CITY OF Belle Meade TENNESSEE

June 12, 2025

Re: Advisory Committee on Belle Meade Boulevard – FINAL REPORT

Commissioners,

Following the Board's decision to appoint a special advisory committee of Belle Meade residents to review options to address beautification and pedestrian safety on Belle Meade Boulevard, the City Manager advertised an open call for nominations. Nominations were requested to be sent in writing by a deadline of April 7, 2025. In total, 108 nominations were received with 77 individual residents receiving nominations.

Mayor Rusty Moore recommended 15 members of the committee, unanimously confirmed by the full Board of Commissioners, who were thoughtfully selected for their diverse opinions and perspectives. Each member contributed significantly of their time and voice to participate in thoughtful discussions about various options to improve conditions on Belle Meade Boulevard.

The committee met in three sessions and their meeting agendas are provided as attachments to this report. In the first meeting, held May 7, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to approximately 6:00 p.m., the committee members primarily received an orientation and presentation led by City Manager Jennifer Moody. They received a review of various city-led efforts to improve Belle Meade Boulevard and discussion of challenges in addressing left-lane and speeding violations. Following the meeting, the Committee was provided a copy of the Civic Design Center's final report from the median pathway demonstration project, a copy of an accident report where a pedestrian was fatally injured in April 2022, and a detailed memo of the City's expenses-to-date with consulting engineering firm, KCI Technologies Inc. Additionally, the Committee requested to review the six (6) options previously considered by the Board of Commissioners – those included the 5 proposed options that were rejected and a 6th option which was being used by consultants as a guiding vision for the City's preliminary design plans under development prior to the formation of the Advisory Committee. The options were provided by email, and consultants were asked to prepare a brief presentation for the committee's next meeting. However, when the committee met at their second meeting on May 21, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., they amended the agenda to decline the presentation and instead move forward into discussion of their top priorities for further discussion. All committee members were present, and all ideas submitted by any committee member was accepted and added to a draft list of recommendations (additionally attached). The draft recommendations were provided to

the members in advance of their third meeting. Members were asked to either submit comments to the City Manager directly or to bring amendments for discussion at the meeting on June 11, 2025, held from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. At the third and final meeting, the draft recommendations were discussed and voted on one-by-one. All final recommendations had no objections from any committee member (although 3 of 15 members were absent). The list of final recommendations is attached.

The final recommendations encourage City Commissioners to make few physical changes to the existing conditions; rather there is a focus on improving public awareness of regulations and enhancing police enforcement. A lengthy discussion was had to consider whether to recommend lowering of the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph. Each member was asked to provide their opinion on the matter and the votes were split into three recommendations. The majority of the votes were in favor of keeping the current speed limit of 35 mph. Several commented that they would support lowering to 30 mph but not 25 mph. One member encouraged consideration of 25 mph and would support a city-wide 25 mph speed limit. Ultimately, the recommendation to reduce the speed limit was removed in keeping with the majority opinion among the members; however, I think it is significant that the discussion showed that unanimous agreement around wanting drivers' to maintain a speed no greater than 35 mph and for police officers to enforce 35 mph.

Following the meeting, the City Manager consulted with the Police Chief, City Planning Director, and consulting engineer from KCI regarding the speed limit and all are in agreement that the City Commissioners should additionally consider reducing the speed limit to 30 mph on Belle Meade Boulevard. The benefits of this minor reduction would be that we believe it would best address driving behavior and meet community members expectations that citations would be written for vehicles traveling between 35 mph and 40 mph. It is common and reasonable to allow drivers some general rule of thumb that they may drift slightly above or below the posted speed limit. Therefore, if left at 35 mph, as data supports, on average drivers will drive between 35 – 40 mph. We believe that to best achieve the community's desired result, we should post a 30 mph limit, with the intended result of an average driving speed between 30-35mph, and strictly enforce violations above 35 mph. Additionally, consultants recommend that having a 10 mph variance between the posted speed limit and the truck speed limit is more beneficial for safety than a 15 mph variance.

In conclusion, the City Manager and department heads have reviewed and support all recommendations from the resident Advisory Committee. We additionally recommend that the Commissioners consider a speed limit reduction from 35 mph to 30 mph.

City of Belle Meade
Boulevard Advisory Committee Meeting
May 7, 2025
AGENDA

Advisory Committee Members

1)	Dale Allen	208 Lynwood Terrace	9)	John Eakin	520 Jackson Blvd
2)	Bunny Blackburn	4409 Harding Place	10)	Ann Kloeppel	506-C Park Center Drive
3)	Ann Buchanan	1115 Belle Meade Blvd	11)	Laura Landstreet	4430 Tyne Blvd
4)	Brian Cook	112 Bonaventure Place	12)	Edee Orr	1001 Belle Meade Blvd
5)	Tom Cox	421 W. Brookfield Ave	13)	Alex Palmer	1009 Belle Meade Blvd
6)	Tom Curtis	4417 Howell Place	14)	Charley Thornburg	1212 Nichol Ln
7)	Carter Dawson	511 Park Hill	15)	Phyllis Vandewater	511 Belle Meade Blvd
8)	Marty Dickens	4410 Harding Place			

1. Introductions – 4:00 p.m.
    a. City Staff and Consultants
    b. Guidance for a Public Body and the Tennessee Open Meetings Act
    c. Ground Rules – 1) speak one at a time; 2) ask clarifying questions and seek to understand others' perspectives and experiences; 3) be courteous and remember all are community members
    d. Expectations for today's meeting vs. future meetings
        i. Refer to "Next meeting" preparations

2. Mayor's Welcome – 4:10 p.m.
    a. Purpose of the Committee
    b. Goal for today's meeting

3. Background – 4:15 p.m.
    a. History of Studying this issue on Belle Meade Boulevard
    b. City regulations regarding pedestrians on BMB and cannot legally "ban" pedestrians from use of a local public road
    c. Belle Meade Together Plan
    d. Working with KCI to Address "Traffic Calming" - delivery of 20 concepts – prioritized top 3: W. Tyne Drive, Lynwood Blvd, and Belle Meade Blvd
    e. Belle Meade Blvd – proposed ideas for safety of pedestrians AND vehicles
    f. Repaving of Belle Meade Blvd is scheduled for 2026

4. Chief Williams – 4:45 p.m.
    a. Traffic Data
    b. Officer Reed
    c. Three E's of Traffic Enforcement

5. Questions from Committee Members - 5:00 p.m.
    a. What information or resources can we assist with?
    b. Next Meeting:
        i. Select a Chairman
        ii. Prepare to share your top concerns and wishes for possible improvements to Belle Meade Blvd
        iii. Reminder about city staff as resources and primary contacts for questions or additional documents, etc.
        iv. Discussion of meeting frequency, days, and times

CITY RESOURCES:

Jennifer Moody
City Manager
(615) 297-6041
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Mary Samaniego
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(615) 297-6041
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Chuck Williams
Police Chief
(615) 297-0241
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City of Belle Meade
Boulevard Advisory Committee Meeting
May 21, 2025
AGENDA

Advisory Committee Members

1)	Dale Allen	208 Lynwood Terrace	9)	John Eakin	520 Jackson Blvd
2)	Bunny Blackburn	4409 Harding Place	10)	Ann Kloeppel	506-C Park Center Drive
3)	Ann Buchanan	1115 Belle Meade Blvd	11)	Laura Landstreet	4430 Tyne Blvd
4)	Brian Cook	112 Bonaventure Place	12)	Edee Orr	1001 Belle Meade Blvd
5)	Tom Cox	421 W. Brookfield Ave	13)	Alex Palmer	1009 Belle Meade Blvd
6)	Tom Curtis	4417 Howell Place	14)	Charley Thornburg	1212 Nichol Ln
7)	Carter Dawson	511 Park Hill	15)	Phyllis Vandewater	511 Belle Meade Blvd
8)	Marty Dickens	4410 Harding Place			

1. Call to Order – 4:00 p.m.

2. Discussion Item from Board Meeting of May 14, 2025
    a. Comments from Mayor Moore on a Proposed Ordinance No. 2025-6, "An Ordinance to Amend Title 16 ("Streets and Sidewalks") of the Belle Meade Municipal Code to Add a New Chapter 4 Governing The Design, Construction, and Maintenance of Improvements to Belle Meade Boulevard"

3. Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair
    a. Call for nominations
    b. Take Vote(s) by Paper Ballot until a nominee receives a majority vote of the members present and voting

4. Presentation – Brandon Taylor, PE with KCI Technologies
    a. Options presented for Pedestrian Safety on Belle Meade Boulevard – originally delivered in public meeting with Board of Commissioners on May 7, 2024

5. Exercise to Gather Topics of Priority for Further Consideration
    a. Pedestrian safety improvement ideas may include recommendations for public education, signage, enforcement, and engineering or physical environment considerations

6. Feedback and Q&A with Committee Members
    a. What information or resources can city staff assist with?
    b. Discuss Agenda for Next Meeting on Wednesday, June 11, 2025

7. Adjourn – 5:30 p.m.

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City of Belle Meade
Boulevard Advisory Committee Meeting
June 11, 2025
AGENDA

Advisory Committee Members

1)	Dale Allen	208 Lynwood Terrace	9)	John Eakin	520 Jackson Blvd
2)	Bunny Blackburn	4409 Harding Place	10)	Ann Kloeppel	506-C Park Center Drive
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1. Call to Order – 4:00 p.m.

2. Discussion on draft List of Recommendations from last meeting
    a. See Attached

3. Feedback and Q&A with Committee Members
    a. Discuss whether additional meetings will be needed.

4. Adjourn – on or before 5:30 p.m.

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Recommendation from the Belle Meade Boulevard Advisory Committee

- **CONSISTENT SHOULDER WIDTH** - The inside shoulder should be a consistent width, approximately 36" or consistent with the maximum width of the existing shoulder based on a current survey. And look at consistent travel lane widths for the entire length.

- **KEEP AND CLARIFY LEFT LANE REGULATIONS** - Left Lane driving signage should be clarified. Similarly, paint stating "left turn and pass only" should be painted at multiple locations within the left lane.

- **KEEP AND ENFORCE PEDESTRIAN REGULATIONS** - Existing pedestrian regulations regarding walking on the Boulevard should be enforced.

- **CONDUCT A SURVEY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTH** - A survey should be completed for the entire Boulevard including pavement widths, utility locations, landscape species and size.

- **MAKE AN OVERALL LANDSCAPING PLAN** - A plan should be created for the overall beautification and landscaping of the Boulevard. This plan would include new landscaping and maintenance schedules for regular trimming and pruning of trees. Also, edging and trimming of the grass edge to prevent overgrowth onto the pavement.

- **PROVIDE DEDICATED POLICE ENFORCEMENT** - The City should hire a dedicated police office to only enforce the left lane driving and pedestrian laws. Increase the cost of traffic violations to legal maximums.

- **INSTALL RUMBLE STRIPS** - The City should install rumble strips on the pavement at the two ends of Belle Meade Boulevard to signify the entrance into the city.

- **STUDY FEASIBILITY OF UNDERGROUND UTILITIES** - The feasibility study should be completed for burying the main powerlines down the middle of the median.

- **REDUCE SPEED LIMIT TO 25MPH** – Reduce speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph.

- **NO SIDEWALKS** – The Boulevard should not have sidewalks on the medians or as separated sidewalks next to the roadway.

DRAFT

Final Recommendation from the Belle Meade Boulevard Advisory Committee:

- **NO SIDEWALKS** – The Boulevard should not have sidewalks (walking paths of any material) on the medians nor constructed as separated sidewalks next to the roadway.

- **CONDUCT A SURVEY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTH** - A survey should be completed for the entire Boulevard including pavement widths, utility locations, landscape species and size.

- **CONSISTENT SHOULDER WIDTH** - The inside shoulder should be a consistent width, no wider than the maximum width of the existing shoulder based on a current survey. And look at consistent travel lane widths for the entire length.

- **KEEP AND CLARIFY LEFT LANE REGULATIONS** - Left Lane driving signage should be clarified. Similarly, paint stating "left lane turn and pass only" should be painted at multiple locations within the left lane.

- **KEEP AND ENFORCE PEDESTRIAN REGULATIONS** - Existing pedestrian regulations regarding walking and running on the Boulevard should be enforced.

- **ENHANCE POLICE ENFORCEMENT** - Increase the cost of traffic violations to legal maximums.

- **CONSIDER RUMBLE STRIPS** - The City should consider rumble strips to alert drivers to observe all regulations, including the speed limit.

- **MAKE AN OVERALL LANDSCAPING PLAN** - A plan should be created for the overall beautification and landscaping of the Boulevard. This plan would include new landscaping and maintenance schedules for regular trimming and pruning of trees. Also, edging and trimming of the grass edge to prevent overgrowth onto the pavement.