



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

May 13, 2022

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Franklin City Hall Training Room

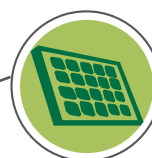
8:00 am	Welcome and Introductions	Todd Palmer
8:05 am	*Approval of April Meeting Minutes	Todd Palmer
8:05 am -- 8:10 am	Announcements: -State of the City -Enexor Visit -MTE electric vehicle data at future meeting	Andrew Orr
8:10 am -- 8:40 am	Williamson County Recycling Update	Randy James
8:40 am -- 8:55 am	*Discuss Transportation Policy Draft	Eric Conner
8:55 am-- 9:00 am	News/Updates/Adjourn	Todd Palmer

*Item contains an attachment or link

CITY OF FRANKLIN MISSION STATEMENT: Franklin will continually strive to be a community of choice for individuals, families, and businesses to grow and prosper through an excellent quality of life supported by exceptional, responsive, and cost-effective City services.

Brenton Montgomery (12/14/2024)	Todd Palmer (8/27/2022)
Mike Cassity (11/10/2024)	Dana Kose (12/10/2022)
Beverly Burger (BOMA co-terminus)	John Brevard (12/14/2024)
Eric McElroy (Franklin Tomorrow co-terminus since 2/8/2022)	Chase Harper (12/14/2024)
R. Keith Gordon (3/23/2024)	

The Sustainability Commission was created to continue the work Initiated by the Sustainability Task Force and to act as a policy advisory body to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and City Administrator in the development and initiation of programs that will enhance and promote economic development, environmental health, and social equity within our community for present and future generations (Ord. 2009-41).



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FRANKLIN SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

April 8, 2022

Members Present: **Todd Palmer, Chase Harper, John Brevard, Dana Kose, and Keith Gordon**

Members Absent: **Brenton Montgomery, Alderman Burger, Mike Cassity, Eric McElroy**

Staff Present: **Eric Conner, Andrew Orr**

Visitor Present: **Christina Christiansen**

The Franklin Sustainability Commission held a regular meeting on Friday, April 8, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. in the Franklin City Hall Training Room.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Palmer welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

Approval of the Minutes

Chair Palmer made a motion to approve the January 2022 minutes.

Mr. Gordon seconded to approve the January 2022 minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Mr. Orr stated that Elaine took another position and left the City. In her absence, Eric Conner did the minutes and did an exceptional job. While we wait for a new person to fill the position, we'll do the best we can.

Mr. Conner mentioned last month the top choice was Enexor for a field trip and if nobody else has any other ideas, we can proceed with figuring out a time. **Ms. Kose** asked what exactly they do and **Mr. Gordon** indicated they do on-site biogeneration which means they do biomass generation on site so you can get rid of nonbiological waste on site. **Chair Palmer** said this sounded the most interesting and other places mentioned might be too far since this is in Cool Springs and will help set it up.

Discussion ensued about late spring or early summer and will depend on schedules, will aim for second Friday in June. Will have more to report next month.

Mr. Orr shared that State of the City is Wednesday, May 11th at 7:30 am at Rolling Hills Church.



Waste Reduction Policy Guide

Mr. Orr made a minor update and added number 11. We did a big campaign four years ago to promote anti-littering and this action item speaks to that information and narrative going so we added it in. Stormwater engineers have recently started a partnership with Cumberland River Compact, a watershed based organization in middle Tennessee. We're planning to have someone from their organization come to a meeting to share. Still waiting to get 2021 data for the chart, otherwise, the policy guide is in a good place. Let's take the draft to a BOMA Work Session and bring it back if they have any changes and also take the Transportation Policy Guide to the same Work Session.

Chair Palmer asked about the August BOMA Work Session.

Mr. Orr stated the August Work Session is more of a general update. If we take the drafts to BOMA in the next two months and then bring it back to the Sustainability Commission for a vote and then bring it back to BOMA for a Work Session and a vote of endorsement, we could also utilize the August BOMA Work Session date. Discussion ensued about the timing.

Transportation Policy Guide

Mr. Conner stated traffic consistently ranks as a top citizen complaint and read aloud the policy statements. The vast majority trips are single occupancy so looking at ways to move beyond this by walking, biking, transit, or carpooling.

Mr. Harper said these are good broad statements and he shared with his team (at TMA Group) and will bring back ideas at a future meeting, in terms of transit. The only ways are to have a transit hub and potentially creating one at the Marriott Conference Center. The problem with single occupancy vehicle is getting people into Franklin by another way and then creating a way to get people around once they're here, which will decrease peak hour traffic. The policy statements are good, but may need to add other action items to help enforce the policy statements. **Mr. Orr** shared the commuting statistics shown on the policy guide. **Mr. Harper** shared they received a grant to create an uber-like service in the Cool Springs area with an express to Downtown. It's a curb-to-curb service, not door-to-door. The max wait time would be 10 minutes. The goal would be to get this type of circulator in place and then look at regional transit from outlying cities. Need regional transportation hub and the only one is at the TMA Office and the hub needs to be around I-65. Public transit near a convention center would be great and can use transit to get people to and from conferences. Then, this could create a Williamson County airport shuttle with a parking garage. The park and ride would relocate from the Ag Center. It would take a lot to make all of this happen and impossible to talk about timeline. Will need the City, County, TDOT, and federal funds to make it happen.

Chair Palmer asked how we can support this effort and include in the policy guide?

Mr. Harper shared other cities that are bigger have regulations put on developers to not overbuild parking spaces, but essentially subsidize public transportation by providing a commute benefit and the cities require developers to build fewer parking spaces. **Mr. Orr** stated we typically take the opposite approach and this may not work in Franklin.



Ms. Christiansen shared that her company utilizes hybrid work and maybe this could be encouraged by the city. **Mr. Harper** said their mission to reduce cars on the road and maybe they could create a guide to help companies transition. **Mr. Orr** suggested the Chamber would have resources and our local community has above average work from home percentages. Discussion ensued about hybrid work, accommodating the lunch crowd, and next steps. Will also see what thoughts Eric McElroy has about the guide.

Ms. Kose asked about viability for lunch services. Discussion ensued about headways, timing, and peak hour traffic in the afternoon, and the need to try initiatives to accommodate the growth.

Mr. Harper referenced the 15-minute city and being able to make all trips on foot within 15 minutes. He has also been looking at sister cities, but a lot of this boils down to funding and technology.

Discussion ensued about fast chargers and park and rides.

Mr. Conner reviewed the transportation statistics stated on the policy guide. 80% of the 10,000 citizens who live and work in Franklin commute to work alone. Approximately 23,000 citizens live in Franklin and commute outside of the City and approximately 66,000 people commute into Franklin to work. Stats and action items are derived from citizens survey responses and Walk Friendly Communities feedback. Mr. Conner then reviewed the action items.

Ms. Kose talked about her experience at the local elementary school about kids walking to school and bussing issues. Discussion ensued about school traffic and carpool solutions. **Mr. Orr** suggested broadening the action item regarding safe routes to school.

Mr. Gordon said it feels like a walkability policy, which is more of a quality of life issue, if it's more about transit and getting people out of cars, need to reshuffle the action items. We are too spread out as a community, there's not a single solution for moving people from Downtown to Cool Springs. Perhaps move walkability to the bottom and move around statistics to correspond.

Mr. Conner said the kickoff from the policy was the feedback received from the walkability audit.

Mr. Gordon talked about can be accomplished and picking the low hanging fruit. It would be very difficult to install an effective public transportation system so easier to talk about multi-use trails, which have a livability and quality of life aspect not a purely transportation issue. Is there a statistic about number of cars per household in Williamson County? I suspect we are car heavy, given the affluence of the county.

Ms. Christiansen asked about charging stations throughout the community.

Chair Palmer said they are working with TDEC and TVA and have internal discussions.

Chair Kose asked about charging at places of employment. **Chair Palmer** said they're looking at rates and said gas stations are seeking to have charging stations. **Mr. Gordon** said TDEC is



looking at key locations across the state for EV charging.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 am.



DRAFT TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY POLICY GUIDE

Traffic consistently ranks as one of the top citizen concerns and complaints. The City seeks to improve mobility by shortening the time it takes to complete trips, reducing vehicle miles traveled, and providing alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle trips.

POLICY STATEMENTS

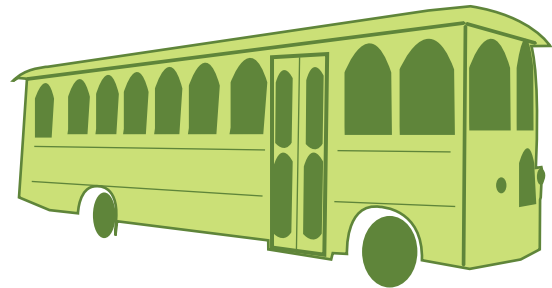
1. Reduce peak-hour travel times;
2. Provide safe and effective multimodal options for transportation;
3. Provide safe pedestrian and bicycle connections between residential areas and local destinations;

ACTION ITEMS

1. Improve traffic flow on existing streets by adaptive signalization projects.
2. Participate in Regional Transportation efforts to increase mobility to/from Franklin.
3. Establish evaluation processes for completed Capital Improvement Projects.
4. Increase youth engagement City-wide and encourage local schools to establish a Safe Routes to School program to ease peak pick-up and drop-off traffic.
5. Increase public knowledge of the available multi-use paths and trails through mapping and outreach.
6. Participate in National Bike/ Pedestrian annual counts.
7. Establish a Bike/Walk Franklin group.
8. Increase sidewalk and multi-use trail connectivity across Franklin.
9. Evaluate the effectiveness of an electric bike share program.

COMMUTING IN FRANKLIN

- Approximately 10,300 citizens live and work in Franklin and 80% commute by vehicle alone. (2019 Citizen Survey)
- Approximately 66,000 people work in Franklin but commute from outside City limits.
- Approximately 23,000 citizens live in Franklin but commute outside the City for work.
- Average commute time of approximately 25 minutes.



WALKABILITY IN FRANKLIN

- 385 miles of sidewalk and 26 miles of public multi-use trail throughout the city.
- Average walk score of 23/100 within the city, walk score of 67 at City Hall.
- 12 miles of proposed multi-use trails in the City's CIP

