

PEDESTRIAN FATALITY REVIEW BOARD

July 26, 2016

10:00 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Tsavatewa, Vice Chairman
Capt. Eric Walker, Bibb Co. Sheriff Dept.
Lt. Brad Wolfe, Bibb Co. Sheriff Dept.
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
Kevin Poss, Facilities Management Dept.
Rob Ryals, Facilities Management Dept.
Violet Poe, Citizen Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Camille Watson, MBC Health Dept.
Stephanie Hyman, MBC Health Dept.
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
David Pilgrem, AARP
Brad Belo, MBC P&Z Planner

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael Ryan, Chairman
Elaine Lucas, Commissioner
Tom Ellington
Sam Henderson, Mayor's Office

Vice Chairman Chris Tsavatewa called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

On motion by Mr. Nigel Floyd, seconded by Mr. Rob Ryals, and passed unanimously, the minutes of June 28, 2016 were approved.

Subcommittee Reports:

Engineering:

Mr. Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineering Department, reported that the MOU for the MBC school flashers has been approved. He will meet with Mr. Kevin Poss, Facilities Management, to discuss the specifications prior to purchasing the flashers from Procurement.

Mr. Floyd gave an update on the Road Safety Audit ("RSA") for Eisenhower Parkway. A meeting was held on July 8th to review the RSA, identify projects and prepare an outline for recommendations. He added that the RSA project for Gray Highway is in the near future.

Public Communications:

Ms. Violet Poe reported that in June the Bibb County School Resource Officers gave a presentation to campers at several MBC Recreation Centers regarding personal and pedestrian safety, Georgia crosswalk laws and the importance of using crosswalks.

Ms. Poe met with Nicole Hill, sophomore and Pre-IB student at Central High School, to discuss her interest in the "Cross the Walk" Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign. Ms. Hill is a Girl Scout and will be working on an independent crosswalk and pedestrian safety project to earn a

Gold Award, the highest Girl Scouts' honor. A School Resource Officer will assist Ms. Hill with the project and will provide information on laws governing crosswalks, crosswalk use and pedestrian safety.

Ms. Poe informed the group that due to the high volume of traffic near McAfee Towers, Vineville Senior Housing, Clisby Towers and Dempsey Apartments, property managers along these routes are interested in adding reflectors and reflector strips which will be placed on residents' wheelchairs for added visibility. In August, the managers will obtain the number of residents who are interested in participating in this project.

Ms. Poe will meet with Ms. Lillie Gantt-Evans, a prominent educator and founder of M.A. Evans Academy, to discuss the "Cross the Walk" campaign. Ms. Poe will ask Ms. Gantt-Evans to write a jingle to educate her students on pedestrian safety. If granted, it could be used in various levels of academic classrooms throughout Macon-Bibb County.

Ms. Poe reported that photos were taken at two local eateries (Dunkin' Donuts and Captain D's) along Gray Highway. This is an area of heavy pedestrian traffic and, as a result, is a hazard. Mr. Floyd offered to check out the area and will discuss the situation with the property owners. He stated he can only make suggestions due to the fact that both properties are owned by private entities.

Vice Chairman Tsavatewa reported that the MBC Pedestrian Safety Stakeholder Summit flyers have been mailed to over 200 agency leaders and their support staff. The Summit agenda was discussed.

Age-Friendly Group Report:

Mr. David Pilgrem reported that the AARP Age-Friendly Advisory Group ("AARP") met with Mayor Reichert and 8/80 to provide a status on the transportation plan. Mr. Pilgrem stated that AARP was in the process of collecting literature to promote pedestrian safety during the "National Night Out" event. They are interested in distributing the information to homeowners' owners' associations.

Ms. Myrtle Habersham informed the group that on August 2nd, AARP will meet with seniors and/or their caregivers at the Douglass Theater for an hour-long program on safety. Literature will be distributed and AARP will conduct an hour-long program that includes activities to educate the group on safety.

Ms. Habersham reported Planning & Zoning is conducting an "open house" on July 27th to discuss the issue of the long-range transportation plan. She encouraged the public to attend the "open house" and provide feedback.

Election of Board Members:

The Board voted unanimously to elect Mr. Brad Belo, MBC Planning & Zoning, and Ms. Myrtle Habersham, AARP, as new members to the Pedestrian Fatality Review Board.

Mr. Tsavatewa added that the designees from Pilot International and the Middle Georgia Regional Commission have not yet been identified.

Mr. Tsavatewa informed the group that future elections of new Board members will take place in a calendar year not fiscal year.

Other Matters:

Mr. Belo distributed a Pedestrian Collision Report for the period of January 1, 2016 through July 26, 2016. The report reflects in detail the date of collision, location, fatality and injury count. Mr. Belo noted two of the fatalities occurred on Eisenhower. There were 66 total collisions, four of which resulted in fatalities. Discussion ensued on the specifics of the locations listed on the Report.

Ms. Habersham inquired as to the street lighting at specific locations where collisions had occurred. Mr. Ryals reported that Georgia Power had upgraded their LED lighting in certain areas. He added that MBC Facilities Management has contracted with Pilot International to put together a life project to upgrade MBC's street lighting fixtures to LED lighting fixtures. This will be a multi-phase project.

Mr. Belo discussed the efforts of distributing pedestrian safety information out to the public. He stated Mr. Chris Floore has agreed to add information to the HUB (MBC News & Information newsletter). Also, Mr. Belo mentioned that the MBC website can also be used as a tool for public awareness regarding pedestrian safety.

Mr. Ryals asked if there was any further business to discuss. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Denise Kelley
Recording Secretary