

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2018
10:00 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Ellington, Chairman
Bessie Brown, Vice – Chair, Pilot International
Ron Wildman, Citizen

Rob Ryals, Facilities Management
Violet Poe, Citizen
Captain Brad Wolfe, BCSO
David Gowan, Bibb County School District
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Michael Ryan, Citizen

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brad Belo, MBC Planning & Zoning
Major Eric Walker, BCSO
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
Sam Henderson, Mayor's Representative
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Poss, MBC Facilities Management
Kimberly Lowe, Middle GA Regional Commission

Laura Moody, Associate Professor, Mercer University
Lauren Hale, Student, Mercer University
Michael Statham, Student, Mercer University
Greg Brown, MBC Planning & Zoning
Bob Dallas, Vision Zero

Chris Floore, MBC Public Affairs
Kaye Cleveland, Recording Secretary

Chairman Tom Ellington called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Ms. Violet Poe, seconded by Mr. David Gowan and passed unanimously, the July 17, 2018 minutes were approved.

On motion by Commissioner Elaine Lucas, seconded by Ms. Poe and passed unanimously, the August 21, 2018 minutes were approved.

Professor Laura Moody, Mercer University, gave a report regarding a project her class was working on entailed measures would enhance Pedestrian Safety. Said measures involved creating processes would efficiently and effectively identify areas in Macon-Bibb would benefit from traffic calming solutions, improving the process of installing streetlights and improving the design and maintenance of crosswalks.

Mr. Bob Dallas informed the Board of his progress in helping the Board acquire the Vision Zero Grant Award. The Board was advised a group would assist project implementation was being formed. Said group would meet 10 weeks after the award was made.

Chairman Ellington led discussion regarding the 2018 Field Trip for the Pedestrian Safety Review Board. The Board settled on October 23rd as the date for the field trip. The trip will occur at sunset per request of law enforcement. Chris Tsewattewa informed Chairman Ellington he would be stepping down from the Pedestrian Safety Review Board. Mr. Tsewattewa advised he is overloaded with work obligations, and he cannot represent the Health Department as needed on the Board.

Policy and Legislation

Chairman Ellington led discussion regarding Macon-Bibb's Street Light Policy. A review of said policy was given. The issue of the cost of requesting a streetlight came to the forefront. As discussion ensued, ideas regarding ways to help neighborhoods with costs and/or requesting the fee be changed were stated may help citizens in poor neighborhoods receive adequate street lighting.

Engineering

No report

Enforcement

No report

Public Communication – Ms. Violet Poe

The movable billboard is located at the corner of Pio Nono Avenue and Spencer Circle for the month of September. Monthly Public Service Announcements are still on the air and rotating on three of the IHeart Media radio stations, and the window wraps are still displaying the pedestrian safety education campaign message on two of the MTA Paratransit buses.

A presentation, entitled "Working Together as a Community to Achieve Vision Zero" was presented by Ms. Poe during the National Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders 51st Annual Conference at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia on Friday, August 24, 2018. Ms. Poe also attended the Governor's Office of Highway Safety Annual Meeting (GHSA), August 26-28, 2018 at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia. Funding was provided by the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety to attend this meeting.

Information provided during the GHSA was very enlightening and the works of the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board are on-target, in relations to the following:

1. Creating community partnerships; public health departments, etc.
2. Develop creative educational programs to help change behaviors
3. Citywide speed limit reductions; getting communities and neighborhood associations involved
4. Develop a website; keep the website up-to-date and showcase what is being done to make the community safer

5. Make sure the messages are matching the top priority

6. Round-a-bouts, refugee islands, restriping crosswalks, increasing roadway lighting, etc. are helping to improve safety

The fourth PEDESTRIAN “On the Move” instructional, educational, and training session (“Working Together to Achieve Vision Zero”) was held on Thursday, August 30, 2018, at the Douglass Theatre, 355 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd in downtown Macon. The session targeted the Faith-based Community and Non-profit Organizations. A Coffee Hour was provided (7:15AM-8:15AM) in the Douglass Annex, with the session following (8:30AM-10:30AM) in the theatre. Fifty (50) citizens were in attendance for the session. A special thanks to all of the program participants, Rev. Dr. Henry C. Ficklin for spreading the word among the faith-based community regarding the session, and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission serving as the sponsor of the Coffee Hour. The slogan for the fifth and final session has been changed to the following to reflect the growing commitment to the community: “Working Together as a Community to Achieve Vision Zero”.

The fifth PEDESTRIAN “On the Move” instructional, educational, and training session (“Working Together as a Community to Achieve Vision Zero”) was held on Thursday, September 13, 2018, at the Douglass Theatre, 355 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in downtown Macon. The session was held from 8:30AM-10:30AM and targeted the Business Industry and Healthcare Facilities. Thirty-one (31) citizens were in attendance for the session. A Coffee Hour was not provided for this session due to the availability of staff in the business and healthcare facilities.

The final PEDESTRIAN “On the Move” instructional, educational, and training session (“Working Together as a Community to Achieve Vision Zero”) will be held on Thursday, September 27, 2018. The session will target the Education Community and News Media Industry. A Coffee Hour will be provided (7:15AM-8:15AM) in the Douglass Annex, with the session following (8:30AM-11:00AM) in the theatre.

The ninth (9th) and tenth (10th) PEDESTRIAN “On the Move” street corner community outreach grant activities were held as follows: (9th) Saturday, September 1st (10:00AM-1:00PM) at the Family Dollar, 2529 Houston Avenue (intersection of Houston Avenue and Eisenhower Parkway (SR22)). A total of three (3) volunteers were on-hand to assist with this activity, and a total of seventy-one (71) individuals were provided pedestrian safety information and given an education card and phantom flash armband. (10th) Friday, September 14th (8:00AM-10:00AM) at the Walthall Chevron, 529 Riverside Drive (SR87). A total of two (2) volunteers were on-hand to assist with this activity, and a total of sixty (60) individuals were provided pedestrian safety information and given an education card and phantom flash armband. WMGT 41 provided news coverage for this community outreach activity. Two (2) additional street corner activities will be planned during the month of September on a weekday or Saturdays. These activities will be held between 8:00AM-12:00PM, due to the warm weather temperatures.

Mini presentations were held at the following locations:

On Thursday, September 6th at Macon Outreach at Mulberry, 267 First Street, a total of four (4) volunteers were on-hand to assist with this activity, and a total of one hundred fifty (150) phantom flash armbands were distributed. A demonstration on how to properly use the armbands and the information on the education card was provided as a whole group. Only sixty-seven (67) individuals accepted the education cards during the distribution.

On Friday, September 7th at the Macon Stand-Down at DayBreak, 174 Walnut Street, a total of three (3) volunteers were on-hand to assist with this activity, and a total of sixty-one (61) phantom flash armbands were distributed. A demonstration on how to properly use the armbands was provided. The information on the education card was explained and only forty-two (42) individuals accepted the education cards during the distribution. On Monday, September 17th at DayBreak, 174 Walnut Street, a total of two (2) volunteers were on-hand to assist with this activity, and a total of fifty-one (51) phantom flash armbands were distributed. A demonstration on how to properly use the armbands was provided. The information on the education card was explained and only twenty-seven (27) individuals accepted the education cards during the distribution.

Challenge: The total distribution of armbands verses the number of education cards accepted by the clients varied during these presentations. Not being able to read was a factor and the reason expressed by most of the individuals who did not accept an education card.

Community-related organization presentations were held for the following organizations:

On Monday, September 10th at the Macon Vet Center, 750 Riverside Drive, a total of two (2) volunteers were on-hand to assist with this activity, and a total of three (3) phantom flash armbands and education cards were distributed. A demonstration of how to properly use the armband was provided and the information on the education card was explained to the group. At the Citizens on Patrol Outreach Office, 2525 Pio Nono Avenue, a total of two (2) volunteers were on-hand to assist with this activity, and a total of sixteen (16) phantom flash armbands and education cards were distributed. A demonstration of how to properly use the armband was provided and the information on the education card was explained to the group.

The search for two mascots for the "CROSS THE WALK" Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign is still ongoing. A follow-up meeting was held with Chief of Staff Keith Simmons of the Bibb County School District (BCSD) on Friday, September 14th regarding the POTM renewal grant for FY19, if approved by the GOHS. The renewal grant will target ages 5 to 18, and the BCSD's campus resource officers will play an integral part in the activities included in the grant.

Requests from community organizations were as follows:

Glorious Nixon of Greater Bellevue Baptist Church, 4041 Mumford Road has requested the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board participate in "Night to Unite" on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, 6:00PM-8:00PM to provide pedestrian safety education and distribute phantom flash armbands and education cards. Approval has been granted by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) to distribute these materials during this event, if there is a supply leftover from the FY18 grant funded items.

An additional request has been made by Gregory Brown for the Soulfest event at Lundy Chapel Baptist Church on Saturday on October 27, 2018, is pending approval by the GOHS. A decision to submit a written request from Deputy Amber Giltz, which would require board approval to utilize the PEDESTRIAN "On the Move" grant project's Education Card as a part of the Citizens on Patrol packet of safety information was not submitted after speaking with her commanding officer.

Due to the large volume of pedestrians walking and employees crossing the roadway, pedestrian signs are needed to bring awareness to drivers along the stretch of Oglethorpe Street between 1st and 2nd Street. Additional signage may be needed along the next two blocks of Oglethorpe Street, especially near the location of the Department of Family and Children Services. A pedestrian crosswalk sign is located on Hardeman Avenue, alongside the United States Postal Service Maintenance Shop, but there is not a painted crosswalk visible in the area where the sign is posted.

The crosswalk in the “Keep Moving” lane at the intersection of Gray Highway at Shurling Drive needs to be re-painted. Pedestrian safety concerns from the following (citizens):

Chiquita Peck (Employee, Macon Vet Center)-There is a need for a light at Riverside Drive and Madison Street and enforcement in this area to slow the speeding traffic. (09/10)

Sherkevia Gilbert (Assistant Manager, Walthall Chevron) – Concerns regarding the Sardis Church Road area, near the Sardis Plantation neighborhood included the following: Enforcement is needed to slow the speeding traffic. There is no cut-through from the neighborhood to the South Bibb Recreation Center, therefore, the children are walking on Houston Road to get to the center. There are no sidewalks along Houston Road (in the area heading to the gym), and the grass is very high alongside the roadway which forces the children to step out into the street. (09/14)

Captain Jack McCarty (Retired Military Appeals Judge)-Concerns regarding the overall local government and local officials were not addressed. His pedestrian safety concerns were as follows: Too many potholes throughout Macon-Bibb County and are causing problems for the MTA buses, not enough crosswalks, Not interested in talking to surveillance boards; he is thinking about going to the federal courts regarding the situations in Macon-Bibb County (09/17)

Interagency Coordination

Mr. Gowan led discussion regarding the flashing signs indicate School Zone Speeds. The Board was informed Mr. Kevin Poss, and Mr. Nigel Floyd attended an August Committee Meeting. The Board was advised there are ELOST Funds to support the installation of flashing signs. On motion by Commission Lucas, seconded by Ms. Bessie Brown and passed unanimously, the PSRB will request installation of flashing speeding signs start in school zones where children walk to schools.

Commissioner Lucas led discussion regarding sidewalks and pedestrian safety concerns at Northeast High School and the surround neighborhoods. As discussion ensued, it was decided sidewalk preparation and funding needed to be a priority for Northeast and the surrounding area. On motion by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Michael Ryan and passed unanimously, sidewalk preparation and funding at Northeast High School and the surrounding neighborhoods will be a priority of the Pedestrian Safety Review Board.

Election of New Officers

Chairman Ellington opened discussion regarding the election of new officers. Chairman Ellington was nominated again for Chair of the Board by Mr. Ryan. On motion by Mr. Ryan,

seconded by Ms. Poe and passed unanimously, Chairman Ellington was re-elected Chairman of the Pedestrian Safety Review Board. Ms. Brown was nominated to be Vice Chair of the Board. On motion by Mr. Gowan, seconded by Ms. Poe, and passed unanimously, Ms. Brown was re-elected as Vice Chair of the Pedestrian Safety Review Board.

Continued funding for Pedestrian Education – Health Department

Chairman Ellington stated funding for Pedestrian Education was dwindling. Ms. Poe addressed the effectiveness of efforts to educate people on Pedestrian Safety. The Board was advised efforts were very effective at keeping people educated and safe. Mr. Gowan informed the Board the funding for Pedestrian Education will be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Board of the Health Department and it will be voted on. On motion by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Rob Ryals, and passed unanimously, the Pedestrian Safety Review Board will accept continued funding for Pedestrian Education from the Health Department.

The upcoming board meetings are scheduled for: November 27th and December 18th.

Chairman Ellington adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye Cleveland
Recording Secretary