PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD
JANUARY 17, 2017
10:00 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Ryan, Chairman
Chris Tsavatewa, Vice Chairman
Elaine Lucas, Commissioner
Rob Ryals, Facilities Management Dept.
Violet Poe, Citizen Member
Brad Belo, MBC P&Z Planner
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
Sam Henderson, Mayor's Representative
Bessie Brown, Pilot International
David Gowan, BOH Chairman
Myrtle Habersham, AARP

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Poss, Facilities Management Dept.
Gregory Brown, Planning & Zoning
David Pilgrem, AARP
Kimberly Lowe, MGRC
Tom Ellington, Professor, Weslyan
Denise Kelley, Asst. Clerk of the Commission

GUESTS:

Antonio Lewis-Ross (SMART)
Frankie Lewis (SMART)
Beverlyn Ming (MB Health Dept.)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Captain Brad Wolfe, Bibb County Sheriff's Dept.
Major Eric Walker, Bibb County Sheriff's Dept.
Leon Jones, Coroner

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

Approval of December 20, 2016 Minutes

On motion by Ms. Bessie Brown, seconded by Mr. David Gowan and passed unanimously, the minutes of December 20, 2016 were approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Policy and Legislation

Vice Chairman, Dr. Chris Tsavatewa had nothing to report.

Engineering

Mr. Nigel Floyd reiterated the request from Commissioner Elaine Lucas to provide to the Commissioners a "wish list" of projects needed for the upcoming SPLOST retreat being held at the end of the month.

Enforcement

No representatives in attendance.

Public Communication

Ms. Violet Poe reported that the media blitz for the "CROSS THE WALK" Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign on Friday, January 6, 2017 was a huge success. A special thanks to the entire Board for their campaign support, their attendance and their participation at the 'media blitz'.

Thank you letters will be sent to Roger Hayes, Director, Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) Law Enforcement Services who filled in for Harris Blackwood, Director of GOHS at the 'media blitz'. Mr. Blackwood cancelled his appearance on January 5th due to inclement weather projected to occur in the Atlanta area on January 6th.

Governor and First Lady Deal were invited to attend the 'media blitz', but were unable to attend the event.

The following marketing/educational tools are in place for the campaign:

The billboard for the month of January is located at the entrance of Walnut Creek Plaza on Gray Highway. This entrance leads to the Wal-mart Superstore.

Two (2) Macon Transit Authority Para-Transit buses have window wraps displaying the campaign's (billboard) message.

The first Public Service Announcement is being played on WRBV-FM and WIHB-FM during the month of January. Over the first six months of the year, a different PSA will be played on a rotation schedule on WRBV-FM (101.7) and WIHB-FM (97.3 and 96.5). A special thank you to Co-Chairman Tsavatewa for writing the PSAs for the campaign.

The campaign song written by Leonard Lucas Sr. and the campaign jingle written by Jackie Lamar-Epps were debuted during the 'media blitz'.

Green's Tabernacle Baptist Church led the way by beginning the New Year placing a pedestrian safety tip in their church bulletin on January 1, 2017. Letters to churches are being mailed requesting the placing of the tips in their church bulletin and encouraging their congregation to use the tips on a daily basis.

To date, 42 of the 50, 8 X 26 double–sided graphic cling signs have been placed on convenient and/or package store doors or windows. Due to the high number of locations where pedestrians are crossing improperly to get to these businesses, there is a need to immediately order an additional 100 signs. This will result in an increase of the line item for the 8 x 26 double-sided graphic cling signs.

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Ms. Brown and passed unanimously, the Board's approval to support additional funding for the purchase of 100 additional marketing signs.

During the placing of the graphic cling wraps at two of the businesses, there were major concerns expressed by the managers regarding pedestrian safety issues. The businesses were as follows: The Depot Package Store (Deep Singh), 738 Pio Nono Avenue and BP Convenience (Bobby Patel), 1179 Eisenhower Parkway. The concerns were in regards to the lighting and traffic control device in the area of Pio Nono and Roff Avenues, and the safety issues for pedestrians crossing at Eisenhower Parkway and Laveta Drive.

Tesia D. Smith, a Macon-Bibb County native and 2016 graduate of Spelman College is excited about the opportunity to give back to her hometown by volunteering and serving as Pedora the Pedestrian. A criminal background check has been done, and I have been informed by Sam Henderson that Tesia passed the background check. I am in the process of working out the details for Tesia to make her first appearance as Pedora the Pedestrian on Friday, February 3, 2017.

Co-Chairman Tsavatewa and Commissioner Lucas have been asked to appear within the next few months on Middle Georgia Speaks (WRBV-FM V101.7) to provide information regarding the works of the Board and the Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign.

Moises Velez of WMUB was unable to attend the 'media blitz' on January 6th. Therefore, he has asked to use the billboard logo on his news show, Que Pasa? to get the campaign message out to the Spanish-speaking community during the show's weekly airing, Friday –Sunday on Channel 38 or COX Channel 112.

Commissioner Lucas thanked Ms. Poe for her tireless efforts with the campaign. She also thanked the Board for their time and suggested the Board attend a Commission meeting in the near future to inform the Commissioners about the Board's objectives and accomplishments.

Discussion was held regarding the copyrighting of the Board's logo. Mr. Sam Henderson will present the matter to the County Attorney, Judd Drake.

Interagency Coordination

Co-Chairman Tsavatewa introduced Ms. Beverlyn Ming, County Nurse Manager, for the Macon-Bibb County Health Department. Ms. Ming discussed PSAs and the distribution of information to the citizens of Macon-Bibb County in order to ensure citizen safety.

Co-Chairman Tsavatewa asked Mr. Sam Henderson to set up a meeting with Bike/Walk Macon and Ms. Julie Moore to discuss the State application requirements for the federal funding grant for "Pedestrian Safety". He stated that there's already a fund for "Texting and Driving" and "Click it or Ticket".

He also discussed the upcoming Second Annual Georgia Walks Summit to be held in Augusta on May 4th and 5th. They are taking applications for panelists and speakers. He would like visible presence from the Board at the Summit to articulate the dialogue from the community that created the PSRB and its accomplishments. A fund for a proposal for discussion sessions at the Summit and to send Board delegates to the Summit was discussed. The proposal is due February 28, 2017.

On motion by Mr. Nigel Floyd, seconded by Mr. Henderson and passed unanimously, the Board will prepare and submit a proposal to the Summit and send delegates to represent the Board at the Summit.

Other Matters

Chairman Ryan - Letter from Pedestrian Safety Review Board to Georgia Legislatures

Chairman Ryan discussed the draft letter to the Georgia Legislative delegation and asked for any comments or suggestions. Co-Chairman Tsavatewa stated he would review and revise it accordingly. Commissioner Lucas suggested that a Pedestrian Safety Review Board letterhead be created. Chairman Ryan will contact Senator Kennedy to discuss the contents of the letter.

Brad Belo – Update regarding GA Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

Mr. Brad Belo attended the state-wide meeting in Perry and stated that it was a focus group for GDOT's benefit to discuss community concerns regarding pedestrian safety.

Ms. Kimberly Lowe distributed flyers entitled "FY 17 Multimodal Safety & Access Program" and "FY 17 Multimodal Safety & Access Project Proposal Form." She informed the group that it's also a new Program introduced by GDOT to provide a safe and connected transportation system, which includes people walking and biking. There is, however, a $2M in-state funding limit. There is also 30% match required from Macon-Bibb County as it is strictly a local government grant. The deadline to submit an application is March 15, 2017.

Co-Chairman Tsavatewa suggested the Board form a subcommittee to expedite the Proposal. On Motion by Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Mr. Henderson and passed unanimously, the Board will form a subcommittee for the Multimodal Safety & Access Program and apply for a grant.

SMART Presentation

Chairman Ryan introduced Mr. Antonio Lewis-Ross and Mr. Lewis-Ross' mother, Ms. Frankie Ross from SMART (South Macon Art Technology). Mr. Lewis-Ross and Ms. Lewis spoke on behalf of their neighborhood's traffic concerns located at Pendleton Homes, one of the largest housing projects in MBC. Public forums are held once a month wherein safety concerns are a major topic. Parents address the safety of their kids playing in the neighborhood. The group is now seeking support in having speed humps installed on Pendelton Drive.

Mr. Floyd conducted a traffic study and it was acknowledged that a large amount of traffic crosses through the area of concern. Three speed humps were recommended for the area.

On motion by Mr. Floyd, seconded by Mr. Henderson and passed unanimously, the Board will endorse the traffic calming devices to satisfy the calming needs for the Pendelton Homes area.

Ms. Bessie Brown made an addendum to the motion to add the Macon Housing Authority. Chris seconded the amendment to the motion.

On motion by Mr. Floyd, seconded by Co-Chairman Tsavatewa and passed unanimously, the Board will endorse the request to implement speed calming devices in the Pendelton Homes area and facilitate conversations from broader considerations on all Macon Housing Authority properties.

St. Paul's Elderly High Rise – Traffic Calming

Chairman Ryan reported that Ms. Poe and he checked out the area. Residents of the high rise were requesting a crosswalk in front of St. Paul's that would allow them to safely cross the street to Arlington Place. There were also complaints with regard to the speed of the traffic. Discussion was held with regard to installing a camera at the intersection of Forsyth and College Streets. Mr. Floyd stated he had discussed the possibility of installing a Hawk System at that same intersection with the Mayor.

The next meeting will be held on February 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Ryan asked if there was any further business to discuss. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Denise Kelley
Recording Secretary