# Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting #2 11/8/18



# THANK YOU!

Thank you for volunteering on the Pedestrian Advisory Committee to help improve the pedestrian experience in Boulder.

# "We are all pedestrians"



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#### **Attachments**

#### A. Draft Meeting #1 Summary

# **USEFUL RESOURCES**

#### PROJECT TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

#### **City of Boulder**

Amy Lewin (Project Manager) – <u>LewinA@bouldercolorado.gov</u>

Melanie Sloan (Transportation Planner) – <u>SloanM@bouldercolorado.gov</u>

Frances Rasker (Program Coordinator) - RaskerF@bouldercolorado.gov

Michelle Melonakis (Transportation Engineer) – Melonakis M@bouldercolorado.gov

Samantha Glavin (Communication Specialist) – GlavinS@bouldercolorado.gov

Kathleen Bracke (GO Boulder Manager) – <u>BrackeK@bouldercolorado.gov</u>

Mike Sweeney (Director of Public Works for Transportation) – <a href="mailto:SweeneyM@bouldercolorado.gov">SweeneyM@bouldercolorado.gov</a>

#### Catalyst, Inc.

Barbara Lewis (Meeting Facilitator) – <a href="mailto:catalystbel@comcast.net">catalystbel@comcast.net</a>

#### **Boulder Walks**

Darcy Kitching (Walk2Connect/Boulder Walks coordinator) – <a href="mailto:darcy@walk2connect.com">darcy@walk2connect.com</a>

#### **KEY WEBSITES**

General Transportation page: bouldercolorado.gov/transportation

Transportation Master Plan (TMP) page: boulderTMP.net

Pedestrian Plan page: bouldercolorado.gov/transportation/pedestrian-system-

plan

# 1. DINNER ACTIVITIES

During dinner, please fill out Parts 1-3 of the comment form (as time allows):

- 1. Inspiration Homework—discuss the questions with a partner and write the responses on the comment form. You will share your partner's ideas briefly during introductions.
- 2. Comments on Walkabout and Webinar
- 3. Extra Credit Plan Review Homework

# 2. DESIRED MEETING OUTCOMES

- Agreement on the PAC charter
- Members are informed about recent activities (e.g., walkabout, webinar)
- Members contribute to development of draft Vision and Goals
- Members understand the plan purpose and scope and feel comfortable being plan ambassadors

# 3. Project Update

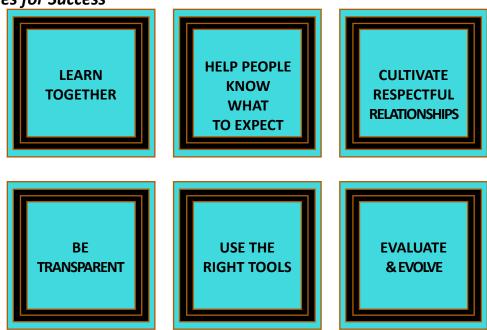
Here are some highlights of what we've done since the last meeting (August 30):

# Walkabout (September 27)



## Webinar (October 15)

Six Strategies for Success

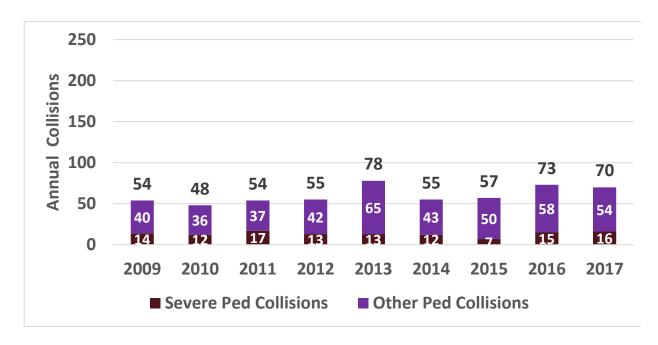


## **Pedestrian Plan Updates**

**Existing Conditions Updates** 



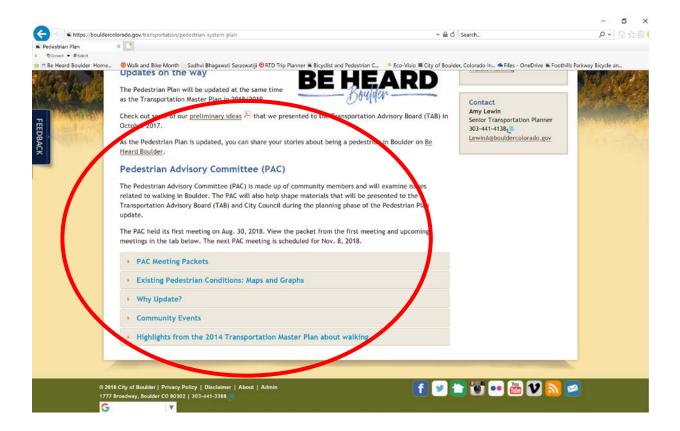
### Pedestrian Safety Update



# Question of the Month: Walking Destinations (through November 13) on Be Heard Boulder



#### **PAC Online**



# 4. PAC CHARTER REVIEW

This charter is intended to help clarify the role and process for the Pedestrian Advisory Committee. In developing this draft Charter, the project team incorporated input from PAC Meeting #1 on how to promote the PAC to do its best work.

Note: Sections with new/updated content marked with "\*."

#### PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PEDESTRIAN PLAN

The Transportation Master Plan (TMP) is the guiding policy document for the city of Boulder's transportation system. The TMP is organized around five "Focus Areas." The Pedestrian Plan is an important component of the Safe & Complete Streets Focus Area.

The Pedestrian Plan is the blueprint to improve walking conditions in Boulder and is being updated in concert with the TMP. While the city has continued making improvements for pedestrians, the Pedestrian Plan was last updated in 1996.

#### PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ROLE

The role of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee is to provide feedback to staff on project information at various stages of the plan update. Feedback will be used by city staff to help shape project materials, including those that will be presented to the Transportation Advisory Board and City Council during the planning phase of the Pedestrian Plan update.

Members of the committee will:

- Identify and examine issues related to being a pedestrian in Boulder from a variety of perspectives
- **Provide feedback** on information prepared by city staff to ensure it is understandable, accurate and complete
- Provide advice on community outreach strategies
- Help share information and gather feedback and input from other community members

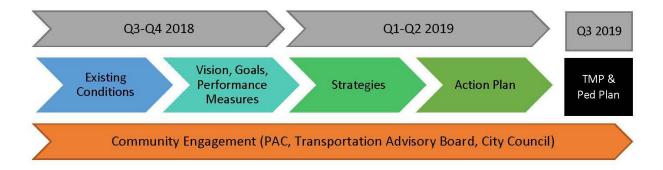
- Attend meetings, walkabouts, and webinars and get up to speed when absent
- Support staff at public events and meetings for TAB and Council

#### PEDESTRIAN PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

Key elements of the Pedestrian Plan update include:

- Existing Conditions Snapshot to understand where we are today
- Vision Statement, Goals, Performance Measures to determine the desired future
- Strategies to achieve the vision
- Action Plan, including responsible parties, and timelines for the city and partners to follow

These key elements are the building blocks of the Pedestrian Plan and will be integrated into the Transportation Master Plan in third quarter of 2019.



#### OTHER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES\*

**City Council** will be involved through updates and study sessions. The Pedestrian Plan will be a part of the Transportation Master Plan, which will be presented to Council to be accepted.

The **Transportation Advisory Board** is the main advisory body for the TMP and Ped Plan update. They will be updated on the Pedestrian Plan through monthly updates for the Transportation Master Plan. One TAB member will serve on the PAC (with one alternate).

**City of Boulder staff:** Amy Lewin is the Project Manager with the City of Boulder Transportation Division and is supported by a team of city staff members including Melanie Sloan (Transportation Planner), Frances Rasker (Program Coordinator), Michelle Melonakis (Transportation Engineer) and Samantha Glavin (Communications).

Staff is supported by **Barbara Lewis** of **Catalyst, Inc.** who facilitates the PAC meetings and **Darcy Kitching** of **Walk2Connect** who leads the walkabouts.

#### **COMMITMENTS\***

#### Practice inclusive participation

- Listen well and allow everyone the opportunity to speak and to be heard
- Respect each participant and their views; avoid personal attacks
- Seek to understand community input and be open to different perspectives
- View disagreements as opportunities to learn, not battles to be won
- Seek common ground

#### Use our time productively

- Stay on track
- Come to meetings prepared
- Be prepared to "agree to disagree" and move on
- Avoid rehashing past issues and meetings
- Reflect on your perspective and share with the group if what you have learned has changed it
- Start and end on time
- Be respectful of the limited meeting time and make sure each member has equal opportunity to participate; be careful about the length of personal anecdotes

## Share responsibility for success

- Understand the process and how decisions will be made
- Respect the process and the working group's role

- In speaking about the project, present individual views and only documented information; avoid trying to characterize the views of others
- Help elicit community input and bring comments into the committee process

#### Serve the common good

- Seek what is best for the community as a whole, putting yourself in others' "shoes"
- Recognize that personal goals may be different from the greater good
- Seek out and hear all perspectives equally.

#### **DECISION-MAKING\***

Where PAC members are called to reach agreement, the group will use a level of agreement scale as follows:

## **Level of Agreement**

- 1 finger = full agreement
- 2 fingers = agree in support of the group but have concerns
- 3 fingers = unresolved issues; need further discussion
- If 3, be prepared to suggest how to move forward



#### EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS\*

PAC members will be asked to support the City with community outreach at different points in the process. This may include sharing information with individuals and organizations, helping to promote project events, reviewing public input and assisting at public events.

In speaking to the media and others, PAC members are asked to present individual views only and avoid characterizing others' opinions or representing the views of the PAC.

#### **PROJECT TEAM COMMITMENTS\***

- Provide relevant information to support the PAC's input to the plan
- Provide easy-to-understand graphics
- Be accountable
- Be clear about the process (time for discussion, input, speaking, etc.)
- Use effective, outcome-driven processes

#### **Ouestion for the PAC:**

1. Do you accept and commit to the charter as written?

# 5. Draft Pedestrian Plan Framework

As we look towards a framework for the plan, six categories of elements/topics related to pedestrians have been developed, with some examples for each (sheets provided at tables).

- Along the Street (e.g., sidewalks)
- Crossing the Street (e.g., crossings)
- Off-Street Facilities (e.g., multi-use paths)
- Network/System-wide (e.g., traffic calming)
- Education, Encouragement, Enforcement (e.g., programs)
- Pedestrian Quality and Comfort (e.g., buffers from traffic)

These reflect what could potentially be included in a Pedestrian Plan—in other words, the elements/topics include what we need to think about, talk about and plan for.

#### **Ouestions for the PAC:**

- 1. Is the information useful?
- 2. Is anything missing?

# 6. DRAFT VISION AND GOALS

This section includes \*draft\* vision options and goals for the Pedestrian Plan.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

Plan Vision ("know where you want to go"):

A Vision statement concisely introduces a future that the Plan is intended to achieve. It offers the broadest expressions of a community's desires, providing overarching direction for the long term, and often describing ideal situations.

### Plan Goals ("define your priorities"):

A goal is a broad statement that sets preferred courses of action in support of the vision and mission. Goals are intended to carry out the vision in the foreseeable future and should be specific enough to help determine whether or not a proposed project, program, or course of action will advance the community values expressed in the goals.

#### TABLE EXERCISE

#### Part 1

 At your table, discuss the four vision statements, and respond to the questions on the next page.

#### **DRAFT VISION STATEMENTS:**

- 1. People love to walk in Boulder, and walking is a celebrated part of the community's culture.
- 2. Boulder is a great walking city where people choose to walk for transportation, recreation, and health.
- 3. Boulder has a walking culture. Walking is easily accessible to all, connecting our community, making us healthy, and contributing to our truly sustainable and resilient community.
- 4. Walking in Boulder is practical and easy.

#### **Ouestions for the PAC:**

- 1. What resonates with you?
- 2. What would you refine?
- Post your responses/suggestions on sticky notes on the large plot.
- Review the draft goals below.

#### **DRAFT GOALS:**

**Safe & Secure:** Make walking in Boulder safe and secure for everyone, in support of Boulder's Vision Zero goals.

**Equitable & Inclusive:** Make Boulder walkable and accessible for all, no matter who you are or where you live.

**Comfortable & Inviting:** Provide a comfortable, inviting, and connected pedestrian network that supports walkable neighborhoods and strengthens community.

**Healthy People & Environment:** Increase walking for transportation and recreation in Boulder as a means of achieving improved health outcomes for all people and for the environment.

**Vibrancy:** Foster vibrant public spaces in Boulder that support healthy economic activity and social connectedness.

• At your table, discuss the goals, and respond to the questions below.

#### **Ouestions for the PAC:**

- 1. Are these the right goals?
- 2. What might you add or change?
- Post your responses/suggestions on sticky notes on the large plot.
- Note: If specific strategies or actions to achieve the vision and goals come up in your discussion (e.g., install x treatment at all intersections), write that on an index card. We'll work with these at a future meeting.

#### Part 2

- Individually, review the post-its with proposed edits from the other tables.
- Post dots on or near the comments as follows:
  - o Green Support this refinement
  - o Yellow Not sure
  - Red Do not agree (can also add comments about why you don't agree on post-its)

# 7. COMMUNICATING OUR MESSAGE

#### **TALKING POINTS**

- The Pedestrian Plan is the community's vision for the future of all things pedestrian, from sidewalks and crosswalks to safety and education programs. It documents where we want to go and how we will get there.
- The last full plan update was 20 years ago in 1996.
- We are ALL pedestrians at some point in our day. A high-quality pedestrian environment benefits everyone.

#### **PARTNER EXERCISE**

- Pick a partner (different from your Inspiration Homework partner)
- Review and discuss the talking points.
- Together, discuss how you would introduce the Pedestrian Plan to a friend or neighbor and encourage them to get involved.
- Write your "script" or 30-second elevator speech in Part 4 of the comment form.

# 8. Homework

- 1. **BHB Walking stories**—by November 15, reach out to Darcy Kitching at <a href="mailto:darcy@walk2connect.com">darcy@walk2connect.com</a> or 303-250-2436 to do a 15-minute walk and talk.
- 2. **Spread the word about the Question of the Month**—let your neighbors, friends, colleagues, and family know about the Question of the Month on walking destinations; it is open through November 13.
- 3. **Review revised Vision, Goals**—we will send you an updated version based on your suggestions.
- 4. **EXTRA CREDIT**—Review History of Transportation documents <u>1858-1984</u> and 1984-2017.
  - a. What were your key takeaways related to the pedestrian experience/projects?
  - b. What inspires you for the next 20 years?

# 9. NEXT STEPS

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Date	<b>Event Type</b>	Key Topics (tentative)	
December 10	TAB Meeting	Agenda Item: Ped Plan Update	
December 13	Walkabout #2	30 <sup>th</sup> /Colorado experience; nighttime; assess	
		low-stress v. high-stress	
January 17	Meeting #3	Walk Network development; crosswalks;	
(tentative)		introduce strategies, actions	
February 21	Webinar #2	Pedestrian safety (Safe Streets data review,	
(tentative)		mitigations)	
March 21	Meeting #4	Strategies, actions; Walk Network update	
(tentative)		(safety/comfort/accessibility)	
May 23	Meeting #5	Draft Plan & Celebration	
(tentative)			

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- 1x1 Interviews staff and members—we will reach out to schedule with you
- Staff to follow up on action items identified during meeting, including final charter and revised vision and goals

# 10. MEETING WRAP-UP

Share your thoughts on how this meeting went in Part 5 of the comment form.

# 11. Public Comment/Notes

# **ATTACHMENT A**

# Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting #1 Summary Thursday, August 30, 5:30 – 8p



#### Present

Alicia Halberg Amy McCormick

Ally Miccolllick

Ann Moss

**Brent Halsey** 

Dani Hemmat

Diane Denenberg

Hugh Bell

James Krolick

Mark Rosenstein

Nora Schlosser

Robyn Kube

Sarah Massey-Warren

Spenser Havlick

Tila Duhaime (TAB)

Paul Wallick

Lisa White

#### **Absent**

**Craig Towler** 

Yoav Lurie

Randi Grassgreen

Jennifer Nicoll (TAB)

#### Staff & Consultants

Barbara Lewis, Meeting Facilitator (Catalyst, Inc.)

Amy Lewin, Project Manager (City of Boulder)

Melanie Sloan, Transportation Planner (City of Boulder)

Frances Rasker, Program Coordinator (City of Boulder)

Michelle Melonakis, Transportation Engineer (City of Boulder) Samantha Glavin, Communications Specialist (City of Boulder)

Kathleen Bracke, GO Boulder Manager (City of Boulder)

Darcy Kitching, Boulder Walks coordinator (Walk2Connect)

DRAFT A-1

## **A**GENDA

5:30 – 6:00p	1. Dinner and settle in
6:00 – 6:30p	2. Introduction and Role of the PAC
6:30 – 6:55p	3. Commitments
6:55 – 7:15p	4. Existing Conditions
7:15 – 7:35p	5. Community Input
7:35 – 8:00p	6. Homework, Next Steps, Wrap-Up

Committee members were provided a meeting packet with information supporting the agenda above. In addition to the meeting packets, poster boards were brought to the meeting to be able to show certain maps in more detail.

# 2. Introduction and Role of the PAC

Kathleen Bracke (GO Boulder Manager) kicked off the meeting by welcoming the PAC members and explaining the importance of the Pedestrian Plan update.

Key topics covered during this part of the meeting included the Pedestrian Plan update process (e.g., key elements and timeframe) and the role of the committee.

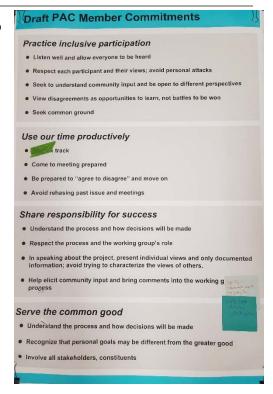
# 3. COMMITMENTS

PAC members were asked to discuss the draft commitments to serving on this advisory committee and were able to add new ideas and/or propose refinements to the draft commitments language.

The PAC members added the following comments:

- Equity in community input not giving too much power one group or the loud few
- Make sure diverse participation

The updated commitments will be brought to the PAC in the next meeting and the members will be asked to agree to the commitments as part of a larger committee charter.



# 4. EXISTING CONDITIONS

PAC members were asked to reflect on the graphics and maps about the existing conditions for pedestrians in Boulder and give feedback using sticky notes.

Below are the comments that were received from the PAC members. Staff will use this information to update the draft graphics and as ideas for new topics to cover and/or questions to answer as further plan elements are developed.





#### A. Snapshot of Walking in Boulder graphic

- What is the % comparing CU students' mileage walked vs boulder residents?
- Do we have data on why people walk?
- Reasons = Motivations. Reason should be labeled "destination."
- What is being measured? Mileage, time spent . . .?
- CU students are residents too!
- I like it (pointing to Boulder has over 515 miles graphic)
- Compared to how many miles of roads (miles of sidewalks and MUP graphic)
- How many people surveyed?
- Not really saying much as written--how much more? And to what point? And why separated CU here? Etc.

DRAFT A-3

#### B. The Pedestrian System graphic

- Far too busy--too much information
- Create more consistency on text boxes--align more margins & create boxes with more similar # of lines of text e.g. 4 or 5 lines
- Very busy graphic--hard to take in at a glance
- Cut the amount of words
- Make text box fill color 100% opaque
- Font is bad/unreadable, e.g. "t"
- Driveway curb cut slope: what is required? What is system of driveways of driveways?
- More information on ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan: how, what, how much of the system, when
- ADA is aspirational--not current conditions, specifically around curb ramps
- Information on adjacent owner obligation around pedestrian system--currently only says snow maintenance, what about other elements? Talk to enforcement. Setbacks on fencing should also be included--provides a sense of encroachment
- Emerging modalities; e.g., scooters

#### C. Pedestrian County by Gender on Multi-Use Paths

- Why gender?
- Segments/volume: pie (chart) is difficult to discern
- Collection times & dates?
- Needs simple, bullet-point summaries
- By age groups: walking school buses, e.g. Seniors, versus high school, vs elementary students
- How identify transgender?
- Label streets so easier to read where inventory is happening
- It would be nice to get pedestrian counts at crosswalks. I like the bike counter on the mall (next to Wells Fargo) or, is there an app that could help?
- How do gender-split figures compare to Boulder's population gender-split?
- When were counts taken (time, weekday, month)
- Give exact location
- Eliminate short/separated segments of sidewalk--these seem irrelevant and minor details
- Please add description of when data was collected (season/time of day)



#### D. Sidewalk Inventory

- Average light cycle length/pedestrian vs car wait time
- Why are schools on here?
- Show ease of crossing: how far/# of lanes, light timing or short countdown
- traffic would be interesting--crossing streets w/no cars different from lots of traffic/cars
- Is there a crosswalk across all four edges?
- Where are the beg buttons and how can we get rid of them?
- What types of pedestrian crossing devices work best --why
- What (pedestrian crossing) conditions works best for what (street/intersection) conditions?
- Not sure raw data without relative perspective is communicating well with all maps. Are you wanting to communicate something or just give data? To what end . . .
- Traffic intensity overlay/scale of thoroughfare (arterial, connector, residential/local)
- Need simple, bullet-point summaries
- Buffer schools volume with traffic
- How do kids get to school? Show routes of travel. Bike lanes should be shown also
- Need history on how different types of sidewalks and paths were developed. Bike have a compelling story--what about pedestrians?
- Are there known/defined pathways? If so, overlay on maps. Concern where want paths may not be built?
- Is there a way to identify streets where people walk in it--indication of problems

DRAFT A-5

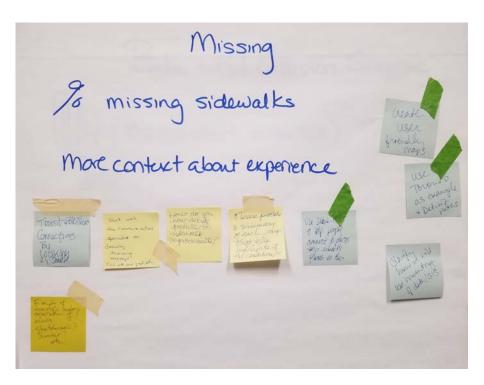
#### E. Pedestrian Crossing Inventory

- Average light cycle length/pedestrian vs car wait time
- Why are schools on here?
- Show ease of crossing: how far/# of lanes, light timing or short countdown
- Traffic would be interesting--crossing streets w/no cars different from lots of traffic/cars
- Is there a crosswalk across all four edges?
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- Is there a way to identify streets where people walk in it--indication of problems

#### F. 2017 Pedestrian Collisions & Close Calls

- Source of data
- Collisions are underreported, close calls even more so! Maybe a note about how BPD collects data (assuming data source is BPD)
- What constitutes "severe" -- death? Critical condition?
- Close calls are under reported. This number is laughably low and highlights unreliability of data
- Trend/aggregate map --> e.g. 2010-2020
- Numerous collisions/close calls on CU campus & Broadway bike path among bikes, pedestrians and skateboards
- Times/dates of crashes? Chart maybe
- Helpful call outs!
- Reported close calls is not a useful layer here
- Is there an app that pedestrians can use to log photos/comments when out and about?
- "Close-Calls" --> alternatives to self-reported, which is likely underreported?
- Identify that each accident happened. Cross-streets so easy to recognize
- Close calls & collisions at Broadway/Ash, Dartmouth/Ash; Table Mesa at pedestrian cross light; Moorhead/Table Mesa
- What areas are people avoiding because of dangerous/car centric conditions?

- How do you get more people to report close calls?
- Are accidents at signals, RRFBs, etc.? Want more information on location and types of signals at those locations
- Does this information account for impaired driving? For distracted driving? Need to understand all factors behind how dots got here.



#### G. What else is missing?

- % sidewalks
- More content about experience
- Transit and bike share connections by walking (e.g., Seattle)
- Work with the communications specialist on decoding audience message.
   Call outs are good, etc.
- How do you now decide priorities for sidewalk improvements?
- Use data & maps to help people connect to places. Help identify places to go
- Create user friendly maps
- Use Toronto as example & Detroit paths
- Clarify how we will use inventory of data/GIS
- Example of successful addressing separation of modes skateboards? Scooter?
   Ok

DRAFT A-7

# 5. Draft Summary of Community Input



PAC members were asked to highlight anything that surprised them about the community input to the group:

- Surprising that the idea of human connection through walking does not stand out in the word cloud. Community is more than seeing the city in a different perspective
- Walking to "connect" is not present
- Another benefit is that it is cheaper to walk.
- Hope that AV's will help pedestrians because cars will stop.
- Make it clear in the quote bubbles which quote is a hope and which a concern
- I share the "not bold enough" idea. Focusing on sidewalks is very car-centric
- You need to plan a lot to walk at this moment. You should not have to do that.
- Clarify what a walkable destination is. Change to "destinations to neighborhoods".
- I can relate to the "Get bike off sidewalks". Educate people.
- Encourage transit. Walking is not practical for long distances.
- Traffic calming would make it more enjoyable, and trees.
- Connections to other modes
- Prioritizing pedestrians bold and strong. Not being overshadowed by bikes/cars.
- Can we receive a summary of what the Pedestrian Plan is to hand out?
- Collision graph: what is the cause? Where are the deaths in the graph?
- Wayfinding signs would be helpful. More lights so you can see pedestrians. Bring ideas from other places.
- Cars should stop at stop signs. No one commented about the environment.

# 6. HOMEWORK, NEXT STEPS, WRAP-UP

PAC members were updated on their homework assignments and next events (walkabout and webinar) and thanked for their presence and enthusiasm for the project.

DRAFT A-9