Active Living Advisory Committee (ALAC)
Wednesday, August 21, 2019
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Planning Central Conference Room, 11th Floor
1819 Farnam Street

Attendees: Andy Wessel, Tameshia Harris, Jason Rose, Mark Stursma, Alan Kohll

City Reps: Kevin Carder, Derek Miller, Dennis Bryers

Visitors: Lee Myers (AARP)

Agenda:

1. Approval of June minutes (Voting Item)
   a. Jason motion; Andy second; unanimously approved

2. Vision Zero Update
   a. Andy: press conference postponed twice due to family emergencies
   b. Press conference likely to be rescheduled Sept. 16
   c. Complete Streets Design Guide
      i. Released for public review last week
      ii. Checklists developed to be used with all transportation projects
      iii. 6-month review and testing
      iv. ALAC invited to review – could comment individually or combine comments into formal recommendation
      v. One recommendation could be to have ALAC review projects as they go through checklist process
         1. “Has the ALAC reviewed this project previously?” and “Would there be value in having ALAC review the project” (something like that)
      vi. Should add Complete Streets as ongoing agenda item – one or two chapters discussed per month
      vii. Kevin: send email reminder to review CSDG

3. Bicycle Friendly Communities Survey & Volunteer Pedestrian and Bicycle Counts
   a. City submitted application to renew bicycle friendly community status (awarded bronze in 2015) as the status expires after four years.
b. As part of the process, the League of American Bicyclists sends out a public survey (particularly geared toward local bicyclists and bike advocates). The survey is open until Sept. 22nd, 2019.

c. BFC awards will be announced in November 2019 and results of the survey with recommendations for improving bicycling in the community from experts at the Bike League and their review committee will be shared with the City.

d. ALAC members encouraged to take the survey and forward to others: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/app_BFC_FA19

e. Volunteer Bike/Ped Counts
   ii. Count data has not been extensively used in the past, but adding another year of data in 2019 would help to show trend over time and be useful in getting before/after counts along/near new or improved on-street bike facilities.
   iii. Also, since there are now six permanent automated pedestrian and bicycle counters on the trail system in Omaha, it may be possible to develop estimates of average annual daily pedestrian and bicycle traffic from the volunteer counts using adjustment factors from the trail counters. This could allow for better apples to apples comparisons across time and locations.
   iv. Doing manual counts of pedestrians and cyclists in 2019 could also help to develop scaling factors for Strava Data that the University of Nebraska has purchased and may be able to share with MAPA and the City. This could allow for estimates of pedestrian and bicycle volumes at locations anywhere in the City.
   v. Kevin C is working on compiling data from past counts and putting together volunteer organization materials for counts in late September.
   vi. If ALAC members want to assist in the counts or spread the word once the materials are ready, that would be much appreciated.

4. ALAC Goals & Priorities
   a. Andy – revised draft after last meeting
   b. For next meeting, review document outlining TMP and MAPA LRTP goals to compare with ALAC priorities; do they align?
   c. Add supporting ConnectGO and potential implementation of regional transit authority to Goals and Priorities section
d. Change “crosswalks” under Section 2 bullet point 5 to “crossing enhancements” to allow for broader range of options

e. Provide recommendations for supporting active living events (fun runs, bike races, etc.)

f. Changes:
   i. Under 1: Add bullet stating: “Serve as support and liaison for ConnectGO”
   ii. Under second bullet under Active Transportation/Complete Streets: “Support increased per capita funding for transit including potential implementation of the regional transit authority.”
   iii. Also under same section: Change to “Develop written request process for 1) Crossing enhancements
   iv. Under section 4, add bullet: Provide recommendations for supporting events that promote physical activity, tourism, and park usage

g. Vote on approving:
   i. Andy motions to approve as amended; Alan second; unanimously approved

h. Follow-up discussion on how ALAC can help implement City’s documented active living goals (in Master Plan and supporting documents) to happen at the next meeting.

5. ORBT / Metro Transit Update

   a. Background:
      i. Per capita funding for transit in Omaha Metro Area is currently half of national average
      ii. Can’t grow budget by more than 3.5% per year
      iii. Coverage/Frequency balance – Metro has shifted more toward frequency (providing faster service to more riders on the most used routes rather than spreading service thinly and broadly across the metro) since 2015

   b. Transit Development Plan completed 2019
      i. Strategy 1: Cost-neutral improvements
         1. Re-orienting routes to better feed into ORBT
         2. Increase Route 24 service
         3. Offset with decrease to late-night service
      ii. Strategy 2: Core improvements
         1. Enhance service on key routes in urban core
      iii. Strategy 3: Support Regional Growth
         1. ORBT extension and express buses to suburban employment and housing centers
iv. ORBT update
   1. Construction kicking off currently
   2. Opening anticipated Spring 2020

6. Set September Agenda
   a. Vision Zero Update
   b. Review of Final Draft Complete Streets Design Guide
   c. City Goals on Active Living (Master Plan and Supporting Policies/Goals) and ALAC’s Role in Supporting
   d. ALAC Meeting Times and Attendance

7. Adjourn
   a. Andy Motion; TAMESHIA second; unanimously approved; Adjourned 4:37pm