

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2018
10:00 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Ellington, Chairman
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
Violet Poe, Citizen
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Rob Ryals, Facilities Management
Brad Belo, MBC P&Z Planner
Michael Ryan, Citizen
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
Chris Tsavatewa, MBC Health Department

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gregory Brown, MBC, Planning & Zoning
Beverly Ming RN, MBC Health Department
Robert Harden, Citizen
David Dickey, Citizen
Kimberly Lowe, Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Kaye Cleveland, Recording Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

David Gowan, Board of Education
Sam Henderson, Mayor's Representative
Captain Brad Wolfe, BCSO
Bessie Brown, Pilot International

Chairman Tom Ellington called the meeting to order.

On motion by Mr. Robert Ryals, seconded by Mr. Michael Ryan and passed unanimously, the March 20, 2018 minutes were approved.

Policy and Legislation

No report

Engineering, Nigel Floyd

Mr. Nigel Floyd gave an update on the improvements at Montpelier Avenue. The crosswalk at Bentley and Sons Funeral Home is a success. A pedestrian refuge island and an additional crosswalk sign were added. The work on Pendleton Homes was completed as well. On motion by Commissioner Elaine Lucas, seconded by Mr. Ryan and passed unanimously, the Pedestrian Safety Review Board will endorse an additional speed hump on the side street of Pendleton Homes.

Mr. Floyd informed the group that permanent speed awareness signs have been ordered for Nottingham Drive. Mr. Floyd briefed the Board regarding the Georgia Department of

Transportation sending a representative to future meetings. The Georgia Department of Transportation reported they will not be able to attend all meetings but they may attend some.

Mr. Ryals reported to the Board regarding lighting on Chambers Road. The Board was advised that lighting was not sufficient for said road. The Board was briefed regarding the process for gaining additional lighting on streets.

Mr. Floyd updated the group regarding a crosswalk at Tatnall Place and Oglethorpe. The Board was advised that the Engineering Department was in the process of designing the crosswalk. Mr. Floyd informed the Board that if handicap ramps were needed the process would take longer. Mr. Floyd is still working on a design for a crosswalk at Arlington Place.

Mr. Kevin Poss briefed the Board regarding Eisenhower Parkway. The traffic signals from Macon Tech Drive to Anthony Terrace on said parkway will be upgraded to current state standards. Pedestrian upgrades will be installed at the intersections as well.

Mr. Brad Belo advised the Board regarding Road Safety Audits on portions of Pio Nono Avenue and Mercer University Drive. Mr. Poss informed the Board that Facilities Management has started the process of restriping school zones.

Enforcement

No report

Public Communication - Violet Poe

The movable billboard is located on the corner of Mercer University Drive and Florence Drive for the month of April. 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.

Violet Poe and Lt. Scott Davis met with members of the Macon Coalition to End Homelessness during their monthly meeting on Thursday, April 12th at the Buck Melton Center. Information on the PEDESTRIAN "On the Move" project, was provided in order to discuss how the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board, Bibb County Sheriff's Office, and the Coalition can work together to help decrease the number of pedestrian fatalities occurring in Macon-Bibb County. This includes some of their clients over the past years. During the meeting, it was confirmed that the first three fatalities which have occurred in Macon-Bibb County in 2018, were clients listed in the Coalition's database.

The next street corner activity for the PEDESTRIAN "On the Move" project is tentatively set for Wednesday, April 25th on the corner of Riverside Drive and Spring Street. Once permission is granted by the property owner, the exact location, time, and specifics of the activity will be emailed to Kaye Cleveland to forward to the members of the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board.

A request to replace the current statement which ranks Macon-Bibb County as having the 2nd highest fatality rate in the state of Georgia, will be provided by Dr. Thomas Ellington. The new statement will replace the current statement on the Public Service Announcements and all printed materials.

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 that 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 that 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.

PSRB Assistance: What type of traffic control devices are available for pedestrians who are visually-impaired?

Mr. Belo briefed the group regarding pedestrian fatalities. A report was given regarding pedestrian fatalities on certain streets in Macon. The Board was briefed regarding road safety audits done for Mercer University Drive, Pio Nono Avenue and Spring Street.

Interagency Coordination

No report

Other Matters

Mr. David Dickey, Macon-Bibb County citizen, briefed the Board regarding concerns for the pedestrians using the transit system.

Mr. Robert Harden, Macon-Bibb County citizen, briefed the board regarding Shirley Hills and other neighborhoods.

The dates for upcoming board meetings are scheduled for: May 15th, June 19th, and July 17th.

Chairman Ellington adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye Cleveland
Recording Secretary