



- MINUTES -
VISION ZERO ADVISORY COMMITTEE
East Park Community Center

May 25, 2023

ATTENDEES

COMMITTEE

Chair Peter Robison, Vice-Chair Hannah Sasscer, Ben Hubert, Chris Bowe, Shandira Edgecombe, Christine Irizarry, Kemar Small, Wesley Smith, Jeremiah Wooten, Christopher Sandwith, and Phillip Peck

STAFF

Jon Boghozian, Brad Freeze, Ben Vaught, Guneet Saini, and Madison Fitzgibbon

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Amanda Key, Katherine McDonell, and Joy Andal

1) Call to Order

- The May 26, 2023, meeting of the Vision Zero Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:02 PM by Vice-Chair Sasscer in the absence of Chair Robinson until Chair Robinson arrived later in the meeting.

2) Roll Call

- Present: Chair Peter Robison, Vice-Chair Hannah Sasscer, Ben Hubert, Chris Bowe, Shandira Edgecombe, Christine Irizarry, Kemar Small, Wesley Smith, Jeremiah Wooten, Christopher Sandwith, and Phillip Peck
- Absent: Amanda Key, Katherine McDonell, and Joy Andal

3) Approval of Minutes

- April meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

4) Public Comment

- Nobody from the public was present during this meeting. The floor was turned over to the committee members for any general comments. Deputy Director Freeze spoke to the encouragement of public outreach for future meetings.
 - Ms. Edgecombe suggested we reach out to the specific neighborhood where the meeting will be held in the future.
 - Mr. Wooten suggested using council members of that district to help get the word out.
- Mr. Hubert asked why there were not any public traffic calming meetings scheduled for the multiple ongoing projects based on the website.
 - Deputy Director Freeze responded, stating NDOT currently has 93 traffic calming projects, and they try to have a public meeting every other week. He also stated he will investigate getting them posted to the public if they are not currently available.

5) Items to be Considered

a) BL2022-1449 – Establishing a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

- Mr. Smith presented additional information and the suggested edits to the group regarding the BL2022-1449 bill in question.
- The subcommittee created to review and consider creating a BPAC is proposing VZAC support the bill with the suggested edits made by the subcommittee.
 - Mr. Wooten suggested the VZAC draft a formal letter of support in favor of the bill to be given to the council ahead of the June 6th second reading.
- Mr. Wooten motioned to approve the VZAC recommendation of BPAC to the council, with the Chair and Vice-Chair to draft a letter of support on behalf of the VZAC.
 - Mr. Bowe seconded the motion.
 - Motion was approved unanimously.

b) Safe Routes to School

- Ms. Saini presented on the safe routes to school program, and at the end of the presentation she asked the committee to fill out a survey and ask any questions they have regarding the program.
- Mr. Hubert asked the level of involvement MNPS/MNPD would have with this program.
- Mr. Hubert also asked if NDOT is aware that there is a financial incentive on MNPS behalf to not support this program?
- Mr. Wooten also asked what are the deliverables from MNPS?

- Mr. Boghozian spoke about how this program is initially targeting people who are geographically located closer to the schools but do not walk/bike. Tackling bigger problems, such as schools being relocated, would be a concern for a much later stage.
 - Deputy Director Freeze spoke to specific schools that NDOT would use as pilots for safe routes to school program.
- Mr. Wooten asked if these schools would be specifically just MNPS schools or all schools.
 - Mr. Boghozian spoke about how all school should be eligible, but they may need to come up with some type of application process since having the schools' support will be key.
- Mr. Smith stated that he is glad to see NDOT take on a program like this as it will be a proactive approach. With that being said, he questioned if putting resources into this program might take away from focusing on the high injury network and if it's worth splitting that focus.
 - Mr. Wooten added that if we start to encourage people to walk and bike more, will we see an increase in fatal crashes because of this?
 - Ms. Saini encouraged the committee to review the crash trends of other similar cities that adopted Vision Zero and spoke to how several cities where vision zero program has shown positive results, observed an initial increase in fatal crashes, however, people learn to expect more pedestrians and bicyclists on the streets as a result of the program and long term, the overall change will be positive.
- Mr. Bowe asked for data on if there are children being hit on the way to school and what those numbers look like?
- Deputy Director Freeze spoke to focus of trying to make Nashville a more multimodal city and these efforts are aimed to increase the walkability of the city with a focus on the transportation system.
 - Ms. Saini stated that as part of the vision zero mission, we are trying to increase the quality of life for all in addition to the reduction of fatalities on roads down to zero.
 - Mr. Boghozian spoke to how anywhere we can make it safer to use other modes of transportation outside of cars, it is one less car on the road. A big part of this puzzle is working on the complete street function of Nashville. Mr. Boghozian went on to discuss his recent experience at NACTO conference and how he was able to gain additional knowledge and resources regarding complete streets from this conference.
- Mr. Small asked if we are going to wait for auto drivers to be better behaved before taking action? He also asked about NDOT's plans to have legislation backing this program and if they have plans to work with the TN Department of Safety to make sure there are better standards in place.
 - Ms. Saini stated that by using volunteers, implementing engineering improvements, along with various other factors we will force the auto drives to behave better on roads. She went on to state that they are approaching this program with all elements of Safe Systems Approach and getting legislation out in support of the program along with other major stakeholders' support will be a key factor in the success of the program.
 - Mr. Boghozian added that while getting the State Department on board to adjust licensing restrictions would be a longer-term goal of the program, it is something they would like to work towards.
- Chair Robinson asked what NDOT is looking for in a consultant that NDOT is unable to complete on its own accord for when it comes to managing this program?
 - Mr. Boghozian spoke to how NDOT is extremely short staffed and therefore we must outsource consultants to get work completed. These consultants would essentially be an extension of our staff.
- Chair Robinson then asked if it is really that hard to find the low hanging fruit for these schools in need of solutions? Can we not just make a grab for the quick projects and complete the things that need to be done before the full roll out of this program? He went on to state that the engineering component of the 5 E's is his main concern. He does not think we should be encouraging people to walk on unsafe streets.
 - Mr. Boghozian spoke to how most of the funding will go to engineering fixes, and while it may seem simple to identify these areas of need, it is also costly to evaluate and determine which are of most importance. The purpose of setting this up as a program would be to secure the future success and ensure long term results.
 - Ms. Saini added how this is just one of our many programs and how it is NDOT's role to manage and oversee all the programs, but to do so, we need consultants to work on the individual projects.
- Mr. Smith spoke to how this program gives the vision zero agenda a larger political push to help propel things forward, as people tend to be more sympathetic when it comes to children and the importance behind getting this established.
- Deputy Director Freeze spoke to how we can include some of these easy solutions to the areas near schools, that Chair Robinson referenced earlier, through our quick build projects as we continue to build out the program into a larger entity.
 - NDOT staff spoke to how they are looking for both support and feedback from the group to help shape the program and pursue additional funding.

c) Fatal Crash Investigation Subcommittee

- Mr. Boghozian presented his recommendation for fatal crash investigation subcommittee.
- Vice-Chair Sasscer motioned to create the fatal crash investigation subcommittee.
 - Mr. Small second the motion.
 - Motion was approved unanimously.
- Vice-Chair Sasscer, Mr. Bowe, and Chair Robinson all volunteered to participate on the subcommittee.

d) Planning and Engineering Subcommittee

- Mr. Boghozian presented his recommendation for the planning and engineering subcommittee.

- Mr. Hubert asked if this committee could include post-review of projects.
 - Mr. Boghozian stated that it could and would encourage that aspect.
- Mr. Sandwith motioned to create the planning and engineering subcommittee.
 - Mr. Smith second the motion.
 - Motion was approved unanimously.
- Mr. Hubert, Mr. Bowe, and Mr. Sandwith all volunteered to participate in the subcommittee,

e) Strategic Planning Subcommittee

- Mr. Boghozian presented his recommendation for the strategic planning subcommittee.
- Ms. Edgecombe asked what kind of feedback Mr. Boghozian is looking for from the committee regarding strategic planning.
 - Mr. Boghozian responded that he would like the group to be involved in as many project areas as possible, the more detailed the better.
- Chair Robinson stated that this subcommittee is more of the core purpose for the vision zero advisory committee and therefore feels that it should be a larger subcommittee than most.
 - Mr. Boghozian responded that the fine details of the subcommittee can be ironed out later, but this vote would determine if a subcommittee should be created or not. He also stated that Director Alarcon has been pushing for a year 2 to 5 vision zero implementation plan and this would be the first focus of the subcommittee.
- Mr. Smith motioned to create the strategic planning subcommittee.
 - Mr. Wooten second the motion.
 - Motion was approved unanimously.
- Mr. Smith, Mr. Wooten, Mr. Peck, Mr. Bowe, Mr. Hubert, and Ms. Edgecombe all volunteered to participate on the subcommittee.

f) Election of New Member (student) – Landon Clark

- Mr. Bowe presented the recommendations founded by the member review subcommittee.
- The group expressed concerns with having another representative from the Vanderbilt area and opened the floor to discussion of other recommended members to fill the student position.
 - Mr. Smith recommended looking for a MNPS student or undergraduate to fill the student role in the future.
- Vice-Chair Sasscer asked how much consideration is being given to how long the applicants have been in Nashville and how many members are true Nashville natives.
 - Deputy Director Freeze spoke to the importance of being as well-rounded as possible in any public engagement effort.
- Ms. Edgecombe motioned to nominate Nicole to fill the student role.
 - Ms. Irizarry seconded the motion.
 - Motion was approved, with Mr. Small abstaining from the vote.

g) Election of New Member (community) – Carmen Jones

- Mr. Bowe presented the recommendations made by the member review subcommittee.
- Mr. Smith motioned to nominate Carmen Jones to fill the community role.
 - Mr. Bowe second the motion.
 - Motion was approved unanimously.

6) Communications

- **Reports from Vision Zero Advisory Committee members and subcommittees**
 - **Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee Review Subcommittee**
- **Report from the director and staff**
 - Deputy Director Freeze stated that NDOT was notified by the mayor's office that there is a budget surplus. Vision Zero is on the top of the list to receive an additional \$12 million. This budget surplus includes the following funding suggestions:
 - An additional \$7.5 million for sidewalks which converts to about 3 miles of additional sidewalks. With this NDOT will be moving 11 more sidewalk projects forward.
 - Doubling the budget for traffic calming, which will allow NDOT to move forward with 60 more traffic calming projects. This will include a traffic calming project in every district.
 - Deputy Director Freeze also stated that there will be a meeting next Thursday to further this budget discussion with the council. He then asked for the committee's support to help stay on track with their implementation plan. The final vote will be held before the end of June. The upcoming meeting with public comments is scheduled for June 6th.
 - Chair Robinson stated that this meeting would take place before the next scheduled vision zero advisory committee meeting.
 - Mr. Boghozian reminded the committee that they can call a special meeting ahead of this upcoming vote.
 - Mr. Sandwith motioned to have Chair Robinson and Vice-Chair Sasscer draft a letter of support on behalf of the vision zero advisory committee regarding the proposed funding to present to the council.
 - Mr. Bowe seconded the motion.
 - Motion was approved unanimously.

7) Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.