

# Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting minutes

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

## Online

Present: Neal Baxter, Abigail Johnson, Julia Curran, Barbara Olson, Peter Vader, Donna Hemp, Paul St. Martin, Christopher Hoffer, Aaron Berger, Chris Ross, Matthew Steinrueck; Matthew Dyr Dahl, Millicent Flowers, Chris Kartheiser, Julie Danzl, Emma Pachuta, Tom Thao, Suzanne Murphy, Sonja Burseth, Jordan Kocak

## Resolutions:

### #1—Near North Safe Routes to School

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee supports the Near North Safe Routes to School project as proposed by Minneapolis Public Works. We appreciate the variety of traffic calming treatments that will improve safety for all users of 16th Ave N.

### #2—Hennepin County HSIP Safety Project

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee supports the 2022 Hennepin County HSIP Safety Project. These intersection improvements contribute to both real and perceived safety for pedestrians. We particularly support reducing crossing distances for all intersections and for that reason ask that a bump-out be added at Cedar Avenue and extended at Lake Street to reduce lane widths to 10 feet.

### #3--Franklin Avenue Resurfacing

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee supports the proposal for Franklin Avenue Resurfacing. We request signage be added to alert pedestrians to the sidewalk gap so pedestrians may cross earlier. We also request consideration of a stop sign for eastbound traffic at the intersection with South Logan Ave.

### #4--Bryant Avenue Reconstruction

The PAC supports the proposed one-way design for the Bryant Ave S reconstruction and moving transit to Lyndale Ave. This creative design will reduce speeds and improve safety for all modes of transportation.

### #5--Upper Harbor Terminal

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee supports design Option A for 33rd Avenue North, which is the only complete streets option presented for this street. The city's Complete Streets policy is unambiguous about the need to prioritize vulnerable street users in any design. Although truck movements are a legitimate safety concern, this needs to be solved with engineering practices rather than excluding pedestrians from choosing the route that best meets their needs.

### #6--20-Year Streets Funding Plan Resolution

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee asks Minneapolis Public Works to commit to amending the 20-Year Streets Funding Plan to align with the Transportation Action Plan (TAP). The TAP calls for transformative changes within the same timeframe as the 20-Year Streets Funding Plan and should directly influence all plans for uses of transportation funding.

Amending the plan must be a rapid and strategic priority for Public Works. The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee requests that Public Works come to our committee in July 2021 to

present on the 20-Year Streets Funding Plan as it exists in its current form.

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee further requests that we and other key stakeholders be directly and significantly involved in the process to amend the 20-Year Streets Funding Plan.

Chair Abigail called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM and read the official statement about on-line meetings. Millicent called the roll.

### **Approval of the Agenda, and the Minutes for May 2021**

Abigail moved the agenda and the minutes; Neal seconded. Approved.

### **Infrastructure and Engineering Subcommittee Report—Aaron Berger**

Aaron asked whether the committee preferred voting on the I&E resolutions separately or all together. We chose one vote.

We looked at the Near North Safe Routes project first. This project improves access to 3 parks and 3 schools and adds a bike route on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. Aaron read resolution #1; Abigail seconded.

Julie Danzl: There is interest in dressing up the traffic circles here in school colors.

The next project we heard about was the 2022 Highway Safety Improvement Program. Next year's work includes pedestrian upgrades on Cedar Avenue, and on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. At the intersection of those streets, a left turn lane will be added. Aaron read the resolution (#2); Neal seconded.

Franklin Avenue will be resurfaced from Penn to Colfax soon. This project will also add safety improvements. The bike lanes will have to merge a few times due to street width. Aaron read the resolution (#3); Barb seconded.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> project was the Bryant Avenue South reconstruction. Bryant will become a one-way street, with one lane of traffic. The number 4 bus will move to Lyndale. This will eliminate dangerous interactions between cars and bikes.

Aaron read resolution #4; Barb seconded.

We heard from the Upper Harbor Terminal project, too. Staff proposes an XXX at 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North. The east side of the street is too dangerous for pedestrians, says Public Works. Several PAC members looked at this and disagree with staff's conclusion. Aaron read the resolution; Neal seconded.

Hoffer: The cost of a retaining wall is too high, they say, but the project was supposed to be multi-modal.

MD: With even more trucks, the sidewalk needs to stay.

Paul: Will there be a railroad crossing there?

Hoffer: Yes, the crossing arm variety.

All five resolutions were approved.

### **Programs & Policies Subcommittee Report—Peter Vader**

At our May meeting, Abigail mentioned that Elyssa of the BAC and our own Jim Welsch are looking at changes that may water down the Complete Streets policy. Elyssa and Jim will keep us informed.

We had a long discussion about the request by the City Clerk to supply a list of names for the subcommittee meetings. Abigail will ask members via e-mail if they want to commit to attending either committee, to ensure a quorum.

We talked about how to measure the effectiveness of our resolutions. Peter will choose a few of them and compare what we said in the resolutions against what the City Council approved.

The BAC is moving the date of their engineering committee meeting. We talked briefly about moving the I&E meeting and decided not to.

We discussed how to orient new members. Three new members will join the PAC in July. During this conversation, Paul asked about returning to in-person meetings. Matthew told us in-person meetings are not on the horizon.

We also talked about how to align the 20-Year funding plan project with the goals of the Transportation Action Plan. We are in support of the BAC's resolution on this matter. Peter read the resolution; Neal seconded. Approved.

### **Signalization Discussion—Julia Curran**

At the beginning of the COVID pandemic, Public Works changed most of the push-button activated traffic signals to automatic pedestrian activation. Lately, the department has changed a few of these signals back to push button, without making that change clear to pedestrians. We decided to invite Traffic to come to a meeting, to explain why. We will also ask for the location of the signals so changed.

### **Subcommittee Quorum Rules—Matthew Dyr Dahl**

MD: We've been asked to draw up a list of members for each subcommittee. Without a quorum of the members on these lists, no meeting will be held.

During the discussion that ensued, many members expressed annoyance at this request from the City Clerk.

Barb: Can we postpone start times until a quorum arrives?

Hoffer: This is clearly a convenience for the clerks, and does nothing to aid the work of the PAC.

Abigail: Will the Clerk come to our meeting and explain this to us? And should we draft a resolution?

MD: A resolution would be appropriate.

### **Election of Officers at the July Meeting—Matthew Dyr Dahl**

MD: On June 23, I will submit the names of the 3 citizens who want to join the PAC, and the 5 current members who want to continue to serve. At the July meeting, I will talk about the roles of the several officers of the PAC before we vote.

### **Announcements**

Julie Danzl: The Public Schools will continue to distribute meal boxes through the summer.

Donna: What will happen to children who have fallen behind, thanks to distance learning?

JD: There will be programs this summer which will help these children catch up.

Emma Pachuta: Planning is underway on Graco Park in Northeast Mpls, near Boom Island.

### **Adjournment**

Neal moved to adjourn; Donna seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 5:28 PM.