

Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting minutes

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Online

Present: Abigail Johnson, Neal Baxter, Julia Curran, Peter Vader, Adelheid Koski, Paul St. Martin, Christopher Hoffer, Barbara Olson; Matthew Dyr Dahl, Chris Kartheiser, Jordan Kocak, Sonja Burseth, Rattana Sengsoulichanh, Heidi Schallberg, Millicent Flowers, Tom Thao, Suzanne Murphy, Julie Danzl

Resolutions

#1--37th Ave NE Reconstruction

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee supports the proposed design for the 37th Ave NE Reconstruction project. We support the placement of the multi-use path on the north side of 37th Ave NE, but we request that cross-slope be minimized by giving the multi-use path priority at each of the numerous curb cuts that intersect it. We ask that all legal pedestrian crossings be built. We support tabled trail crossings and pedestrian crossings at 37th Place NE and ask that the refuge median at the intersection of 37th Ave NE and NE Hollywood Ave be built to 8 feet. We further ask that the smallest allowable design vehicle be used for designing curb radii. To enable the tightest turn radii possible, we ask that truck aprons be considered.

#2--PAC Response to CIP Funding Cuts

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee calls for the City Council to rescind the proposed cuts to Vision Zero Program (VZ001) within CIP. Slashing VZ001 funding by 50 percent is antithetical to all city transportation policies, as well as Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Climate Emergency declarations. The PAC asks that the funding be replaced, as it should be the topmost priority of Public Works to reach Vision Zero.

#3--Resolution on the Public Works Director Search

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee agrees with the principles outlined in the attached public letter to Mayor Frey and endorses a national search for the position of Public Works Director.

Chair Abigail called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM and read the official notice regarding online meetings.

Millicent read the roll to account for all those present.

Approval of the Minutes for the April Meeting

Barb moved to approve the minutes: Hoffer seconded. Approved.

Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee Report—Barb Olson

At our April meeting we heard about the 37th Avenue NE project. This is a complete reconstruction from Central Avenue to Stinson, and the work will proceed in 2023. Curb & gutter work and sidewalk & trail improvements are planned here. As the city limits runs along this route, our partners include Columbia Heights and St. Anthony.

Barb read a resolution (#1 above); Abigail seconded. Approved.

Programs & Policies Subcommittee Report—Peter Vader & Julia Curran

At our April meeting Amy Morgan and Katie White of Public Works came to share the effectiveness of tactile strips along Hennepin Avenue. We asked, given the gaps in the strips, how the blind are supposed to rely on them. We also asked about how well the tactile strips hold up during the winter.

We talked about the PAC glossary. Several PAC members are working on a glossary of jargon one hears at these meetings. Neal: Where is this list, and how one can add to it?

We also heard about a \$56 million cut in CIP funding for 2022-2027. The bulk of the loss will be accounted for by delaying projects. Thanks to these cuts, the PAC's suggestions may not all make the list, and many current items will see reductions. Peter read a resolution about this; Abigail seconded. Approved.

Peter: The cuts are not due to COVID. But I'd like to ask Matthew to explain them again.

MD: Here's my best explanation. Staff made a miscalculation in the amount of funding available for the 5-year plan. That's why the cut was necessary.

We also discussed the importance of the search for a new Director of Public Works. The chair of the Bicycle Advisory Committee shared that committee's thinking. Peter read resolution #3 above; Hoffer seconded. Approved.

We will work on the issue of freeway on and off ramps at the next P&P meeting.

New Agency Members—Abigail Johnson

Abigail introduced the new agency representatives who have joined the PAC in recent months.

Jordan Kocak joins us from Hennepin County. He replaces Emily Kettel. He serves as the County's Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator. As the staff member on the County's Pedestrian Committee, he announced that the County will expand the committee to include people who use wheelchairs.

Tom Thao replaced Heather Gillich as the city Health Department agency member a few meetings ago.

Announcements

MD: The PAC will have a few new members as of July. The City Council will approve the list of new and returning members in June, and their term will begin at the July PAC meeting.

Also, the City Clerk has asked us to draw up a list of members for each PAC subcommittee. We asked what the smallest number is we can submit, and were told 4 is.

Abigail: The quorum for holding any subcommittee meeting then is three members from the list.

Curran: What problem do they think they're solving with this requirement? Let's invite the Clerk to explain.

CK: Our CIP team has an open associate planner post. Please spread the word about this position.