

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD

FEBRUARY 21, 2017

10:00 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Ryan, Chairman
Elaine Lucas, Commissioner
Violet Poe, Citizen Member
Brad Belo, MBC P&Z Planner
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
Bessie Brown, Pilot International
David Gowan, BOH Chairman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Poss, Facilities Management Dept.
Gregory Brown, Planning & Zoning
Tom Ellington, Professor, Wesleyan
Denise Kelley, Asst. Clerk of the Commission
Evan Watson, Fox 24
Joi Dukes, 41 NBC

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Captain Brad Wolfe, Bibb County Sheriff's Dept.
Major Eric Walker, Bibb County Sheriff's Dept.
Leon Jones, Coroner
Chris Tsavatewa, Vice Chairman
Rob Ryals, Facilities Management Dept.
Sam Henderson, Mayor's Representative
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
Stephanie Hyman, Dept. of Health

GUESTS:

Rachel Hollar, Executive Director – Bike, Walk Macon

Chairman Michael Ryan called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of January 17, 2017 Minutes

On motion by Mr. Nigel Floyd, seconded by Mr. Kevin Poss and passed unanimously, the minutes of January 17, 2017 were approved as amended.

Subcommittee Reports

Policy and Legislation

No report.

Engineering

Mr. Floyd reported on the status of the school "flashes." He stated that he has received a proposal but the proposal does not meet the needs as it did not include speed-awareness signs.

He plans to have an RFP in place within the next two weeks. Mr. David Gowan stated they will shoot for the March calendar. The School Board is required to approve any project over \$100,000.

Mr. Floyd introduced Ms. Rachel Hollar who spoke about the Bike Walk Macon organization, a bicycle and pedestrian advocacy group that is working to enhance mobility by creating a healthy city. Bike Walk Macon is currently working on a "Complete Street Policy" whereby transportation engineers incorporate bicycle facilities on state and federally funded roadways in Georgia. Ms. Hollar has recently met with Mr. Dave Fortson to discuss the Policy. Mr. Tom Ellington added that before consolidation, the City of Macon had a similar "Complete Street Policy" design.

Mr. Floyd suggested adding that the "Complete Street Policy" project be added to the Pedestrian Safety Review Board ("PSRB") as a subcommittee. Mr. Brad Belo also suggested that Ms. Hollar make a formal presentation to the PSRB at next month's meeting to explain in detail the "Complete Street Policy" before adding the project as a subcommittee.

Enforcement

No representative was in attendance.

Public Communication – Ms. Violet Poe

A request from Mr. Roger Hayes of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety ("GOHS") was received on January 31, 2017 regarding the GOHS to prepare a pedestrian safety video in Macon-Bibb County. On February 6th, Mr. Robert Hydrick, Communications Director, contacted Ms. Poe and regarding the making of a video that would highlight traffic and pedestrian safety tips. Ms. Poe referred Mr. Hydrick's request to Mr. Chris Floore of the Office of Public Affairs.

Mr. Floore worked with Mr. Hydrick to coordinate the locations and the law enforcement representation for the video. The filming of the video took place on February 9th and can be viewed on YouTube and Facebook. A special thank you to Board member, BSO Captain Brad Wolfe for an outstanding job!!!

The movable billboard for the month of February was located on Northside Drive, near Riverside Drive in the parking lot of Northside Square. On February 20th, the billboard was removed to be placed on the billboard pole at the T-intersection of Mercer University Drive and Oglesby Place for the remainder of February and March.

The second Public Service Announcement is being played on WIHB-FM (97.3 and 96.5) for the month of February. IHeart Media will continue to play the first PSA on WRBV-FM (V101.7).

Ms. Dominique Lewis of the Macon-Bibb County Recreation Department has requested that the "CROSS THE WALK" mini-presentations be done again this summer for the campers during their annual summer camp at the eight Macon-Bibb County Recreation Centers. Ms. Poe will meet with Deputy Chief Stephanie Prater of the Bibb County School District in the coming weeks to request the same officers that were present at last year's events. The dates for the mini-presentations will be June 5-6, 2017.

If a Board member is interested in appearing on the morning show to discuss the works

of the Board, this can be arranged through Ms. Lincoln. A meeting will be held beforehand between the two parties to discuss the details.

Ms. JoAnn Lamb, Operations Manager of the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority, asked to include a safety sign message inside each bus in the fleet to encourage passenger safety and help spread the pedestrian safety education campaign's message.

Ms. designed a safety sign for MTA with an attachment of the campaign's billboard design on the bottom half. David Golder, Safety Director, and Ms. Lamb approved the design, and the design was shared by Ms. Poe during the January 31st meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority. The vinyl, peel-back signs were installed inside the entire fleet of 38 buses. Ms. Poe added that the cost of these signs and shipping fee are not a part of the campaign budget line items and will not become a part of the "CROSS THE WALK" campaign expenditures.

An order for one hundred additional double-sided (8 X 26) graphic cling window signs was approved by the Budget and Strategic Planning Office. Once the order arrives, the signs will be placed on the windows or doors of convenience and package stores throughout Macon-Bibb County.

Also, an order for 1,000 campaign wrist bands was approved and has been ordered to use as handouts at various community-related events to help spread the campaign message. The cost of these wrist bands was \$360.00 less than the original line item amount of \$950.00. The total cost including shipping is \$590.00 vs. \$950.00.

Ms. Poe is in the process of working out the details for Tesia Smith to make her first appearance as "Pedora The Pedestrian" on Friday, March 3, 2017, between 7:30AM-8:30AM at Alexander II Magnet School on College Street. The details will be forwarded to each Board member once they are complete. A waiver from the Legal Department will need to be signed by Ms. Smith before she begins representing the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board in this role.

Per Dr. Tsavatewa's request at the January meeting, Ms. Poe received a copy of the expenditures thus far for the "CROSS THE WALK" Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign from Julie Moore. There are some additions to the list of expenditures, and Ms. Poe will provide a copy for the Board's review at the next monthly meeting.

Pedestrian Fatality – Brad Belo

Mr. Brad Belo discussed the latest pedestrian fatality which occurred on January 31, 2017. The Accident Report was distributed to the Board members. The location of the accident was on Pio Nono at 7:20 p.m. The victim was a 48-year-old male.

Mr. Belo distributed copies of a new mapping system that depicts accident sites by a red X. When you click on the X, information regarding the accident appears. This information only applies to public roads; no private properties or parking lots. The numbers on the map are lower than the Coroner's numbers of accidents.

Other Matters

East Macon Park – Commissioner Elaine Lucas

Commissioner Elaine Lucas met with Julie Moore, Assistant to the County Manager for Budget & Strategic Planning regarding the narrow entrance into East Macon Park. She explained that the park has no proper signage for the entrance and the driveway into the park is very narrow. Ms. Moore informed Commissioner Lucas that it's a matter of the Engineering Department to coordinate with Ms. Moore on the matter to begin the process of eliminating the hazardous issues.

On motion by Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Mr. Gowan and passed unanimously, the Board will recommend to the full Commission and Senior Administrators that the entrance to East Macon Park be widened.

Safety Fair – Bessie Brown

Ms. Bessie Brown gave an update on the upcoming Safety Fair which will take place on April 22nd. She requested from the Board a list of participants and a list of needed equipment, such as audio visual setup, etc. Ms. Brown will need the list by March 10th. The fair will take place at the Robert Williams Complex.

Ms. Brown reported that the Kroger Manager on Tom Hill mentioned to her that high school kids are crossing the busy street and was concerned of the risks. He asked that someone from the Board visit him to discuss the issue with him. He also made reference to the crosswalk striping on Tom Hill and Northside which needs maintenance.

Lower Speed Limits

The Board discussed the lowering of speed limits from 35 MPH to 25 MPH of four Macon streets – Montpelier Avenue, Hazel Street, Oglethorpe Street and Nottingham Drive. Mr. Belo stated that this action should be considered to ensure a safer place to live. Commissioner Lucas added that these roads have been targeted as safety risks.

On motion by Mr. Belo, seconded by Ms. Poe and passed unanimously, the Board will recommend to the full Commission that the speed limits be lowered on Montpelier Avenue, Hazel Street, Oglethorpe Street and Nottingham Drive.

Letter to Local Legislation

Chairman Ryan updated the Board as to the status of the letter. Due to everyone's busy schedule, the letter has not been sent to the local legislature. Also, Chairman Ryan left a voice message with Senator Kennedy but has not received a call back. Commissioner Lucas emphasized the importance of continuing to pursue the matter.

Multi-Modal Safety and Access Project Grant Application

Chairman Ryan mentioned that the grant would utilize safety and cycling enhancements in Macon. Mr. Belo and Mr. Floyd are currently working on the matter.

Proposed Resolution regarding Traffic-Calming Measures

Chairman Ryan discussed the proposal for a Resolution to place traffic-calming enhancements on various streets of Macon, which will require GDOT's assistance in acquiring these measures. Commissioner Lucas suggested the Board discuss this matter at the next meeting and concentrate on the issues brought forward today for now.

Possible Field Trip

Chairman Ryan suggested scheduling a field trip in April; the matter will be discussed at the next Board meeting. The issue of safety vests was discussed. Mr. Kevin Poss will look into the matter and provide an update to the Board at the next meeting.

Traffic Calming Safety Measures

Commissioner Lucas received a cost estimate for the East Macon Park "rebuilt interest" work from the County Manager's Office. The proposed cost for the work is \$29,595.53.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Belo reported that on March 24th from 9:30 – 2:30, the Georgia Safe Routes to School is having a networking learning event and have requested the Board to attend. Panel discussions will include biking to school and pedestrian safety for children walking/biking to school. The event will be held at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

Applications are due February 28th to speak at the upcoming Georgia Walk Summit. The Summit will be held May 4th and 5th in Augusta.

Mr. Belo discussed the local Road Safety Audits which can be viewed at:

<http://www.mats2040.org/road-safety-audits-in-macon-bibb-county/>

The Open Streets Event will take place on May 21st. He asked the Board for any ideas on activities for the event.

On motion by Mr. Floyd, seconded by Mr. Poss and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on March 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Denise Kelley
Recording Secretary