MAYOR'S PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 6, 2013
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

1. INTRODUCTIONS

MPAC Members Present:

Co-chair, Gabe Klein – Commissioner, Chicago Department of Transportation
Co-chair, Peter Skosey – Metropolitan Planning Council

Andreas Alvear – Active Transportation Alliance
Adam Becker – Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago's Children
Marcus de la Fleur – Streetscape Advisory Committee
Chris DeRosia & Kim Kolody – CH2M Hill (for Priscilla Tobias)
Laurie Dittman - Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
Joyce Gallagher - Department of Family Support Services / Senior Services
Benet Haller – Department of Housing and Economic Development
Jennifer Herd - Chicago Department of Public Health
Rudy Nimmocks – University of Chicago
John O'Neal - Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Greg Piland – Federal Highway Administration
David Smith – TYLin International
Marcia Trawinski – Metro Seniors in Action
Robert Vance – Chicago Transit Authority

Others Present:

James Boratyn – Illinois Department of Transportation
Andrew Kudelka - Martha Gonzalez Memorial Committee
Alexis Macias - Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago's Children
Stacey Meekins – Sam Schwartz Engineering
Jeremy Mendelson – Critical Transit
Marisa Novara – Metropolitan Planning Council
Steven Vance – Streetsblog

Chicago Department of Transportation Staff Present:

Janet Attarian, Suzanne Carlson, Patrick Knapp, and David Pulsipher

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The meeting minutes from 11/7/2012 were approved.

3. 2012 PEDESTRIAN CRASHES

- Gabe Klein gave an update on the preliminary 2012 pedestrian fatality numbers.
- Initial reports from CPD indicated that there had been 48 pedestrians killed in Chicago in 2012.
- Chicago is working towards curbing pedestrian fatalities through programs like Safety Zones, installing speed cameras, and implementing the pedestrian plan.
- Other solutions include working with IDOT and CPD to improve data collection and sharing. This would improve CDOT's response to crashes within the city.
- The committee asked if the speed cameras were placed based on data. David Pulsipher explained the speed camera model and how it incorporates all crashes, youth crashes, bike/ped crashes, and speed related crashes.

- The committee also agreed the "yield to pedestrians" signs should be replaced to say, "stop for pedestrians".

4. SAFETY ZONES, ROAD DIETS & OTHER CDOT INITIATIVES
- David Pulsipher gave a 2013 Safety Zone update.
  - o The 50 Safety Zones for 2013 have been chosen and are in the planning stages.
  - o The 12 Safety Zone from 2012 will have remaining improvements finished by the end of 2013. Some improvements have not been done recently because of the winter season.
  - o As of 1/31/13 the following have been installed in the first 12 Safety Zones: 76 High Visibility Crosswalks, 140 Safety Zone Stencils, 13 Speed Feedback Signs, 2 In-Street Stop for Pedestrian Signs, 4 ADA Ramps, 1 Leading Pedestrian Interval and 1 Median Refuge Island
  - o The committee questioned the durability of the Safety Zone stencil in the street. David answered that the stencils were thermoplastic and should last a while.
- Suzanne Carlson stated that CDOT was using crash data for prioritizing roadway improvements.
- Suzanne explained that tools like a "road diet" can be implemented to improve pedestrian safety, as well as improve bicycle and vehicle interactions.
- The Aldermen have the opportunity to purchase these safety capital investments as a Menu Item.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS
- Andres Alvear presented on different methods to get the community involved in infrastructure projects in their ward or community.
- Andres talked about Better Blocks. Better Blocks is a program that works with neighborhood groups to promote and do infrastructure improvements. In three years, Better Blocks held about 70 workshops. However, the groups were not sustainable and were typically invested as long as the project.
- Andres is now working to set up ward based Transportation Advisory Committees (TAC). These committees can go directly to the Alderman for area improvements.
- The TAC can either be independent or set up by the Alderman in the ward.
- Active Trans gives the TACs tools and resources like walkability assessments and talking points as well networking opportunities with other TACs and staff from helpful organizations.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE
- James Boratyn, IDOT Division of Traffic Safety, gave a presentation on a mini-grants pilot program called Safe Communities for Illinois. The goal is to decrease traffic fatalities within 20 targeted communities. More info can be found at http://www.traficsafetygrantsillinois.org/scil.asp
- CLOCC released the Blueprint for Accelerating Progress on their website. The guide focuses on Childhood Obesity Prevention in Chicago.
- The American Society on Aging will have their Annual Conference in Chicago.
- FHWA will be reviewing their data accessibility. Contact Greg Piland if you have any comments on trying to use FHWA data.

7. ADJOURNMENT