

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 19, 2017
10:00 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Ellington, Chairman
Elaine Lucas, Commissioner
Violet Poe, Citizen Member
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
Bessie Brown, Pilot, International
Rob Ryals, Facilities Management
Brad Belo, MBC P&Z Planner
Michael Ryan, Citizen Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gregory Brown, MBC P&Z
Kevin Poss, Facilities Management
Lieutenant Scott Davis-BCSO
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
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
Dr. Chris Tsavatewa, DOH

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

Chairman Ellington asked Mr. Brad Belo to present the field trip route to the group. The route outlined various locations where pedestrian safety issues needed to be addressed, which included bike lanes, middle schools, recreation centers and the Kroger grocery store. He also addressed the crash map that was shown at the August Summit. He explained in detail the representation of symbols on the map.

Mr. Belo distributed a Motor Vehicle Crash Report for an incident that took place on September 2, 2017 at 9 p.m. on Emery Highway and Commerce Drive. BSO Lt. Scott Davis discussed the Report stating that the individual was wearing dark clothing and the area was not well lit. The GBI is in the process of obtaining the blood test results of the deceased and the driver. Also, the BSO will conduct a vehicle inspection along with a speed test of the vehicle. He explained how vehicle inspections and speed tests are conducted.

Mr. Belo reported that, so far this year, this is the fifth pedestrian fatality. This time last year, there were six fatalities and ended up with eight at the end of the year. An update will be given on this topic as time progresses.

Mr. Ellington informed the Board that the next PSRB meeting will be held on October 17th. He asked the Board to provide him with any topics they wish to discuss at the next meeting. He would like the information within the next couple of weeks so it can be added to October's Agenda. Mr. Ellington will discuss the renewing of Mr. Bob Dallas' contract and making a recommendation to the Health Department regarding this topic. He would also like to discuss the setting of Board priorities and its future plans, and what improvements can be implemented in making recommendations to the Commission.

Commissioner Elaine Lucas asked the Board if additional streets need to be included for speed reduction. This information will be included in Commissioner Lucas' Ordinance to the Commissioners. In addition to Upper River Road, Forsyth Road, Mercer University Drive were added to the list.

Mr. Ellington discussed the possibility of using the Mayor's conference room for future meetings. The use of the high-resolution flat-screen tv would be more effective when presenting maps.

Ms. Bessie Brown discussed a situation of concern on Northside Drive and Forest Hill. There's a turn lane for drivers entering into the shopping center. Some drivers, however, do not intend to turn into the shopping center and cut back into the lane that's continuing straight causing a dangerous situation. She inquired as to whether a sign can be placed to alleviate the problem. He added that it would be difficult to add any signage in the area since the road is so wide.

Mr. Ellington asked Mr. Floyd if there had been speed studies on Upper River Road. Mr. Floyd said he can place cameras in the area. Mr. Ellington added it would be helpful to have data showing any change of driving behavior before and after the decrease in speed limit. This would help support the request of an Ordinance.

Discussion was held regarding Upper River Road and speed studies, pot holes and the installation of sidewalks.

FIELD TRIP

Anthony Road

The first location visited was Anthony Road along the stretch where Ingram Pye Elementary School is located. There are three school zones in the area. Roads have been improved, street signs and handicap ramps have been added. There is also a radar speed indicator sign located on the street in front of the school.

Johnson and Montpelier Avenue

The road has been resurfaced and the lanes have been narrowed to allow for bike lanes. Bicycle markers have been added to the lanes. The speed limit is 25 MPH.

Montpelier Avenue – Bentley's Funeral Home

Street signs and flashing lights have been added to the crosswalk between the funeral home and parking lot. A pedestrian refuge will be added to the street, lanes will be narrowed and a bike lane will be added.

Pendleton Homes

The Pendleton Homes neighborhood was visited. Access to the neighborhood from the back has been closed to help eliminate crime in the area. In addition, speed bumps have been proposed for area.

The Committee returned to the Government Building for the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Floyd attended a Rocket's game recently and as pedestrians were leaving the premises, balloons with glow sticks inside the balloons were handed to pedestrians as they crossed the street. A pedestrian safety group, like the PSRB, provided the balloons. The pedestrians would cross the street with the balloon then hand it off to pedestrians crossing back over. Mr. Floyd suggested this could be used at the Coliseum or other event location. Chairman Ellington suggested the use of glow sticks for the same purpose.

Public Communication – Ms. Violet Poe

Ms. Poe thanked the Clerk of Commission, Janice Ross, for the installation of a phone line in the Office of the Clerk of Commission for the PSRB. The phone line will allow citizens to leave messages regarding pedestrian safety issues; contact members of the Board; and request information regarding the activities provided by the "CROSS THE WALK" Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign. The telephone number is (478) 803-2820.

The Pedestrian "On The Move" application is still under Administrative Review by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Recipients of the award will be notified before or after October 1st. Ms. Poe reported concern over losing funds if the application was not accepted. Commissioner Lucas assured the Board that there is funding from other resources.

The vinyl, movable billboard for the month of September is located at the entrance of Walnut Creek Plaza on Gray Highway. This entrance leads to the Wal-Mart Superstore.

Monthly Public Service Announcements are still on the air and rotating on three of the iHeartMedia radio stations. The window wraps are still displaying the campaign message on two of the MTA Para-Transit buses.

Ms. Poe thanked the members of the County Health Department and Beverlyn Ming for their support over the past nine months of the "CROSS THE WALK" Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign. They provided the funds for the campaign's movable billboard, Public Service Announcements, convenient store window signs, and the MTA Para-Transit bus window wraps.

A meeting will be arranged with Elbert McQueen and Carol Babcock of Navicent Health to continue the discussions of Navicent Health serving as a partner for the creation of a Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Fatality and Pedestrian Injury Survivors Support Group.

Mr. Ellington thanked Commissioner Lucas for her efforts and driving force in establishing the Pedestrian Safety Review Board and assisting the Board with presenting Commissioners with Ordinances and Resolutions.

Mr. Floyd reported that Bike Law Georgia will hold a Georgia Bike Summit on September 29th through October 1st. The event will take place at the Marriott City Center.

Mr. Belo reported that Open Streets Macon will be held on October 1st from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Participants will meet at Washington Avenue and College Street next to the Washington Memorial Library. The bike parade will begin at 2:30 p.m. Commissioner Lucas suggested the Pedestrian Safety Review Board be included in future Open Streets Macon events since both groups focus on road safety.

Mr. Belo reported that GDOT will be conducting a road safety audit on September 27th at 780 Third Street in the Engineering Annex. They will review Pio Nono Avenue and a mile of Mercer University, west of Pio Nono Avenue. This is the first two road audits this year.

Mr. Belo stated that they will put a pedestrian refuge island and flashing beacons at C Street on Eisenhower, which, according to Mr. Floyd has been permitted by the State of Georgia.

Commissioner Lucas recommended obtaining a list of events for the Board members. It would be an opportunity for members to check their calendars and possibly attend an event. This would give the PSRB exposure by having a representative at an event.

Commissioner Lucas suggested inviting Senator John Kennedy to the next meeting. Senator Kennedy is the Chair to the legislative delegation. The Board could use his assistance in working with GDOT and he can share information with other legislatures.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Ellington.

Respectfully submitted.

Jackie Curry
Recording Secretary