

PEDESTRIAN FATALITY REVIEW BOARD

NOVEMBER 15, 2016

10:00 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Ryan, Chairman
Chris Tsavatewa, Vice Chairman
David Gowan, BOH Chairman
Violet Poe, Citizen Member
Brad Belo, MBC P&Z Planner
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
Leon Jones, Coroner
Lt. Brad Wolfe, Bibb County Sheriff's Dept.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Nancy White
Kevin Poss, Facilities Management Dept.
Stephanie Hyman, DPH
Sasha Moody, DPH
Denise Kelley, Asst. Clerk of the Commission
Edna Ruiz, 41NBC /WMGT

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Elaine Lucas, Commissioner
Rob Ryals, Facilities Management Dept.
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
Bessie Brown, Pilot International
Eric Walker, Bibb County Sheriff's Dept.

GUEST:

Bob Harden

Chairman Michael Ryan called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Approval of October 18, 2016 Minutes

On motion by Vice Chairman Chris Tsavatewa, seconded by Mr. Brad Belo and passed unanimously, the minutes of October 18, 2016 were approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Policy and Legislation

Vice Chairman Tsavatewa stated that a meeting will be held in the near future with P&Z to discuss logistical resource commitments. He also made reference to the recommendations that Mr. Bob Dallas will incorporate the Vision Zero concept into the Pedestrian Fatality name.

Public Communication

Ms. Violet Poe reported that Chairman Ryan, AARP Volunteer Cordelia O. Poe and she placed reflector strips on the wheelchairs/walkers/canes of eight Clisby Towers' residents. The residents were encouraged to follow all traffic safety rules, use the crosswalk at all times, and be attentive and extremely careful as they move from one location to another with their form of walking aids. Ms. Paula Jones, Resident Service Coordinator of Clisby Towers, coordinated the

activity for the residents. WGXA Fox 24's David Johnson was present and provided media coverage for this activity.

Ms. Poe attended the Macon-Bibb County Community Development Block Grant Program's Pre-Funding Conference in October to listen to the presentation and find out if the Board meets the criteria to apply for funding for the "CROSS THE WALK" Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign. The information packet has been shared with Chairman Ryan and Ms. Julie Moore of the Budget and Strategic Funding Department. Ms. Moore is in the process of checking with the Department of Economic Development to see if the Board meets the eligibility requirements to apply for the funding.

Ms. Poe and Chairman Ryan placed reflector strips on walking aids of 30 residents from the Vineville Christian Towers in November. The residents were encouraged to follow all traffic safety rules, use the crosswalk at all times, and be attentive and extremely careful as they move from one location to another with their wheelchair, walker, cane, or bicycle.

Ms. Allison Nelson, Social Service Coordinator of Vineville Christian Towers coordinated the activity for the residents. The next scheduled location for reflector strip placements is St. Paul Apartments.

Ms. Poe reported that she met with Mr. Rod English of iHEART MEDIA and he confirmed that there can be up to 3 different PSAs for rotation during the 6-month contract for the "CROSS THE WALK" campaign. Vice Chairman Tsavatewa will be responsible for writing the PSAs for the campaign.

Mr. Chris Floore of the Mayor's Office requested that the seal of the Macon-Bibb County Government be placed on the billboard design for the "CROSS THE WALK" Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign. The design of the campaign billboard and bus window signs will include the seal of the Macon-Bibb County Government and the Vision Zero logo (attached).

Mr. Robert Dallas suggested having a media blitz for the Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign. Ms. Poe spoke with Mr. Floore and asked him to assist her with the availability of the Mayor's schedule, commissioner chambers, Gov. and Mrs. Nathan Deal's schedule, and inviting a representative from the GOHS to attend this event. The tentative date for the media blitz is January 6, 2017.

Commissioner Elaine Lucas suggested a field trip to one of the longest public transit fixed-routes be held on the date of the Board's monthly meeting on December 20th at 9 a.m. Mr. Rick Jones, CEO of the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority, has agreed to make the arrangements to transport the Board on the Eisenhower Parkway fixed-route, which ends at Middle Georgia State University. Ms. Poe will coordinate the trip with Commissioner Lucas and Ms. Denise Kelley.

Presentation Re Shirley Hills Neighborhood – Mr. Robert Harden

Mr. Robert Harden, a resident of Shirley Hills neighborhood, discussed the hazards of the roadways in the neighborhood. At issue is the increased and the persistent high speed of traffic. The neighborhood has a high volume of pedestrians and bikers in the area. Present signage regarding the current speed limit has been ineffective and there is a lack of sidewalks. There are little to no roadside shoulders and poor sight lines.

Mr. Harden introduced solutions to the problems, such as (1) lowering speed limits; (2) adding signage noting the speed limit, the presence of children and pedestrians/bikers on the roadway; (3) increasing street lighting; (4) adding sidewalks to the north or south side of Nottingham Drive; and (5) installing crosswalks with signage and flashing lights.

Mr. Nigel Floyd reported that his Department is reviewing the matter.

Update on Recent Road Safety Audit on Gray Highway – Mr. Nigel Floyd and Mr. Brad Belo

Mr. Belo discussed the pedestrian traffic on Gray Highway near Knob Hill where there are many apartment complexes. There are no sidewalks or crosswalks in the area. He added that there are drainage issues near Walnut Creek which is of concern when it rains, causing flooding on the highway. Mr. Belo stated that they are currently working on a summary report.

Pedestrian Safety Action Plan – Mr. David Gowan

Mr. David Gowan discussed GDOT's newly created Georgia Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Practitioners' Workshop. The Plan is to improve pedestrian safety across the State. The Workshop will be given December 5th from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Gowan presented an update on the school zone flashing signs. Mr. Floyd stated that he recently received the specs (type of signal, etc.) and is reviewing them to see what needs to be added or removed.

Other Matters

Discussion took place regarding the two recent pedestrian fatalities. Mr. Leon Jones informed the group that any person who has been struck by a vehicle while on foot is considered a "pedestrian."

Mr. Belo made reference to the lack of infrastructure needed to safely cross a street, such as crosswalks. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Ryan asked if there was any further business to discuss. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Denise Kelley
Recording Secretary