

**MINUTES OF THE
MACON-BIBB PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD MEETING
July 16, 2024 – 10:00 AM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Greg Brown, Chairman, MBC Planning and Zoning
Rob Ryals, MBC Facilities Management
Lieutenant Scott Davis, BCSO
Henry Ficklin, MBC Executive Dir. Of Community Affairs
Ron Wildman, Citizen
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
David Gowan, Bibb County School District
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
Charise Stephens-Merriweather, MBC Small Business

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Michael Ryan, Citizen
Major Brad Wolfe, BCSO
Rachel Hollar Umana, Vice Chair, BWM

OTHERS PRESENT

Frank Howard, Assistant County Attorney
Laura Corley, Macon News Room
Weston Stroud, MBC Traffic Safety Manager
Sheila Griggs, Deputy Clerk of Commission

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chairman Greg Brown called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

A 05-21-2024 Meeting Minutes

On motion of Myrtle Habersham, seconded by David Gowan, and passed unanimously, the minutes from May 21, 2024 were approved.

3. Subcommittee Reports

A Policy and Legislation

Complete Streets Report

There was no update from Complete Streets - the next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2024.

B Engineering

Nigel Floyd reported that the FY25 budget was approved, and the Board now has \$500,000.00 available to spend on safety projects. Some of the projects include ordering more sign message boards, implementing traffic-calming projects and pledging some funds as a fund-match for new projects.

Traffic Safety Manager Report

Nigel Floyd reported that Weston Stroud met with Frank Howard, Assistant County Attorney, to discuss the Traffic Calming Policy. Weston will bring the policy to the next meeting in August for final review and approval.

C Enforcement

Lt. Scott Davis reported on fatalities. He reported that there were 2 pedestrian fatalities this year compared to 9 fatalities at this same time last year. There have been 15 overall fatalities in Macon this year. Thirteen of them were vehicle accidents.

Charise Stephens-Merriweather suggested that the PSRB along with Mayor Miller hold a press release to share fatality updates with the community. The press release will be informational to citizens, allowing them to see what the Board has done and what the community can do to continue to improve pedestrian safety. The press release could be a Call of Action for the community. Dr. Ficklin will work with Chris Floor to get the press release set up.

D Public Communication

Charise Stephens-Merriweather reported on updating the POD Cast Series to include Lt. Davis reports on fatalities. She would like to celebrate our success and praise those who helped decrease pedestrian fatalities.

The Board discussed hosting an Outreach Project for senior citizens. McAfee Towers has expressed interest in having an age-friendly meeting for its residents. The goal of the meeting will be to educate senior citizens and brainstorm ideas on how to safely cross Gray Highway. Nigel Floyd reported that he is working with GDOT on projects for Gray Highway. He will contact GDOT for an update.

Myrtle Habersham reported that AARP has done a number of Outreach Projects at McAfee Towers and there is a conference room there where they have provided education on safety. She also suggested that the Board include other senior citizens' homes in Macon.

Charise also reminded the Board that October is National Safety Month. She is going to do some research on locating some reflector safety kits,

and she is asking the Board to brainstorm ideas for other items she can purchase to share with the community. She reported on the summer bike camps where 10 schools participated. They give out certificates and bikes to the participants. She is also working on producing more PSA videos and has asked David Gowen and Myrtle Habersham to participate.

E Interagency Coordination

David Gowen reported that his new budget is now loaded, and he is ready to order bike racks for schools. He intends to work closely with the school principals to see where they want the racks placed.

4. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

5. New Business

Charise has some ideas for 2024 National Safety Month.

1. She is asking for the Board to help brainstorm
2. Host a walk safety event at the Macon Mall
3. Host an Honor Walk for pedestrians who passed away
4. Conduct a street corner activity in a high incident area
5. Walking school bus
6. Halloween Give away ideas

Charise informed the Board that Bike Walk Macon is having a Training session with Bibb-Sheriff's Office on 7/31/2024 and PSRB is invited to attend. More information will come when it's available.

Michael Ryan shared pictures to promote non- motorized transport build cycle-ped infrastructure accessible to all. Czech Republic is good, e.g. More cyclists and walkers than motorists! Same for Germany and most western & Central Europe, where health and environmental benefits are profound - less obesity, diabetes, circulatory problems plus lower air, noise, aesthetic pollution caused by over-reliance on cars/trucks. Please share with all members of Pedestrian Safety Review Board and PSRB meeting attendees.

Rob Ryles reported that he will not be in attendance at the August meeting. Attorney Frank Howard is looking into the by-laws to see if he can send a replacement to represent him.

6. Non-Agenda Public Comments

There were no non-agenda public comments.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila F. Griggs
Deputy Clerk of Commission