Witkowski, Transportation Control Systems, gave a presentation regarding audible pedestrian crossings. The audible crossing can be turned in different directions to help the visually impaired to cross the street. The crossing vibrates during the walk cycle to assist the hearing impaired in crossing the street.

Plans for Pedestrian Facilities at Spring Street and I-16

Mr. Floyd presented a map of proposed pedestrian facilities at Spring Street and I-16. Mr. Floyd advised the Board the Georgia Department of Transportation may not propose pedestrian facilities until the work for interstate has been finished.

Lighting on Chambers Road

Mr. Ryals advised the group regarding lighting on Chambers Road. Pedestrian Safety Issues and ways to address them were discussed by the group. The Board was informed a report on streetlight issues on said street will be presented to the group in July.

Crosswalk at Oglethorpe and Tattnall Place

Mr. Floyd informed the Board handicap ramps will be installed at Oglethorpe and Tattnall Place. The group was advised when handicap ramps were installed, a crosswalk will be installed as well.

Pedestrian Facilities at Eisenhower and C Street

Mr. Floyd informed the group the Georgia Department of Transportation will install a Hawk System at Eisenhower Parkway and C Street. Intersections on Eisenhower Parkway will be upgraded also. Said upgrades will start at Macon Tech Drive.

The upcoming board meetings are scheduled for: July 17th, September 18th, and October 16th.

Chairman Ellington adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye Cleveland
Recording Secretary