

**MINUTES OF THE
MACON-BIBB PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD MEETING
August 20, 2024 – 10:00 AM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Rachel Hollar Umana, Vice Chair, BWM
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
Lieutenant Scott Davis, BCSO
Ron Wildman, Citizen
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
David Gowan, Bibb County School District
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
Charise Stephens-Merriweather

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Greg Brown, Chairman, MBC Planning and Zoning
Rob Ryals, MBC Facilities Management
Michael Ryan, Citizen
Major Brad Wolfe, BCSO
Henry Ficklin, MBC Executive Dir. Of Community Affairs

OTHERS PRESENT

Frank Howard, Assistant County Attorney
Greg Boike, MGRC
Kaylee Pritt, BWM
Weston Stroud, MBC Traffic Safety Manager
Sheila Griggs, Deputy Clerk of Commission

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Rachel Umana called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

A 07-16-2024 Meeting Minutes

On motion of Nigel Floyd, seconded by David Gowan, and passed unanimously, the minutes from July 16, 2024 were approved.

3. Subcommittee Reports

A Policy and Legislation

Complete Streets Report

Rachel Umana reported on the Complete Streets Compliance meeting that

was held at 9:00 a.m. prior to this meeting. She reported that the members present reviewed the Complete Streets Compliance Policy and made suggestions for improvements. There was no quorum, therefore official business was not conducted.

B Engineering

Noal Popwell, Liveable Cities Presentation

Nigel Floyd introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Noal Popwell from Livable Cities. Mr. Popwell discussed the camera systems for traffic counts, pedestrian counts, and other functional uses via Zoom.

Nigel Floyd thought utilizing the camera system provided by Mr. Popwell would be a good idea for the area around the Atrium Health Amphitheater to help control traffic during events. The cameras are easy to move around and could be a valuable tool for our Sheriff's Department. Nigel suggested purchasing two of the cameras to get started and purchasing more if they work for the County.

Nigel will discuss the price with Mr. Popwell and report back at the next meeting. Mrytle Habersham suggested that the Board look for potential grants to help with expenses for the cameras.

Commissioner Lucas asked about the lifeline of the cameras. She mentioned that the Sheriff's Department already has an amazing safety tracking system in place, and we would not want to duplicate something that is already available.

Nigel Floyd reported that GDOT has installed the medianettes on Gray Highway.

Nigel Floyd suggested ordering cooling towels to share with pedestrians during events. He attended an event with MBC HR Dept. and the towels were given as gifts to participants. He will get with HR to see if he can get a quote and have it at the next meeting.

Commissioner Lucas discussed some areas of concern that she would like to review for safety as pedestrians walk in the area. The Board discussed the area from Shurling Drive to Walmart and Riverside Dr. by the Army Base.

Greg Boike reminded the Board that a grant has been applied for but not approved yet. Nigel Floyd will look into getting an update on the grant.

On motion of commissioner Lucas, seconded by Nigel Floyd and passed unanimously, the board supported a motion to work with GDOT for the possibility of expansion of sidewalks on Shurling Drive and Riverside Dr. and to also ask them to explore any improvements for the area.

Traffic Safety Manager Report

Weston Stroud reported on the Traffic Calming Policy. He would like to take a vote to have it approved for release to the public. Attorney Howard advised the Board that the Traffic Calming Policy does not need to be approved by the Commission.

Commissioner Lucas expressed her concern about releasing the policy without enough testing of the process. She suggested doing a trial run to see how it functions from the user's standpoint. She suggested doing a practice run. The Board decided to release the policy with the intention of revisiting how it is working at the December meeting or the first meeting thereafter whenever a quorum is present. Attorney Howard reminded the Board that amendments can be made to the policy once it is released.

C Enforcement

Lt. Scott Davis reported on the incident on Rockey Creek Road that happened on August 16, 2024. He stated that it is still an active investigation. He reported that there have been three incidents YTD compared to ten in 2023. Macon-Bibb is trending favorably.

D Public Communication

Charise Stephens-Merriweather reported on events like Outreach to youths where ten schools participated, walking school bus event sponsored by United Way, and Nation Bike/walk to school events. She reminded the Board that October is Pedestrian Safety Month and volunteers are needed for events. Charise will work on a calendar of events to share with the Board to allow members to sign up.

The Board discussed moving the free arm band stand but decided to leave it for the time being. Further discussion and evaluation of the area is needed.

The Board discussed ways to spend the budgeted \$500,000.00. Weston reported that he was working on a list of things to use it on. The Board discussed creating a smaller committee to help with the decision-making about spending the money.

On motion of Nigel Floyd, seconded by Charise Stephens-Merriweather and approved unanimously, the Board approved creating a subcommittee to evaluate existing vision zero plans and ask Sherita Jones, Budget and Grants Manager for the Strategic Planning Department, to work with this subcommittee.

E Interagency Coordination

David Gowan stated that the summit was successful, and the Board needs to start thinking of the next one to get it on the school board conference room schedule.

4. Old Business

The Board is still looking for a PSRB Mascot. David Gowan will go to the drama team at Bibb County School to see if they can come up with some ideas to share with the Board. If the Board does get a young person from the school, the Board feels it necessary to provide a small stipend for their time, energy and participation at events.

A Traffic Calming Policy - Review/Approve

On motion of Weston Stroud, seconded by Charise Stephens-Merriweather and passed unanimously, the Traffic Calming Policy was approved.

5. New Business

A Invitation: Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

The Board felt that this event would be a great opportunity to hand out arm bands and any other advertisement from the PSRB. Volunteers are needed and everyone is encouraged to attend.

B October National Pedestrian Safety Month - Outreach schedule

Charise Stephens-Merriweather will work on the month of events and send out to the Board. Each member will have an opportunity to sign up for an event to volunteer at.

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