

**PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

April 21, 2020

10:00 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Brown, MBC Planning & Zoning, Chair
Rachel Hollar Umana, Bike Walk Macon,
Vice Chair
Rob Ryals, MBC Facilities Management
Sam Henderson, Director – MBC Small
Business Affairs
Charise Stephens, Georgia Wellness &
Fitness Festival
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
Michael Ryan, Citizen
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
Commissioner Joe Allen, MBC Health
Department
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
David Gowan, Bibb County School District
Captain Brad Wolfe, BCSO

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joel Callins, MBC Assistant County Attorney
Alicia Wright, MBC Health Department
Kaye Cleveland, Recording Secretary
Bob Dallas, Vision Zero
Holly Wharton, Middle Georgia Regional
Commission
Liz Fabian, Mercer University Center for
Collaborative Journalism
Janice Ross, MBC Clerk of Commission
Kevin Poss, MBC Facilities Management
Tom Ellington, Vision Zero Liaison

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lieutenant Scot Davis, BCSO
Ron Wildman, Citizen

Chairman Greg Brown called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Mr. Nigel Floyd, seconded by Ms. Myrtle Habersham and passed unanimously, the minutes from the February 18, 2020 Meeting were approved.

Policy and Legislation

Board Members were informed no current policy changes were in effect. Mr. Bob Dallas briefly discussed the state budget and changes needed due to COVID-19. The group was advised said changes may affect highway safety.

Mr. Nigel Floyd informed board members of a request made by Jim Thomas, MBC Planning & Zoning, to reduce lanes on Vineville Avenue. He stated said road was a state route and GDOT would have to grant permission for lane reductions. This request was a concern brought up at a

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recent Macon Areas Transportation Study (MATs) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting. Mr. Floyd informed board members of his response to Mr. Thomas in which he stated they could inform GDOT of their request.

Engineering

Board Members were given an update regarding crosswalks on Anthony Road and Felton Avenue near Ingram/Pye Elementary School. Mr. Floyd informed the group installing crosswalks on Anthony Road may encourage students to walk in the woods. The group was also told Crossing Guards were in place to help students cross the street. Mr. David Gowan informed everyone the Bibb County School District in conjunction with the Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator would start the process of implementing the "Walking School Bus Program" in all elementary schools beginning the 2020-2021 School Year. Board Members were also informed regarding adding a Traffic Plan element in the proposed Safety Plan submitted to Macon-Bibb County Emergency Management Agency.

Mr. Floyd gave an update regarding improvements made because of the Road Safety Audit (RSA) performed on Eisenhower Parkway. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) made improvements to the intersection at Macon Tech Drive and Oglesby Place. Mr. Floyd stated improvements to the intersections at Key Street, Bloomfield Road and Harrison Road were scheduled to be made in 2020 or at the beginning of 2021.

Discussion began regarding results of an RSA performed on Mercer University Drive from Dellwood Drive to Bloomfield. As a result of said study, pedestrian refuge isles were installed on the south side of Atwood Drive and restriping was done on the other side. Board Members were informed the improvement plan for said area was not complete.

Mr. Floyd stated improvements made because of another RSA performed on Mercer University from Anthony Road to Pio Nono Avenue. The group was informed GDOT Contractors developed a plan included the installation of roundabouts at Anthony Road/Burton Avenue and Mercer University/Columbus Road. Mr. Floyd discussed proposed improvements on Pio Nono Avenue which included a roundabout at the intersection of Anthony Road, lane shrinkages and the installation of mid-block crossings.

Mr. Michael Ryan expressed concerns regarding pedestrian safety at Spring St./I-75. He stated pedestrians still attempted to cross the streets to walk to certain businesses while construction ensued with no safe way to do so. Another area he expressed concerns about was the bridge on Riverside Dr./MLK near the Coliseum. Mr. Ryan stated black plastic bags covered the pedestrian signal in said area.

Discussion ensued regarding MLK Blvd near the Otis Redding Bridge. Mr. Ryan stated because of changes made to divert traffic, pedestrian must cross 4 to 5 lanes of traffic to get to the other side. Mr. Floyd stated the old bridge would be replaced, and his concerns would be passed on to GDOT.

Mr. Kevin Poss informed board members flashing beacons purchased by the Board of Education were installed in the Northeast High School/Upper River Road area in February. He also stated plans for the installation of beacons on Napier Avenue were in process due to Right-of-Way issues.

Enforcement

Captain Brad Wolfe confirmed two pedestrian fatalities in Macon-Bibb County for the year. Group members were advised ticket issuance slowed down, and the department was still working on initiatives to improve pedestrian safety.

Public Communication

Ms. Charise Stephens gave an update regarding Health Department Funding. The Board was advised the Health Department was preparing a budget for the upcoming fiscal year and, due to COVID-19 restrictions plans for Safe Routes to School and Pedestrian Outreach Efforts had been halted. A report was given regarding recent outreach efforts made in high pedestrian areas including Pleasant Hill.

Interagency Coordination

Mr. David Gowan informed the group of the main goals of the Safe Routes to School Program. Group members were briefed regarding the "Walking School Bus" Initiative and the Safe Routes to School Curriculum which would be taught in elementary schools. Mr. Gowan advised the Board he would work in conjunction with Ms. Stephens during implementation of current initiatives and making new goals. Discussion ensued with Mr. Gowan stating the earliest starting date for Bibb County Schools to be August 10th. Board Members were advised Summer School would take place through eLearning.

Commissioner Lucas opened discussion regarding Health Department Funding for Vision Zero. Group members were briefed regarding additional grant funding for a Safety Coordinator Position. Said position would perform job duties to help facilitate the Vision Zero Program.

2020 Census Outreach Efforts: Janice Ross

Ms. Janice Ross, MBC Clerk of Commission, gave an update regarding 2020 Census Completion. Board Members were advised of the halt in outreach efforts due to COVID-19, and Macon-Bibb County was below average in Census Completions. She stated board members may try using a "Phone Tree" Technique which entails calling five (5) people and asking them if they completed the census and asking each person to call 5 people as well.

Board Members were informed Census Outreach Activities were expected to resume during Mid-May. Ms. Ross discussed current outreach efforts and current census completion numbers. Areas of low participation included Felton Homes and Eisenhower. High participation areas included North Macon and Rocky Creek. Group members were informed of efforts to reach out to the faith-based community regarding placing a reminder to complete the census at the bottom of any video message sent to the public.

Georgia Walks Summit

Chairman Brown informed the Board the Georgia Walks Summit was rescheduled to take place on October 22 – 23, 2020 in Columbus, GA.

Vision Zero Update – Bob Dallas

Mr. Dallas advised board members Vision Zero Consultants composed a work plan for program implementation. He stated further a draft of said plan would be presented to the Pedestrian Safety Review Board and the Macon-Bibb County Commission for review. Members were advised a final draft would be composed after said review.

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Future meetings will be held on the following dates in 2020: May 19; June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, and November 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye Cleveland
Recording Secretary