

**PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2019
10:00 A.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Brown, MBC Planning & Zoning, Chair
Rachel Hollar Umana, Bike Walk Macon, Vice Chair
David Gowan, Bibb County School District
Commissioner Joe Allen, MBC Health Department
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Captain Brad Wolfe, BCSO
Lieutenant Scot Davis, BCSO
Charise Stephens, Georgia Wellness & Fitness Festival
Rob Ryals, MBC Facilities Management
Ron Wildman, Citizen
Michael Ryan, Citizen
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kaye Cleveland, Clerk of Commission
Kimberly Lowe, Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Bob Dallas, Vision Zero
Todd Campbell, Numetric
Jessica Walden, U.S. Census Bureau
Kevin Poss, MBC Facilities Management
Liz Fabian, Mercer University Center for Collaborative Journalism

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sam Henderson, Mayor's Representative
Myrtle Habersham, AARP

Chairman Greg Brown called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Mr. Michael Ryan, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel Umana and passed unanimously, the minutes from the September 17, 2019 Meeting were approved.

On motion by Mr. Nigel Floyd, seconded by Mr. Rob Ryals and passed unanimously, the minutes from the Vision Zero Summit held on October 16, 2019 were approved.

Policy and Legislation

Commissioner Lucas asked Chairman Brown to give a brief overview of the sub-committees for the Pedestrian Safety Review Board. Board members briefly gave an overview starting with Policy and Legislation. As discussion ensued Chairman Brown prompted group members to present nominations for Chair of Policy and Legislation. Vice Chair Umana volunteered to become the Chair for the sub-committee. Chairman Brown entertained a motion for said position. On motion by Mr. David Gowan, seconded by Mr. Ron Wildman and passed unanimously, Vice Chair Umana was named Chair of the Policy and Legislation sub-committee.

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Engineering

Mr. Floyd informed the Board on Eisenhower Parkway a pedestrian hybrid beacon was installed to calm traffic and enhance pedestrian safety. Said measure was done because of a Road Safety Audit performed on Eisenhower Parkway. Mr. Floyd elaborated stating traffic calming measures will take place at the intersections at Oglesby Place, Macon Tech Drive and Bloomfield Road.

The group was informed citizens living in areas near the beacon would be given information on how to use it. Mr. Floyd presented this information. Board members informed Mr. Floyd said information can be given to students with signed papers and given to parents.

Enforcement

Captain Brad Wolfe informed Board Members the Sheriff Department was in the process of formulating a better way to address traffic enforcement based on crash data. Captain Wolfe informed the Board Lieutenant Davis was reviewing crash studies and data to assess traffic violations other than speeding contributed to crashes. The plan to address traffic enforcement would also take into consideration the number of deputies would patrol streets. Board members were advised this plan would take a while to implement.

Interagency Coordination

Mr. Gowan gave an update regarding sign installation at Northeast High School on Upper River Road. Signs were going to be installed payable by the school district. Mr. Gowan stated concerns expressed by Former Mayor Ellis regarding speeding on Napier Avenue in the School Zone near Central High School. The Board was informed signs would be installed in said area would be purchased by the school district but maintained by Macon-Bibb County Government.

Mr. Gowan informed the group of efforts to coordinate with staff members of the Safe Routes to School Division of GDOT, but due to high turnover, little was accomplished working with said organization. Board members were informed Safe Routes to School acquired several initiatives to improve the safety of students walking to school. Mr. Gowan informed the group he would reengage with them regarding said initiatives and training a Safe Routes to School Coordinator.

The group was briefed regarding funding for pedestrian safety education through the Health Department. Mr. Gowan informed board members a review of funding given to the Pedestrian Safety Review Board at the next Board of Health Meeting. Board members were reminded the Board of Health declared pedestrian safety a public health issue, enabling funding to improve pedestrian safety.

Public Communication

Chairman Brown opened discussion regarding Public Communication. Board members reviewed the final report Ms. Violet Poe presented to the Board. Chairman Brown discussed finding someone to serve as Chair of the Public Communication Sub-committee. The group was informed there was no report. Commissioner Lucas asked Chairman Brown if Mr. Chris Floore, Director of Public Affairs could assist with public communication for the Pedestrian Safety Review Board. The Board was advised of a grant received from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to fund pedestrian Education efforts.

Complete Streets Policy

Vice Chair Umana briefed group members regarding the Complete Streets Policy. Said policy states all road projects must consider all forms of transportation. The Board was advised a draft was sent to Georgia Bikes for review. Vice Chair Umana informed the Board Georgia Bikes approved the policy with additional information from the National Complete Streets Coalition.

Presentation: Numetric

Mr. Todd Campbell presented data collection software from Numetric to the group. Numetric focuses on traffic safety by analyzing crash data. The primary focus of the company is to provide tools decision makers can use to make informed decisions to improve traffic safety.

Jessica Walden: 2020 Census

Ms. Jessica Walden, United States Census Bureau, presented information to the group regarding the 2020 Census. The group was given a brief overview of the history of the census. Ms. Walden informed the group of the importance of the census regarding federal funding. Approximately \$675 Billion in federal funding is distributed to the United States according to the census. For each person counted in the census, the community receives approximately \$14,000 in federal funding. The census data is used to determine areas of need for housing assistance, transportation needs and redistricting at the national and state levels.

Ms. Walden advised the group allocation of federal funding is determined by the number of people participate in the census. She stated even though a community may go underfunded if participation in the census is lower than the actual number of people living in community. The census is performed every 10 years with the same data used each year. The Board was informed Macon-Bibb County had a non-participation rate of 37%.

Group members were advised education regarding the census was needed to receive better representation. Challenges regarding census participation include confidentiality of information and trust in the government. Ms. Walden informed the group census workers take a lifetime oath to keep census information confidential. The board was informed census information is only released after 70 years and no executive order can release it.

Ordinance Language Regarding Appointments

Chairman Brown prompted discussion of the ordinance establishing the Pedestrian Safety Review Board. He further stated there were contradictions regarding the language and appointments. Board members did not know if the Sheriff could appoint a designee with or without legislation approved by the Commission. Chairman Brown informed the Board he reached out to Mr. Michael McNeill regarding this issue. Mr. McNeill informed him a letter may be drafted to present to the commission regarding appointments from the Sheriff Department to the Board.

Safe Routes to School Conference

Ms. Charise Stephens shared information with the Board regarding the Safe Routes to School Conference in Tampa, FL. The group was given an overview of information and resources offered through Safe Routes. Ms. Stephens also shared ideas to promote bike safety and educating students on pedestrian safety when walking to school. The group was advised driver education was needed as well to ensure student safety.

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting.

Future meetings will be held on the following dates in 2019: December 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye Cleveland
Recording Secretary