

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD
AMENDED MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2019
10:00 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Ellington, Chairman
Ron Wildman, Citizen
Rob Ryals, MBC Facilities Management
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
Michael Ryan, Citizen
Violet Poe, Citizen

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Poss, MBC Facilities Management
Kimberly Lowe, Middle GA Regional Commission
Kaye Cleveland, Clerk of Commission
Charise Stephens, Georgia Fit Fest
Lieutenant Scot Davis, BCSO
David Pilgrem, AARP
Rachel Hollar, Bike Walk Macon

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Major Eric Walker, BCSO
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
David Gowan, Bibb County School District
Greg Brown, MBC Planning & Zoning
Captain Brad Wolfe, BCSO
Sam Henderson, Mayor's Representative

Chairman Tom Ellington called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Mrs. Myrtle Habersham, seconded by Mr. Nigel Floyd and passed unanimously, the April 16, 2019 Minutes were approved.

Policy and Legislation

No Report

Engineering

Mr. Floyd gave an update on Eisenhower and C Street. The Board was given a map of the proposed design of an R-cut and hawk signal to enhance pedestrian safety and regulate traffic. The group was advised construction would start in October 2019.

An update regarding pedestrian access on the Walnut Street and Riverside Bridges was given as well. pedestrian detours were installed at both locations. The Board expressed dissatisfaction with the detours put in place for pedestrians.

Mr. Floyd opened discussion regarding the pedestrian access ordinance for Atlanta, GA. Concerns about access for bicyclists were raised. Chairman Ellington informed the Board with an approved motion, he will work with the County Attorney to form an Ordinance regarding pedestrian access for Macon-Bibb County including provisions for accommodations for bike lanes. On motion by Mr. Floyd, seconded by Mr. Robert Ryals, Chairman Ellington will work with the County Attorney to form an Ordinance regarding pedestrian access with accommodations for cyclists.

An update regarding wrong way traffic on Hardeman Avenue was given. Mr. Floyd briefed the group regarding a ride taken through downtown around Hardeman Avenue near I-75. Mr. Floyd advised the board regarding signage. The Board was informed the Engineering Department would try to coordinate efforts with GDOT to find other solutions to the wrong way traffic problem as well.

Enforcement

Lieutenant Scot Davis, Bibb County Sheriff Office, gave a report on enforcement in Macon-Bibb. Lieutenant reiterated the lack of staffing in the Sheriff's Office. Information regarding citations, imprisonments and other enforcement measures was given as well. Chairman Ellington opened discussion regarding ways to fund more implementation of enforcement regarding distracted driving.

Public Communication – Ms. Violet Poe

A meeting was held on Friday, January 25th with Mr. Floyd, Mr. Kevin Poss, Mr. Andy Bell and Ms. Poe to discuss and outline the agenda for the Safety Workshop for the engineering students involved in the Cherry Blossom Street Painting Project.

The approval of the campaign message for the phantom flash armbands was approved by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) on Thursday, January 31st.

A meeting was held with Mr. Floyd, De Bandara and Ms. Poe on Friday, February 1st to discuss a Cherry Blossom "Original" Stencil Design created by the engineering students to utilize during the street painting portion of their project. The students did not create a stencil, therefore, this led to the students not participating in the Cherry Blossom Festival Street painting activity.

The movable billboard was located on Pio Nono Avenue at Spencer Circle for the month of February.

Once the partial federal government shutdown was lifted, the approval to order the phantom flash armbands for the Pedestrian "On the Move" Grant Project was granted on Wednesday, February 6th by the GOHS, the items were ordered and received on Tuesday, February 26th.

The movable billboard was located on Broadway at Cynthia Avenue for the month of March.

A Public Service Announcement (PSA) highlighting pedestrian safety measures during the Cherry Blossom Festival, ran on six (6) iHeart Media Radio stations during the month of March. The PSA mentioned the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board and the Reimagining the Traditional Crosswalk for the City of Macon, Georgia team of the Mercer University School of Engineering.

On Tuesday, March 5th, Ms. Poe arranged telephone interviews with an assigned writer of Georgia Health News to interview Commissioner Elaine Lucas and Chairman Ellington regarding pedestrian safety and the works of the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board. The article entitled, "As pedestrian deaths remain high, Macon focuses on action," was published on March 10th.

An interview with an assigned reporter of the National Public Radio (NPR) was held on Tuesday, March 5th with Chairman Ellington, Ms. Poe, and Danny Porter regarding pedestrian safety in Macon-Bibb County. The radio interview entitled, "Why Pedestrian Deaths Are at A 30-Year High," aired on the NPR morning edition of March 28th.

As a part of the Alive "Beyond 92" pilot program, a pedestrian safety education presentation was provided for the students of the Graphic Communications Class at Hutchings Career Center on Tuesday, March 19th. Twelve (12) students and one (1) instructor participated in the presentation activities and phantom flash armbands were distributed to each participant. Following the presentation, the class was challenged with a pedestrian safety project created by Ms. Poe, which will be presented soon.

The Pedestrian "On the Move" grant renewal application for FFY20 was submitted to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety on Friday, March 29th.

During the month of April, the movable billboard remained (and remains to date) at the Broadway at Cynthia Avenue location, at "no cost" to the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board.

A meeting was held on Tuesday, April 2nd with Harold Young and Rev. Eric Bell regarding an idea for a pedestrian safety project. Once Mr. Young completes his project design, he is interested in presenting the project to the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board for discussion and any suggestions.

As a part of the Alive "Beyond 92" pilot project, phantom flash armbands and "CROSS THE WALK" (CTW) pedestrian safety education activities were provided to one hundred and thirty-four (134) attendees during the Spring Fling at Ingram-Pye Elementary on Thursday, April 4th. Two volunteers were on-hand to assist with this activity, and The CTW pedestrian safety information and how to properly use the phantom flash armband was explained to each attendee during the distribution.

A meeting was held on Tuesday, April 16th with Michael Colbert of the Macon Housing Authority (MHA) regarding the Alive "Beyond 92" grant project activities designed for the MHA neighborhoods located in the Southwest School Zone, and a second meeting was held with Deputy Chief Prater regarding the upcoming Alive "Beyond 92" pilot program activities involving the Bibb County School District Campus Police.

Pedestrian Safety information regarding the Alive “Beyond 92” pilot program’s activities which will include the residents, ages 5-18 of the Macon Housing Authority (MHA) neighborhoods in the Southwest School Zone was provided during the monthly meeting of the MHA Senior Executive Team on Wednesday, April 17th. MHA is interested in partnering with the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review for a future pedestrian safety project.

The POTM education card was approved by the GOHS on Wednesday, May 1st, and this approval allows for the start of the scheduling of community outreach activities associated with the grant in the upcoming months.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY HOTLINE:

Robert Harden – 03/29/2019- Concerns regarding the interactive map website were received from Mr. Robert Harden regarding log-in concerns and the information he was finally able to post on the interactive map website. This concern was referred to Dr. Tom Ellington for follow-up.

Interagency Coordination

No Report

Transportation Alternatives Program Grant

Chairman Ellington prompted discussion regarding a Transportation Alternatives Program Grant. The group was informed information was sent regarding funding for pedestrian and traffic safety efforts and education.

Strategic Highway Safety Plan Summit

Chairman Ellington informed the group of a Strategic Highway Safety Plan Summit taking place on May 15, 2019 at Central Georgia Technical College. Chairman Ellington advised the group he will attend said summit and give a report to the Board at the June PSRB Meeting.

Vision Zero Stakeholders Summit

Chairman Ellington told Board Members the Mayor sent a Doodle Survey regarding availability for the Vision Zero Stakeholders Summit. The Board was advised the date range for availability was the beginning of June.

Appointment of Vision Zero Action Plan Liaison

Chairman Ellington briefed the Board regarding conference calls with Vision Zero Consultants. He advised the Board he would like to maintain continuity with respect to communications with said consultants and act as a liaison for the Vision Zero Action Plan. On motion by Ms. Habersham, seconded by Mr. Floyd and passed unanimously, Chairman Ellington was appointed as the liaison for the Vision Zero Action Plan.

Update on Board Membership

Chairman Ellington gave an update regarding board membership. The Board was informed Chairman Ellington spoke with the mayor about adding two citizens members and a representative from the Fire Department and Public Works to increase the number of board members. Chairman Ellington informed the Board the Mayor was receptive to said idea. Chairman Ellington informed the Board he would begin to work on legislation with the County Attorney to amend the Ordinance regarding the composition of the Pedestrian Safety Review Board Members.

The Board was also advised the process of filling board vacancies will start soon. On motion by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Ryals and passed unanimously, Chairman Ellington will work the County Attorney to revise the ordinance regarding member composition of the Pedestrian Safety Review Board.

Chairman Ellington adjourned the meeting.

Future meetings will be held on the following dates in 2019: June 18, July 16, August 20, and September 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye Cleveland
Recording Secretary