

**PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

June 18, 2019

10:00 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Ellington, Chairman
Ron Wildman, Citizen
Rob Ryals, MBC Facilities Management
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
Greg Brown, MBC Planning & Zoning
Michael Ryan, Citizen
Violet Poe, Citizen
David Gowan, Bibb County School District
Commissioner Elaine Lucas

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kimberly Lowe, Middle GA Regional Commission
Rachel Hollar, Bike Walk Macon
Kaye Cleveland, Clerk of Commission
Bryan Beck, Startup Studios
Yen-Ting Beck, Startup Studios
Maureen Chramyn, Middle GA Regional Commission

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Major Eric Walker, BCSO
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
Captain Brad Wolfe, BCSO
Sam Henderson, Mayor's Representative

Chairman Tom Ellington called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Ellington entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2019 Meeting. Mr. Nigel Floyd moved to amend the minutes. On motion by Mr. Michael Ryan, seconded by Mr. Floyd, the May 14th, 2019 Minutes were approved as amended.

Policy and Legislation

Chairman Ellington prompted discussion regarding legislation to amend the ordinance regarding the composition of the Pedestrian Safety Review Board. The Board was informed the County Attorney was working on legislation to add representatives from the Fire Department, Public Works and to add two citizen members as well as the option for board members to take a leave of absence in lieu of resigning if they cannot perform their duties regarding the Board.

Legislation is also being drafted to enact a “Complete Streets” Ordinance as well as a third piece of legislation regarding encroachment modeled after Atlanta to provide provision for sidewalks and bike lanes during construction. The Board has been advised drafts of all three pieces of legislation will be sent to board members.

Engineering

Mr. Floyd met with Ms. Rachel Hollar concerning the “Complete Streets” Policy. Ms. Hollar was asked to give the Board a brief update regarding said policy. The Board was advised said Policy was introduced last year to improve accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians. Ms. Hollar advised the group Bike Walk Macon was working in conjunction with Macon-Bibb County Engineering to work on said policy.

Enforcement

No Report

Public Communication – Ms. Violet Poe

Ms. Violet Poe attended the 2019 Georgia Governor’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan Summit at Central Georgia Technical College on Wednesday, May 15th.

As a part of the Alive “Beyond 92” Pilot Project, Ms. Poe attended the Ingram-Pye Elementary School Fourth and Fifth Grade Awards Day Programs on Wednesday, May 22nd and Thursday, May 23rd and presented certificates and trophies on behalf of the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board to the seven (7) Student Leaders/School Safety Patrol who led the Pledge of Allegiance during the media blitz announcing the FFY19 PEDESTRIAN “On the Move” (POTM) grant award from the Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety on Monday, December 17, 2018.

As a part of the Alive “Beyond 92” Pilot Project, “CROSS THE WALK” (CTW) pedestrian safety education presentations were provided by six officers of the Bibb County School District Campus Police Department to the campers at the Macon-Bibb County Recreation Department Summer Camp sites (L.H. Williams, Frank Johnson, Memorial, Rosa Jackson/Delores Brooks, Theron Ussery, Bloomfield, and South Bibb) on Tuesday, June 4th and Thursday, June 6th. As a follow-up to the CTW presentations, pedestrian safety education card information, crosswalk demonstrations, incorporation of additional activities, and the distribution of phantom flash armbands were distributed by Ms. Poe and volunteers at each recreation center on June 5th, 6th, 10th, and 12th. The follow-up presentation for the campers at the Frank Johnson Community Center will be re-scheduled with Clarence Thomas and be held later.

An interview by Jayla Whitfield, Reporter of FOX24 News was scheduled on Wednesday, June 12th with Dorothy Dean, fiancé’ of Israel Perez, a pedestrian fatality in May 2016. Ms. Dean’s daughter, Beverly Wimberly also participated in the interview to share the emotional trauma and effect from the loss of Mr. Perez. Concerns from Ms. Poe were shared with Ms. Whitfield regarding the extremely high number of pedestrian fatalities (2018 and halfway 2019) during her news report. A request will be made to ask Capt. Wolfe if he would follow-up with Ms. Whitfield to explain the data on the document, she received from the Open Records Request from the Bibb County Sheriff’s Office.

As a part of the Alive “Beyond 92” pilot project, a POTM organization community-related meeting was held on Thursday, June 13th with the administrative staff of the Housing Services Department of the Macon Housing Authority. During the meeting, Chief Stephanie Prater of the Bibb County School District Campus Police Department and Ms. Poe provided pedestrian safety education which included a presentation on CTW, POTM. and the Alive “Beyond 92” Pilot Project. POTM education cards and phantom flash armbands were distributed to each member of the MHA administrative staff.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY HOTLINE:

Byron Raughton- 05/25/2019- Has concerns regarding pedestrian safety in the Moseley Dixon Road area and requested a follow-up call from Dr. Thomas Ellington to discuss the concerns. This call was referred to Dr. Thomas Ellington via email.

Danny Porter- 05/30/2019- Concerns regarding the restriping of the crosswalks at the intersection of Forsyth and College Streets. Mr. Porter reported he was almost hit by a vehicle on Thursday, May 30th, trying to cross from the Medical Arts Pharmacy side of the roadway to the Blair House side of College Street, but there are either no crosswalk stripes or the lines are faded in this area. Mr. Porter said he reported this to GDOT three weeks ago, but the restriping has not been done. A second call was made to GDOT by Mr. Porter, with a follow-up call by Ms. Poe on Friday, May 31st regarding Mr. Porter’s complaint. As of Thursday, June 6th, the intersection has been totally restriped and Mr. Porter was notified by Ms. Poe.

Interagency Coordination

No Report

Briefing on Printed Crosswalks Project

Mr. Brian Beck, Startup Studios, briefed the Board regarding his work with Ms. Hollar pertaining to painted crosswalks in Macon-Bibb County. The group was informed Mr. Beck was working on finding artists to paint crosswalks that will raise awareness regarding pedestrian safety, enhance visibility and to calm traffic. Mr. Beck informed the group projects will be implemented with crosswalks being painted in the vicinity of Mount De Sales Academy.

Recent Pedestrian Fatalities

Mr. Greg Brown, MBC Planning & Zoning, gave an update regarding recent pedestrian fatalities in Macon-Bibb County. Accidents reports pertaining to two crashes were presented. The first report involved an accident on Hawkinsville Road that happened at approximately 5 p.m. on June 4, 2019. A pedestrian walked out in the road to pick up a ladder had fallen off a vehicle and was hit by two cars with the second car fleeing the scene.

A second report detailed a pedestrian fatality which occurred on June 10, 2019 at approximately, 10 p.m. A pedestrian who appeared to be intoxicated was hit and killed while

crossing the street from the Shell gas station on Pio Nono Avenue headed towards Flash Foods on Pio Nono Avenue as a dark color sedan struck him and kept going. The driver of the sedan informed the police he hit the pedestrian two days later. The case was still under investigation as of June 11, 2019.

Update on Riverside Bridge

Mr. Floyd informed the Board the Georgia Department of Transportation has done everything they deem necessary to make provisions for pedestrian safety in the construction area at Riverside Bridge. The Board was advised detour signs had been installed. Mr. Floyd questioned the safety of current measures put in place to enhance pedestrian safety.

Update on Wrong-Way Traffic on Hardeman Avenue

Mr. Floyd briefed the group regarding wrong-way traffic on Hardeman Avenue. Ms. Habersham and Mr. Floyd drove past the I-75 to look at the signage. They disagreed on the adequacy of signs installed to indicate one-way traffic. The group was advised larger signs could be installed to help mitigate dangers regarding wrong-way traffic.

Update on Pedestrian Crossing on Forsyth Street

Chairman Ellington asked Mr. Floyd to give an update regarding installation of a crosswalk on Forsyth Street. The group was advised a plan for a crosswalk had been made but said crosswalk had not been installed due to lack of funding.

Discussion of Vision Zero Stakeholders Meeting – July 17th

Chairman Ellington opened discussion regarding the Vision Zero Stakeholders Summit to be held on July 17, 2019. The Board was informed they will be formerly invited to the Vision Zero Stakeholders Meeting on July 17, 2019. The Pedestrian Safety Review Board will be meeting with Vision Zero Consultants regarding implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan.

Election of Officers

Chairman Ellington informed the Board two recommendations for board membership were given to the mayor. Filling board vacancies was discussed as well. Chairman Ellington informed the Board the June 2019 Meeting was his last meeting as Chair. Commissioner Lucas proposed to hold off on electing new board members and volunteered to act as Interim Chair at the July 2019 Meeting. On motion by Mr. Floyd, seconded by Mr. David Gowan and passed unanimously, Commissioner Lucas will serve as Interim Chair of the Pedestrian Safety Review Board at the July 2019 Meeting.

Chairman Ellington adjourned the meeting.

Future meetings will be held on the following dates in 2019: July 16, July 17, August 20, September 17, and October 15.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye Cleveland
Recording Secretary