



CITY OF DECATUR PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Richard Cohen: Committee Formation and Best Practices
- Jack Kittle: Activities, 2013-2019
- Ann Abramowitz: Challenges and future plans

ORIGINS OF PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Now in its 6th year
- 2011 designated as silver level walk-friendly community
- PAC was suggested in that review
- Formed as a committee of the Active Living Board



RECRUITMENT FOR BOARD

- Diversity regarding:
 - Ethnicity
 - Age
 - Neighborhood
 - Professional background
 - Knowledge of, and experience with, accessibility issues

COMPOSITION OF BOARD

- Staffed by Assist and Director of Active Living for the city
- Members' expertise included:
 - Public health
 - Health communication
 - Mental health
 - Public policy
 - Engineering
 - Disability advocacy
 - Safe Routes to School

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR GETTING UP TO SPEED

- Meetings with City officials
- Sally Flocks
- Gaining familiarity with best practices nationally
- Doing our own research

PAC ACTIVITIES

- Investigate Our Situation
- Review Best Practices
- Advocate For Improvements
- Promote Safe Walking

INVESTIGATE OUR SITUATION

- City Staff and Plans
- Crosswalk Pictures Database
- Sidewalk Assessment
- Crash Reports

REVIEW BEST PRACTICES

Read literature reviews available on internet:

CityLab, Smart Growth America, PEDS, etc.

ADVOCATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS

- Comprehensive Plan Update, Community Transportation Plan Update, Livable Communities
- Annual Budget
- Specific Improvements

PROMOTE SAFE WALKING

- Bright at Night
- Sunday Strolls
- Tables at Festivals
- Walk and Roll Stars
- Accessibility Walk



ISSUES TO CONSIDER

And looking to the future



WHERE IS BEST FIT?

Public Safety?

Parks and Recreation ("Active Living")?

Public Works?

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

Led by city or members?

Members representing a variety of skills and areas of knowledge (e.g., health communication, public policy, engineering, mental health, mobility issues)

All must share a great enthusiasm for walking

MAKING ACTIVITIES ATTRACTIVE

- Select interesting presenter, with PAC leader
- Learning to understand and appreciate the natural or built environment
- Holiday decorations
- The arts—sculpture, haiku

LEARNING TO BE PATIENT

- Understanding the budget timetable
- Understanding competing priorities
- The pace desired by advocates is much faster than that of government
- Lower priority tasks will wait years, e.g.,
 - Safe Routes to School vs. not Safe Routes
 - DOT's timetable
 - Understanding interplay between roles of city, county and state



MEMBER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Have a plan for recruiting new members and bringing them up to speed

RESPONDING TO THE UNEXPECTED, E.G.

- Arrival of scooters
- Death of a pedestrian

FUTURE PLANS

- Updating the “Walk There Decatur” concept and signage—this spring
- Special event walks
- Continuing to play a role in policy development relating to pedestrian safety and the importance of pedestrian life in Decatur