**Mayor’s Pedestrian Advisory Council**

**April 23, 2009**

**3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

1. Introductions

MPAC Members Present:

Co-chair, Dr. Kyran Quinlan, University of Chicago

Co-chair, Luann Hamilton, Chicago Department of Transportation (for Thomas G. Byrne)

Jim Boratyn, Illinois Department of Transportation (for John Werthwein)

Laurie Dittman, Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities

Abraham Emmanuel, Office of Emergency Management and Communications (for David Zavattero)

Benet Haller, Department of Zoning and Land Use Planning

Adolfo Hernandez, Active Transportation Alliance

Joe Iacobucci, Chicago Transit Authority

John LaPlante, TY LIN

Tom Murtha, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Olympia Moy, Center for Neighborhood Technology (for Jackie Grimshaw)

Greg Piland, Federal Highway Administration

Sgt. Scott Slavin, Chicago Police Department (for David Blanco)

Karin Sommer, Metropolitan Planning Council (for Peter Skosey)

Pricilla Tobias, Illinois Department of Transportation

Marcia Trawinski, Metro Seniors in Action

Others Present:

Susan Bennet, Older Women’s League (OWL)- Hyde Park

Ben Helphand, Logan Square Walks

Joan Staples, Older Women’s League (OWL)- Hyde Park

Craig Williams, TY LIN

Mike Amsden, TY LIN

Staff Present:

Chris Wuellner, Chicago Department of Transportation

Kiersten Grove, CDOT/Active Transportation Alliance

Maureen Shenberger, CDOT/Active Transportation Alliance

Somilia Smith, CDOT/Active Transportation Alliance

Amanda Woodall, CDOT/Active Transportation Alliance

MPAC Members Absent:

Thomas G. Byrne, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Transportation; Tom Benzinger, Access Living; Aida Giachello, Midwest Latino Health Research; Andrew Mooney, LISC/Chicago; Pam Pagone, Chicago Division of Senior Services; Seth Reimer, Chicago Department of the Environment

2. Approval of Minutes

* Meeting minutes from 1/22/2009 were approved by members.

3. MPAC Co-Chair Announcement

* Luann Hamilton announced that Dr. Kyran Quinlan of the University of Chicago Children’s Hospital will be the new Co-Chair of the MPAC.

4. Update on Crosswalk Enforcements

* Sgt. Scott Slavin presented on the 2009 crosswalk enforcement efforts that began on 4/23/2009. The first enforcement site was at Peterson and Nagle from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. There were 20 cars stopped and 18 citations issued. Enforcement locations were selected based on crash history and proximity to schools and senior centers. There will be two enforcements in each police district, with additional enforcements to target high crash locations and locations with significant numbers of nighttime crashes. Amanda Woodall asked that you send location suggestions to her at amanda.woodall@cityofchicago.org .

**Discussion:**

The analysis of these efforts includes pre and post measurements of yielding behavior.

5. Upcoming Pedestrian/Bike Safety Trip

* Priscilla Tobias of the Illinois Department of Transportation announced that she will be participating in a pedestrian and bicycle safety and mobility scan in Europe from 5/8/2009-5/24/2009. The group will be looking at infrastructure and policies that have proven successful. She offered to make the final report available, and will make a presentation at the next MPAC meeting in July.

**Discussion:**

Chris Wuellner asked if the findings from this trip could result in changes to the Bureau of Design Environment manual. Tom Murtha said that CMAP has developed some specific recommendations in partnership with TY Lin. He stated that the information is posted on CMAP’s website. Tom Murtha suggested that the tour include study of pedestrian and bicycle nighttime safety measures.

6. Snow Removal Update

* Maureen Shenberger reported on the results of the Sidewalk Snow Clearance campaign. She indicated that there were requests for additional door hanger reminders from Aldermanic offices as well as some delegate agencies. There were three nominations for the Business Recognition award. The recipients were Sipi Metals Inc, Twin Anchors Restaurant and Tavern, and Vanessa Brown. The campaign for next winter is in the planning stages and may include potential expansion.

**Discussion:**

MPAC members suggested that preliminary planning take place in June and July. Ben Helphand requested that the campaign address ownership and responsibility for sidewalk snow clearance.

7. Evaluation Sub-Committee Update

* Somilia Smith presented on the development of an expanded evaluation component to the Safe Routes to School project. The Safe Routes to School evaluation group participated in a conference call with Dr. Christoffel and Dr. Joseph Schofer to discuss an evaluation methodology developed by professors and graduate students at Wayne State University. The model included observation of crossing behaviors before and after the safety presentations. The evaluation group determined that this was not viable since the ambassadors only present to specific grades, rather than the entire student body. The group will pursue further evaluation models. This may include observing student behavior at new participant schools, or identifying students who received safety information by t-shirts or backpacks.
* Somilia also announced that she will be leaving her position as of May 29, 2009.

**Discussion:**

Marcia Trawinski asked if stop-look-and-listen education was part of the current Safe Routes Ambassadors curriculum. She wanted to address concerns regarding the silence of hybrid vehicles. Somilia stated that the Safe Routes to School curriculum is continuously under review.

8. Pedestrian Plan Update

* Luann Hamilton announced that due to new Procurement Department policies, CDOT was conducting a request for proposals from multiple firms for the second phase of the Pedestrian Plan. The selected firm will be announced at the next MPAC meeting.

**Discussion:**

MPAC members asked what the timeline is for completing the next phase of the pedestrian plan. Luann Hamilton stated the timeline for completing phase II of the pedestrian plan is twelve months.

9. Complete Streets Policy Implementation Project

* Craig Williams of TY Lin presented an overview of the Chicago Complete Streets Policy Implementation project. The project includes recommendations on the institutionalization of a complete streets approach to the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of the right-of way.

**Discussion:**

Marcia Trawinski asked about the connection between complete streets and sidewalk cafes. Tom Murtha asked if the Chicago Parks District was included in the stakeholder group. Craig Williams and John LaPlante of TY Lin confirmed that the Parks District was one of the stakeholders. Luann Hamilton asked Pricilla Tobias about the status of complete streets at IDOT. Pricilla Tobias will follow up with Kiersten Grove regarding the status of the suggested revisions to the Bureau Design Environment manual.

10. Action Item Status Update

* Kiersten Grove stated the status of the first three Action Items will be maintained.

**Discussion:**

Greg Piland asked that we provide relevant statistics at the start of each meeting to keep focus on pedestrian safety.

11. Announcements

* OEMC applied for section 408 crash data improvement funding through IDOT.
* Maureen Shenberger announced the start of the Safe Routes for Seniors pedestrian safety workshops.
* The Chicago Department of Transportation was awarded a Unified Work Program (UWP) grant to develop guidelines on crosswalk marking best practices.

12. Adjournment