

**PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
January 15, 2019
10:00 A.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Ellington, Chairman
Brad Belo, MBC Planning & Zoning
Ron Wildman, Citizen
Sam Henderson, Mayor's Representative
Violet Poe, Citizen
Rob Ryals, MBC Facilities Management
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
Michael Ryan, Citizen
Myrtle Habersham, AARP

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Major Eric Walker, BCSO
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Bessie Brown, Vice – Chair, Pilot
International
Captain Brad Wolfe, BCSO
David Gowan, Bibb County School District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Poss, MBC Facilities Management
Kimberly Lowe, Middle GA Regional Commission
Scott Davis, BCSO
Bob Dallas, Vision Zero
Kevin Poss, MBC Facilities Management
Greg Brown, MBC Planning & Zoning
Rachel Hollar, Bike Walk Macon
Della Golden, SMART Organization
Frankie Lewis, SMART Organization
Anita Barkin, Macon-Bibb County Health
Department
Kaye Cleveland, Clerk of Commission

Chairman Tom Ellington called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Ms. Myrtle Habersham, seconded by Mr. Nigel Floyd and passed unanimously, the November 27, 2018 minutes were approved.

Policy and Legislation

No Report

Engineering

Mr. Floyd stated there was no initial report from Engineering. Chairman Ellington asked for an update regarding Forsyth Street. Mr. Floyd advised the Board there was no funding for the proposed project and there was no update.

Chairman Ellington also asked for an update on construction of sidewalks at Northeast High School. Mr. Floyd advised there was no update. The Board was advised there may be an update on the Walnut Street Bridge during the spring.

Enforcement

No report

Public Communication – Ms. Violet Poe

The media blitz for the PEDESTRIAN “On the Move” FFY19 grant award announcement of \$24,065 was held at the Government Center on Monday, December 17th (2018) at 11:00AM.

A special thanks to Mayor Robert A.B. Reichert and the Macon-Bibb County Commissioners, Sheriff David Davis, Commissioner Elaine Lucas, Harris Blackwood of the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety, David Gowan and Keith Simmons of the Bibb County School District, Chairman Ellington, the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board, Macon-Bibb County Health Department, Macon-Bibb County Office of the Clerk of Commission, Office of Public Affairs, Office of Budget and Strategic Planning, Rev. Clifford Little of Green’s Tabernacle Baptist Church, Dr. Danielle Howard and the Safety Patrol/Student Leaders of Ingram-Pye Elementary School, guests, and community partners.

The team of Mercer University engineering students submitted their class project report, Reimaging the Traditional Crosswalk for the City of Macon, Georgia to Dr. Laura Moody on Friday, December 7th (2018). The report included suggestions from Mr. Robert Ryals, Mr. Floyd, and Ms. Violet Poe of the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board.

Mr. Ryals, Mr. Floyd, Mr. Kevin Poss, and Ms. Poe will conduct a mini-training safety session with the team of students before they begin the project which includes the painting of cherry blossoms at the approved intersections for the project. The project will be completed by February 28th in time for the celebration of Macon’s 2019 International Cherry Blossom Festival during the month of March. A Public Service Announcement (PSA) will air on iHeart Media Radio during the month of March, and a meeting will be scheduled for the students to provide information regarding the project with Chris Floore for a press release.

Due to the partial federal government shutdown since December 21st, there has been a freeze on the ordering of the educational materials and supplies needed for the community outreach activities for PEDESTRIAN “On the Move”. Once the shutdown ends, the supplies will be ordered, and the community outreach activities associated with the grant project will be scheduled.

The “In Appreciation” plaque for the family of Dorothy “Dot” Elder from the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board was mailed via USPS on Saturday, December 22nd. Mrs. Elder was oldest pedestrian fatality (at the age of 92) in Macon-Bibb County between the years of 2012-2017, and permission has been granted by the family to share the remarkable life Mrs. Elder lived and the circumstances surrounding her death, as a part of the Alive Beyond 92 pilot program of the PEDESTRIAN “On the Move” FFY19 grant.

The movable billboard is located on Riverside Drive at Madison Street for the month of January. A special thanks to the Macon-Bibb County Board of Health for providing funds for the production cost of a new, vinyl movable billboard and the cost for the billboard to be posted during the first three months (January-March) of 2019.

The list of the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian's Safety Review Board's accomplishments provided by Chairman Ellington, along with the January and March meeting and pedestrian safety summit dates were emailed to Andy Miller, Editor of the Georgia Health News on January 2nd.

Ms. Poe held a meeting with Stacy Moore, CBF President/CEO and Dr. Pam Carswell, President/CEO of the Keep-Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission on January 4th to seek approval of the Mercer University engineering students' Cherry Blossom Project in partnership with the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board. Ms. Moore and Dr. Carswell approved the project and are looking forward to the partnership between the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board and the team of engineering students. The project will include the painting of cherry blossoms at an intersection near the campus of Mercer University, the intersections of Cherry Street, and on Houston Avenue near the SMART, Inc. zone, to bring attention to the crosswalks.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CONCERNS:

Danielle Bronner – Concerned about the pedestrian safety on St. Charles Place due to the lack of sidewalks, speed limit signs, speed humps, and children playing signs. NOTE: Ms. Bronner is the mother of Zmya Whitus, the 7-year-old who was involved in a hit-and-run on St. Charles Place, November 3, 2018, resulting in serious injury to her body.

Interagency Coordination

Mr. Sam Henderson, Mayor's Office, advised the Board the Mayor's Office sent out a letter to their stakeholders regarding the Vision Zero Strategic Plan Kickoff. Said event will occur at the Government Center on January 30, 2019.

Recent Pedestrian Fatalities

Mr. Brad Belo gave an update to the group regarding Pedestrian Fatalities in 2018. There was an increase in pedestrian fatalities in 2018 than in the previous two years. An update regarding the first pedestrian fatality in 2019 was given as well.

Mr. Belo informed the group a Road Safety Audit was performed on Pio Nono Avenue at Mercer University Drive to Mercer University Drive and Oglesby Place by the Georgia Department of Transportation with the support and involvement of Macon-Bibb County. Said audit was performed because of perceived dangers at this stretch of road. Recommendations for the area of Mercer University and Arlington Place such as installation of medians, pedestrian refuges, narrowing of lanes, improving lighting, crosswalks and reducing turning movements were made to improve pedestrian safety.

Mr. Belo presented a map to the group displayed the pedestrian crashes on Lower Pio Nono Avenue from 2013-2019. The location of the first pedestrian fatality of 2019 was documented on this map as well. Said map showed six pedestrian fatalities and four vehicle fatalities in the past

six years at different locations on Lower Pio Nono Avenue. Mr. Belo proposed the Georgia Department of Transportation perform Road Safety Audits on Lower Pio Nono Avenue and Gray Highway because of vehicle and pedestrian fatalities.

On motion by Mr. Michael Ryan, seconded by Mr. Floyd, and passed unanimously, Chairman Ellington and Mr. Belo will draft a letter to the Georgia Department of Transportation for Road Safety Audits to be performed on Lower Pio Nono Avenue and Gray Highway in Macon-Bibb County.

Vision Zero Presentation – Bob Dallas

Mr. Bob Dallas gave a presentation to the Board regarding Vision Zero for Macon-Bibb County. Information was given regarding ways to solve issues involving pedestrian safety and reducing fatalities. Changes to behavior, infrastructure and enforcement were suggested. Allocating money to support said endeavors was discussed as well.

Update on scooter-sharing regulations

Chairman Ellington informed the Board the Macon-Bibb County Commission discussed amending scooter-sharing regulations. Mr. Henderson advised the group there were no plans to amend said regulations made.

Frankie Lewis, SMART Organization – Presentation

Ms. Frankie Lewis, SMART Organization, gave a presentation regarding street lighting on the east side of Houston Avenue. Ms. Lewis stated there were several streets in the Houston Avenue area that did not have lighting. Pictures of places in need of street lighting were shown to the Board. The Board was advised of hazards including potential injuries to pedestrians and drivers. Ms. Lewis was advised regarding the parameters to be taken would help with street lighting.

GDOT Streetscape Guide

Moved to March Agenda.

Chairman Ellington adjourned the meeting.

Future meetings will be held on the following dates in 2019: January 30, February 19, April 16, May 21 and June 18.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye Cleveland
Recording Secretary