

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
October 17, 2017
10:00 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Ellington, Chairman
Elaine Lucas, Commissioner
Violet Poe, Citizen Member
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
Bessie Brown, Pilot International
Rob Ryals, Facilities Management
Brad Belo, MBC P&Z Planner
Michael Ryan, Citizen Member
Dr. Chris Tsavatewa, DOH

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gregory Brown, MBC P&Z
Kevin Poss, Facilities Management
Beverly Ming, Nurse Mgr. Health Dept.
Camille Watson, Education Mgr. Health Dept.
Kimberly Lowe, Middle Ga Regional Commission
Denise Kelley, Asst. Clerk of the Commission
Jackie Curry, Admin Asst. to the Clerk of
Commission

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sam Henderson, Mayor's Representative
David Gowan, BOE Risk Management
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer

Chairman Tom Ellington called the meeting to order and introduced himself as the new Chairman of the Pedestrian Safety Review Board ("PSRB").

Chairman Ellington's first order of business was to approve the September 19, 2017 minutes. On motion by Mr. Kevin Poss, seconded by Mr. Michael Ryan and passed unanimously, the September 19, 2017 minutes were approved.

Mr. Ellington asked Mr. Brad Belo to present an update on items D, E & F of the agenda. Mr. Belo presented a map depicting pedestrian crashes that have occurred from January 1st to October 1, 2017. This included pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries to pedestrians. Mr. Belo also reported there were approximately 30 fatalities within the last five years. Mr. Belo discussed 3 fatalities that occurred on Jeffersonville Road, Gray Highway and Lexington Street. He stated that these are repeated crash locations.

Mr. Belo reported that most pedestrians are not crossing at the crosswalks during the day, that's when most people are out, and about 75% – 80% incidents are happening along the roadways - not at the intersections. Mr. Ellington had some concerns about the crashes in the downtown area and the intersection of Hwy 247, Houston Avenue and Broadway.

Mr. Belo reported that this time last year, there were six fatalities but had reached eight at the end of the year. An update will be given on this topic as time progresses.

Ms. Myrtle Habersham suggested adding bullet points to the map to reflect the various locations of the occurrences. Commissioner Elaine Lucas also suggested that separate overlapping maps also be added to reflect the different types of occurrences.

Mr. Belo distributed GDOT's Road Safety Audit, which covered a portion Pio Nono to Eisenhower Parkway, and a mile of Mercer University Drive to Columbus Road. GDOT prepared a list of safety concerns for bicyclists and pedestrians. Mr. Belo stated that this is how GDOT addresses the situation. GDOT will present the information collected to the engineers and begin resolving the lack of safety matters.

Commissioner Lucas asked Chairman Ellington to check if there was a Transportation Board member that could represent the Board when working with GDOT. She also stressed the importance of contacting the local legislative delegation to help move the process along.

Mr. Belo gave a report on intersection improvements on Broadway, Houston and Pio Nono, such as adding a roundabout, pedestrian facilities and flashing beacons. He added that this is very early in the process, but he wanted to inform the Board that this information is being passed along to GDOT; they are interested and concerned about the safety issues.

Mr. Belo discussed the injury crash sites located on Broadway, Martin Luther King and Ash Streets near the railroad bridge. He shared pictures of the vegetation-covered sidewalks. Mr. Belo stated that this makes it difficult for pedestrians to use the sidewalk, so they are forced to reach their destination by walking on the street. He added that it was GDOT's responsibility for the maintenance of the sidewalk; but, GDOT thinks it's the County's responsibility for the maintenance of the sidewalk. Ms. Habersham suggested that PSRB prepare a letter to Public Works referencing this problem. Commissioner Lucas suggested presenting the problem to the Commission at the next Regular Commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Ms. Violet Poe reported that Mr. Andy Stroud of the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority informed her that Dave Golder (Interim CEO/Safety Director) and Joann Lamb (Fixed-Route) did extensive research and concluded that none of the bus stops in the Upper River Road area have enough traffic to justify the cost of putting a bus shelter at any of the locations. This had been suggested by Ms. Manson, who is a member of one of the East Macon Neighborhood Associations.

On Friday, October 13th, Mr. Michael Ryan and Ms. Poe gave a presentation on pedestrian safety and crosswalk use at St. Paul Village. Following the presentation, reflectors were placed on medical equipment of each of the residents in attendance.

Ms. Poe reported that an email notification was received on October 12th from the Governor's Office regarding Highway Safety (GOHS). The "Pedestrian on the Move" application has been approved. During the last modification request from the GOHS on September 22, 2017, the planner suggested the removal of the following contractual items from the application: Movable billboard, bus window wraps, PSAs, and convenient store signs. The removal of these items left the final budget request of \$20,785.00 in the application.

Ms. Poe reported that she met with Julie Moore, Co-Interim County Manager, regarding the grant notification from the GOHS. Ms. Moore explained the grant process and informed Ms. Poe that the Commissioners will have to accept the grant before any purchases and activities pertaining to "Pedestrian on The Move" begins. Ms. Moore also informed Ms. Poe that she will place the grant notification on the November 7th agenda of the Commission meeting.

The vinyl, movable billboard for the month of October is still located at the entrance of Walnut Creek Plaza on Gray Highway. This entrance leads to the Walmart Superstore.

Monthly Public Service Announcements are still on the air and rotating on three of the IHeartMedia radio stations, and the window wraps are still on display for the campaign on two of the MTA Para-Transit buses.

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

Dr. Chris Tsavatewa stated that funding for the continuation of budget support for the Health Department is ongoing. This also includes support for the contractual extension of consulting services for Mr. Bob Dallas, who will assist with the planning of Vision Zero.

Commissioner Lucas suggested that each Board member retain a copy of Mr. Dallas' contract with the PSRB.

AUGUST PEDESTRIAN SAFETY SUMMIT REPORT

Mr. Ellington stated that the Summit was well-attended. He also stated that Commissioner Lucas suggested people contact her and other Commissioners to voice their support for work being performed by the PSRB. This will ensure that funds will be applied to the desired changes.

Rob Ryals reported that the recommendations could be made for the street lights on log cabin and Hollingsworth. Typically, those issues are addressed through citizen requests and ordinance requests. These matters are presented to the Public Safety Committee.

Mr. Ellington has a note to have a next meeting agenda, to have Public Works to come out and speak on sidewalk maintenance in general, and also to invite Captain Walker to speak on traffic enforcement.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Mr. Ellington had questions and concerns about the Hospital construction currently taking place at that's going on at the Medical Center Navicent Health. The approximate date for completion is early 2019. The Board discussed the installation of a roundabout and landscaping on Forsyth Road and Pine Street. Commissioner Lucas added that the Church located in the area has concerns with the parking situation.

Mr. Ellington stated that he will have Captain Walker speak on concerns of citizens at the November 21st meeting.

Mr. Ellington asked the Board if there is anything that they would like to add to the agenda, please contact Mr. Ellington or Ms. Curry.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 21st at 10:00 a.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

Jackie Curry
Recording Secretary