

Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Board Meeting Minutes
Public Safety Building- Morgantown, WV
Monday, November 7, 2011, 4:30 – 5:30 PM

- I. Call to Order by chair Abildso at 4:31 PM

- II. Attendance Check & board membership verification
 - a. Attendance review for last 12 months & Membership composition requirements tabled
 - b. In attendance Christiaan Abildso, Jan Derry, Mary Gutmann, Hugh Kierig, Mike Breiding, George Lilly, Maria Smith, Martha Summers, Marti Schamberger, William Blosser, Jimmie Simmons, Bob Anderson, Matthew Cross, Dave Small, Damien Davis, Bill Austin, Tom Bias, Stan Cohen, Lisa Hudson

- III. September Minutes: Motion to approve by Hugh Kierig, second by Dave Small – unanimously approved

- IV. Old business
 - a. Walking tour review (Monday, October 3)
 - i. The following participated in the walk who were also present at the meeting:
 - 1. Christiaan, Jan Derry, Dave Small, Damien Davis, Tom Bias
 - ii. Christiaan contacted Delegate Guthrie about sponsoring Complete Street Ordinances on the state level
 - b. Letter from NWVCIL re: South University to WVDOH
 - i. Short discussion about the problems on South University Ave. Mary Gutmann (resides at The View at the Park) expressed her concerns. Pedestrian signal heads were adjusted on signs after they were damaged by trucks. Quite a bit of discussion about crosswalk signals etc. including their visibility. ACTION ITEM: Damien Davis was asked to conduct a field review of the intersection
 - c. Oct 31st meeting with WVDOH discussing letter re: no turn on red and concurrent pedestrian signals downtown – Christiaan and Damien met with the state DOH
 - i. DOH was in favor of concurrent design except a few (High and Willey Street, Spruce and Walnut Street)
 - ii. Christiaan said we would volunteer to hand out info to pedestrians and drivers to make them aware of the new rules.
 - iii. The state agreed to look at different intersections to see what would happen if they limited turn on red in certain situations.
 - iv. ACTION ITEM: Christiaan agreed to check with Main Street Morgantown again to see what was going on as far as pedestrian signage/wayfinding
 - v. Jimmie recommended the path under the South University bridge could be a pedestrian work around for crossing South University.
 - vi. Discussion of possibly volunteering to make up our own pedestrian walking volume to walk back and forth at certain intersections at certain times.
 - 1. Could be liability issues if it was a city sponsored event.
 - d. Pedestrian signals at Westover Bridge/S University/Walnut intersection – ACTION ITEM: Damien Davis was asked to conduct a field review of the intersection

- V. New business/upcoming events

- a. WVU Evansdale and Parking & Transportation plans – Hugh told us about the parking plan and Christiaan talked about the Evansdale plan (http://transportation.wvu.edu/trans_and_park_plan)
 - i. Parking and Transportation Plan out for public comment now. It is an update of the 2007 plan. It was meant to increase mobility options for everyone especially other than single vehicle. WVU feels the WECAN program has been fairly successful. Comments can be sent via email between now and November 18th 2011 to WVU.
 - ii. Park and Ride was discussed – a policy recommendation but Hugh did not know that WVU owned a specific location for it now (no specific reference listed).
 - iii. ACTION ITEM: In the Transportation Plan, it would be best for the board to make individual comments.
- b. Christiaan introduced the Evansdale Plan (<http://assets.slate.wvu.edu/resources/358/1315316197.pdf>)
 - i. Hugh discussed it as a construction plan and facilities. It is important for the plan to identify pedestrian access between the different “precincts” identified. One thought is to build access from the Engineering PRT to Rec Center. Looking at use of permeable surface parking to allow storm water to get into the ground. Pedestrian improvements at University and Evansdale Drive and Mon Blvd. and Evansdale Drive along with several other changes. Closing parts of Evansdale drive and the street beside Qdoba for pedestrian use only.
 - ii. ACTION ITEM: Next month, board will work on comments as a group for what we would want to send to the University via the Traffic Commission about the Evansdale Plan.
- c. Downtown traffic study/modeling – Abildso to attend meeting called by City Manager on Nov 15th with partners that may be interested in modeling the impact of traffic redirection and street closures downtown
 - i. WVDOT consultant Dr. Nichols said if the city wants something modeled downtown then the state would do it
 - ii. Hold off discussion of letter changes to the next meeting
- d. SGA safety walk review – Dave Small told us about the areas they looked at – primarily where students live
 - i. North High Street and Spruce Street
 - ii. 80-100 safety issues just within that one block area
 - iii. There is a photo-voice project on Facebook where students can submit their complaints/issues
 - iv. Also dealt with issues of crime, etc.
 - v. Will finalize report during Thanksgiving and will be sent out as a draft right after that. Please email comments to him at dsmall1@mix.wvu.edu
- e. South University Ave ADA audit to be presented by Mark Derry to Traffic Commission December 7 @6:30 pm (DRAFT report presented by Jan Derry:
 - i. Found only one section of the new University sidewalk is in compliance with ADA
 - ii. Many sidewalk sections totally out of compliance, especially with respect to cross slopes greater than 2% allowable
 - iii. Brick sections to direct those with visual impairments direct them to street
 - iv. Landing zones not present at the bottom of the sidewalk for those in wheelchairs to stop and decide when to cross the street at the bottom of a slope.

- v. Places where DOH signs the utility covers in sidewalk present a tripping hazard
- vi. Crosswalks do not totally line up with sidewalks (eg, Walnut & South University uphill side of intersection)
- vii. Traffic Commission will deal with this in December
 - 1. Christiaan can go to this meeting and present this case to them.
 - 2. Motion by George Lilley to include in presentation to traffic commission to seriously consider the sidewalk issue and pass noncompliance with ADA on to the City Council asking them to take action with the state (two points from the letter – rectify South University immediately and conduct ADA audit on all state roads within City limits) and seconded by David. Unanimous approval. Also safety issues with construction site to make it safer this was amended into the motion with a motion by Jimmie Simmons, second by Stan Cohen, and unanimous approval.
- f. Traffic counts to be presented by Danielle Williams of MPO to Traffic Commission December 7 @6:30 pm
- g. Pedestrian-vehicle accidents – ACTION ITEM: Abildso will ask City Police for monthly report at Traffic Commission meetings
- h. Mountain Line is asking for people to respond to survey about usage, etc. and is asking us to answer. They also presented on some ideas to affect local routes and producing frequencies that can make commuting more realistic. Go to www.busrider.org to access the online survey in top-right corner
- i. National Household Transportation Survey webinar TOMORROW – Nov 8 at 2:00 PM – Abildso will attend
- j. Advocacy Advance training in Pittsburgh, January 20, 2012 – Abildso may attend
- k. Blog/photos needed – item tabled

VI. Other items

- a. Jimmie Simmons - Stewart Street Ketchum properties asked for a zoning variance to reduce setbacks at 404 Stewart multi-unit dwelling
 - i. Zoning board meeting Thursday night (16th) or planning commission (17th)
- b. Stan Cohen - Hogback Turn walkability update asked for by Stan
 - i. ACTION ITEM: Damien says he doesn't know but we will ask for an update at the next meeting as he is meeting on Brockway Avenue for a walk next week

VII. Next meeting December 5, 2011, 4:30-5:30 PM, at Public Safety Building