

**PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
August 21, 2018
10:00 A.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Ellington, Chairman
Violet Poe, Citizen
Ron Wildman, Citizen
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
Captain Brad Wolfe, BCSO
David Gowan, Bibb County School District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Poss, MBC Facilities Management
Kimberly Lowe, Middle GA Regional Commission
Stephanie Hyman, MBC Health Department
David Pilgrim, AARP
Donald Firs, AARP
Greg Brown, MBC Planning & Zoning
Kaye Cleveland, Recording Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rob Ryals, Facilities Management
Bessie Brown, Vice – Chair, Pilot International
Major Eric Walker, BCSO
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Brad Belo, MBC Planning & Zoning
Chris Tsavatewa, MBC Health Department
Michael Ryan, Citizen
Sam Henderson, Mayor's Representative

Chairman Tom Ellington called the meeting to order.

The minutes for the July 17th Meeting will be approved at the September 18th Meeting.

Policy and Legislation

No report

Engineering

Mr. Nigel Floyd and Mr. David Fortson met with a Georgia Department of Transportation representative and the Mayor regarding the Road Study performed on Eisenhower Parkway. Chairman Ellington requested the Georgia Department of Transportation present their findings at the September Meeting.

The Board was advised in order to install crosswalk at Tatnall Place and Oglethorpe, special ramps would have to be installed for people with disabilities. In order to install the ramps, funding would have to be provided. Other traffic calming measures have been made to ensure safety until funding can be provided to install ramps.

Chairman Ellington informed the board speed humps were installed on C Street. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony to inform the public of this event. Mr. Floyd informed the group he would present results from speed studies performed on said street to measure speeding after the installation of speed humps.

Enforcement

Captain Brad Wolfe informed the Board there were few citations being issued regarding violations of the Hands-Free Cell Phone Law. The Board was informed even though few citations had been issued, drivers may violate the law and deputies may not be able to enforce the law due to addressing emergency calls or being in their personal vehicles.

Public Communication – Ms. Violet Poe

The movable billboard was located on Eisenhower Parkway (near the Veteran's Elementary School) for the month of August. 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.

The second PEDESTRIAN "On the Move" instructional, educational, and training session ("Working Together to Achieve Vision Zero") was held on Thursday, July 26, 2018, at the Douglass Theatre, 355 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd in downtown Macon. The session targeted Senior Living Communities and Neighborhood Watch Associations. A continental breakfast was provided (7:30AM-8:15AM) in the Douglass Annex, with the session following (8:30AM-10:30AM) in the theatre. Seventy-six (76) citizens were in attendance for the session.

A special thanks to Rev. Dr. Henry Ficklin, Commissioner Valerie Wynn, all of the session program participants, and the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board for serving as the sponsor of the Continental Breakfast.

The sixth PEDESTRIAN "On the Move" community outreach grant activity was held on Saturday, July 28th, from 9:00AM-1:00PM at the Back-to-School Clinic sponsored by the Macon-Bibb County Health Department, 171 Emery Highway (SR 19). Two volunteers were on-hand to assist with this activity, and a total of 99 attendees were given a pedestrian safety education card and phantom flash armband during this activity. The information on the education card and how to properly use the phantom flash armband were explained to each individual during the distribution.

The seventh and eighth PEDESTRIAN "On the Move" community outreach grant activities were held on Sunday, July 29th (11:00AM-3:00PM) and Monday, July 30th (3:00PM-7:00PM) inside of the Walmart Supercenter located at 1401 Gray Highway (SR11). A total of six volunteers were on-hand over the two-day period to assist with this activity, and a total of 495 (232/263) individuals were given a pedestrian safety education card and phantom flash armband during this activity. The information on the education card and how to properly use the phantom flash armband were explained to everyone during the distribution.

On Wednesday, August 1st, the first day of school for the Bibb County School District, PEDDY and PEDORA the Pedestrians greeted, distributed "CROSS THE WALK" wristbands, and walked several students to the entrance of Ingram-Pye Elementary School, 855 Anthony Road. After the walk, the mascots greeted the students and staff in the hallways and ate breakfast in the cafeteria. WGXA Fox 24 News and WMGT41 provided news coverage for this activity.

This was the last guest appearance for PEDDY and PEDORA the Pedestrians. Tesia Smith (PEDORA) has entered Florida A&M School of Pharmacy and Simeon Cullens (PEDDY) graduated in May from Mercer University and has started working in his career field. The search has begun for two mascots for the "CROSS THE WALK" Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign.

The third PEDESTRIAN "On the Move" instructional, educational, and training session ("Working Together to Achieve Vision Zero") was held on Thursday, August 9, 2018, at the Douglass Theatre, 355 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in downtown Macon. The session targeted Governmental Agencies. A continental breakfast was provided (7:30AM-8:15AM) in the Douglass Annex, with the session following (8:30AM-10:30AM) in the theatre. Forty-four (44) citizens were in attendance for the session.

The challenges for this session were as follows: Due to the visit of U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions at the Federal Courthouse, several individuals who were trying to attend the session were not able to attend due to the heavy back-up of traffic on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., and not being able to access parking in the parking deck next to the Douglass Theatre.

A special thanks to all of the session program participants, and the Macon-Bibb County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission for serving as the sponsor of the Continental Breakfast.

The next PEDESTRIAN "On the Move" instructional, educational, and training session ("Working Together to Achieve Vision Zero") will be held on Thursday, August 30, 2018. The session will target the Faith-based Community and Non-Profit Organizations. A Coffee Hour will be provided (7:15AM-8:15AM) in the Douglass Annex, with the session following (8:30AM-10:30AM) in the theatre.

Ms. Poe will be attending the National Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders 51st Annual Conference on Friday, August 24th to present information on the "CROSS THE WALK" Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign, and will attend the National Georgia Highway Safety Association's 2018 Annual Meeting on Sunday, August 26th-Tuesday, August 28th. Both of these events will take place at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia. The GSHA 2018 Annual Meeting is being funded by the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

The next two PEDESTRIAN "On the Move" community outreach grant activities are tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 25th and Friday, August 31st from 11:00AM-2:00PM. An email will be sent to confirm these activities and provide the locations by Thursday, August 23, 2018.

Joanie Oxley of the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center has invited the Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Safety Review Board to participate in the Macon Stand Down (for homeless Veterans), on Friday, September 7th, 8:00AM-2:00PM at Day Break, 174 Walnut Street. Mini-presentations will be provided to the Veterans, and the PEDESTRIAN "On the Move" education cards and phantom reflective armbands will be distributed at this event.

Item for discussion: The funding provided by the Macon-Bibb County Health Department for the PSAs, bus window wraps, and billboards for the "CROSS THE WALK" Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign will end on September 30, 2018.

Interagency Coordination

Ms. Myrtle Habersham, AARP, opened discussion regarding quantifying results of efforts made by the Board. Grant funding may become more available if results of work done by the Board can be measured or demonstrated. Efforts made by AARP to educate the public on Pedestrian Safety were discussed. On August 15, 2018 Parks and Recreation Department Professionals from Georgia gathered at South Bibb Recreation Center for a Quarterly Meeting. Ms. Habersham stated AARP discussed the role of outdoor spaces in making communities more livable. The Board was briefed on highlights regarding what AARP was doing to make communities safer and educate pedestrians.

Election of New Officers

Moved to September Agenda

Recent Pedestrian Fatalities

Chairman Ellington opened discussion regarding recent pedestrian fatalities. One happened on May 5th on Gray Highway and Williams Street. An incident report was presented to the Board as well. On May 7th on Vineville Avenue near Forest Avenue a pedestrian was hit and killed. Drugs were found in the victim's blood. The victim was reported to have been suffering from mental illness.

LED Lighting Video

Mr. Kevin Poss presented a video to the Board illustrating the quality of LED Lighting. The video compared the quality of high pressure sodium lighting to LED Lighting. LED Lighting was brighter and used less electricity. The video showed lighting on different streets in Macon-Bibb County.

Requests for Improved Street Lighting

Chairman Ellington opened discussion regarding repairs to specific streetlights in Macon-Bibb County. Said repairs were needed on lights in the Houston Avenue area. Mr. Poss presented a report from Mr. Rob Ryals to the Board regarding the lighting of the areas of concern. It was noted the areas needed adequate lighting. Mr. Poss informed the Board of the procedure to request street lighting. The Board was advised each request was evaluated for necessity of lighting along with other required guidelines. As discussion ensued, the issue of affordability regarding the fee for streetlight requests was emphasized, a suggestion was made regarding PSRB Funding for Street Light Requests for those in need of funds.

Jeffersonville Road Update

Mr. Floyd gave a brief update on Jeffersonville Road. A kickoff meeting was held in regard to the road project. The project had not started because a Notice to Proceed had not been received. The Board was advised once said notice was received, the project would be

underway. Mr. Floyd informed the board street lighting was part of the project as well. The type of lighting would be used depended on availability of lighting approved by the State of Georgia. Phillips Lighting was requested to be installed.

Captain Wolfe requested the Pedestrian Safety Review Board Annual Field Trip take place at night. The reason for this request was to better observe results of work requested by the Board and changes in areas where pedestrian safety was concerned.

Mr. Poss informed the group a rapid flashing beacon across from Bentley and Son's Funeral Home on Montpelier Avenue was destroyed in a car accident. The group was advised estimates for replacement parts had not been received. The County will seek reimbursement for replacement parts and other damages to the beacon.

The upcoming board meetings are scheduled for: September 18th, November 20th, and December 18th.

Chairman Ellington adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye Cleveland
Recording Secretary