

KATS CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021 MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Paul Sotherland
Max Hornick
Linda MacDonald
Brendan Molony
Kathy Schultz
Ali Townsend
Megan Mickelson

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY, 19 AGENDA

MOTION by Sotherland, SECOND by Molony; "to approve the February 19, 2021 agenda as presented." MOTION APPROVED.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION by MacDonald, SECOND by Sotherland; "to approve the December 11, 2019 minutes as presented." MOTION APPROVED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hornick brought up the issue of not having a streamlined process for citizens to report problems with pedestrian infrastructure. For example, the crosswalk sign at Mosel and Riverview is malfunctioning, when trying to report this issue, there was no clear answer on who to contact. There should be a better way to report malfunctions. Mickelson suggested putting a contact sheet or map on KATS website to help direct constituents on who to contact to report issues.

COMMITTEE MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS

Mickelson mentioned the need to recruit new citizens to become members of the advisory committee since there have been members who have recently left. Sotherland pointed out there are at least three bike advocates currently on the committee. It would be good to have members who have a passion for transit and motorized transportation to give the committee a diverse representation. Mickelson agreed, mentioning that there used to be a better mix of interests in the beginning. KATS staff will be requesting committee member recommendations from KATS Technical and Policy committees.

2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

The 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan received an extension due to COVID-19 prohibiting public input meetings. Adoption is now set for November 2021. As part of the plan, a subcommittee has been meeting regularly to update the Non-Motorized Element. Sotherland noted that Marc Irwin and himself serve on the subcommittee and the document is making good progress. There will be updated maps soon as well as an updated version of the draft document.

Molony asked about the prioritization of sidewalks in the plan as well as the maintenance of infrastructure. Horncik agreed stating that there are major access issues, for those with disabilities. Mickelson followed up that comment by suggesting to add verbiage in the document about the importance of accessible infrastructure all year long. MacDonald noted that the clearing of sidewalks is left to the individuals who own the property and that there needs to be a broader conversation on how the sidewalk gets cleared if the property owner is unable to do so. Hornick brought up the issue of rentals, where it is the landlords' responsibility to clear the sidewalk.

SUBSTANTIVE ACTION DISCUSSION

Sotherland circulated an article to the committee prior to the meeting and discussed in further detail how the KATS CAC and KATS staff can work together to bring more action to ideas for the region.

MacDonald suggested more outreach through the members of CAC to share with others about how KATS operates. A one hour meeting perhaps to give people an understanding on how transportation planning and funding works. Molony gave the idea to join other meetings that are being held in the area. Sotherland agreed and expanded the idea further by stating that CAC members could use the public comment period or as an agenda item, take a few minutes to reach out and provide a uniform message on KATS. MacDonald suggested highlighting projects that were funded by KATS. Attending two meetings in six months could be an initial goal. Sotherland mentioned KATS staff should let Technical and Policy Committee members know what CAC is planning to do to eliminate surprise at meetings. Mickelson offered to make a list of local agency meetings that CAC members could attend.

Horncik suggested as a substantive action for KATS staff could be to post on the website a map for contact information as a better process for citizens to report issues.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Schultz gave a report on Metro services. Currently, Metro runs fixed route transit six days a week and not operating on Sundays due to COVID-19. Monday through Saturday, busses run from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. with Metro Connect operating from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. as well as Sundays. Metro is still not charging fares, perhaps April 1st the fees will resume. All busses are at limited capacity. The November ballot will have a question for metro connect millage. Metro is continuing to make bus stop and sign improvements.

Sotherland inquired about the responsible party for clearing snow from the bus stops. Schultz replied that all 78 shelters are cleared of snow as part of a contract. That contract is for clearing snow within 48 hours that clears a 5-to-10-foot radius. Otherwise, property owners are contacted to clear the sidewalks that have a bus stop pad.

Sotherland suggested that KATS staff should highlight those citizens or agencies that are doing good around the region at Policy Committee meetings in order to encourage others to make a difference.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the KATS CAC meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.