

**Draft Summary of June 1, 2017 MEETING of the PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE and TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
Executive Office Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Members Present:** Kristy Daphnis, Chair; Angela Ashe; George Branyan; Valeria Carranza; Marybeth Cleveland; Heidi Coleman; Lt. David McBain (representing Cpt. Thomas Didone), MCPD; Darrel Drobnich; Wendy Leibowitz; Rachel Maleh; Jeremy Martin, Rockville/Municipal League; Anyesha Mookherjee, MSHA; Aaron Kraut (representing Councilman Roger Berliner); Leon Langley, MCPS; Katie Mencarini (representing Steve Aldrich), MNCPPC.

**Members Absent:** Steve Aldrich (MNCPPC); Ramin Assa; Roger Berliner, Councilmember; Al Roshdieh, MCDOT; Reemberto Rodriguez; Leah Walton; Cpt. Thomas Didone.

**County Staff:** Venu Nemani, Chief of Traffic Engineering and Operations Division, MCDOT; Dewa Salihi, MCDOT; Jeff Dunckel, MCDOT; Nadji Kirby, MCDOT; Wade Holland, CountyStat; Shelley Johnson, MCDOT; Emil Wolanin, MCDOT.

**Guests:** Shawn Brennan, MC Aging and Disability Service; Peggy Dennis; Michael Subin; John Wetmore, Perils for Pedestrians TV; MarieAnnette Otero, Safe Routes to School National Partnership; Richard Havlik, Arrow Health; Stephanie Webber; Adriana Hochberg, Walking College Fellow of America Walks; Jeremy Smalley, MCPD; Sara Morningstar, MC OIR; Melanie Wenger, MC OIR.

**PBTSAC Committee Business:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kristy Daphnis at 7:02 pm.

**Review of Summary from February 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

The board approved the meeting summary from February 2.

**Review of Summary from April 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The board discussed revising the meeting summary to clarify the definition of a HAWK signal and modified HAWK signal.

**ACTION: George Branyan to provide language to clarify the definition of a HAWK signal for discussion at the next meeting.**

**Status of 2016 Annual Report:**

Darrel Drobnich has completed a draft of the 2016 Annual Report. Venu Nemani from MCDOT had two suggestions to include in the annual report. Jeff Dunckel proposed that the language “response unacceptable” be changed to “not implemented.” Darrel Drobnich would like to change that language moving forward and not in the 2016 report.

The motion to approve the 2016 Annual Report with the modified edits by Venu Nemani was approved by the board.

**Introduction of New Committee Members/Recognition of Darrel Drobnich:**

Jeff Dunckel introduced two new committee members, Rachel Maleh and Angela Ashe. Angela Ashe is a Chevy Chase resident, small business owner, married mother of two, and is a frequent and avid user of the trails and parks near her home. She enjoys using METRO and her walkable community. Rachel Maleh

is a 15-year Montgomery County resident. Rachel Maleh is a walker, biker, and avid transit user and passionate about pedestrian safety and walking for health.

Jeff Dunckel recognized Darrel Droblich and his work as the Committee Chair with an award certificate signed by the County Executive. Darrel came from a background in public health education, brought a different perspective to the table, began tracking committee action items and helped expand the scope of the Committee's involvement throughout the County. Darrel Droblich thanked the Committee.

#### **Preparation of the 2017 Annual Report**

Kristy Daphnis asked for volunteers to prepare the 2017 Annual Report. Wendy Leibowitz and Angela Ashe volunteered to assist. Darrel Droblich explained the level of involvement needed from the Committee in terms of taking notes and researching upcoming legislation.

#### **Introduction of Leon Langley, MCPS**

Jeff Dunckel introduced Leon Langley, the new Deputy Director of Transportation at MCPS as the PBTSAC representative of MCPS.

#### **Updates from Chair:**

The Committee meetings will now be on the fourth Thursday of every other month, instead of the first Thursday of the every other month. Instead of a meeting in August, there will be a special Vision Zero meeting in late July. The next regular Committee meeting will take place on September 28.

#### **Legislative Process and Traffic Safety Legislation:**

The Office of Intergovernmental Relations staff, Melanie Wenger and Sarah Morningstar, discussed the legislative process. Sarah Morningstar is responsible for legislation during the General Assembly Session in Annapolis, and specifically work on public safety initiatives. She provided an overview of recent legislation:

- The extension of right-of-way protection bill for pedestrians passed and was signed by the Governor on May 25th.
- The Hybrid Beacon bill did not pass.
- Bill 332 or Bill 337, which dealt with lowering the speed limit, did not pass. There was a lack of data as to why the speed limit should be lowered.
- The bill to raise school bus camera citations from \$250 to \$500 was approved.
- A bill was approved to give more authority to crossing guards in dealing with traffic.

If there is input that the Committee would like to give prior to the 2018 session, the comments should be received by the Office of Intergovernmental Relations by June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Melanie Wenger gave a general overview of the Maryland Legislative Sessions. The State Legislative Session runs from the second Wednesday in January through the second Monday in April. In May and June they begin working on the local legislative package by collecting input from Montgomery County and then taking that input to the County Executive and County Council in July. At the same time State Delegation also receives input from constituents from all eight districts. This constituent input is taken very seriously. Draft bills are created based on the local district and constituents comments and are reviewed at local hearings in November/December. The bills are then reviewed by the State Delegation and then moved to the House of Delegates and then to the Senate for approval.

Melanie Wenger suggested the Committee could become more engaged in the legislative process by staying in contact with the constituents and familiarizing themselves with the officials. Committee letters about legislative matters should be sent to the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

Melanie Wenger reviewed the speed limit bill issues a bit further for the Committee. The bill was enabling legislation that would not lower the speed limit but rather give Montgomery County the authority to lower their speed limits. The bill was not clearly written and there was a lack of data to support the need for legislation. Also, SHA already has default speed limits set up throughout the state and does not want to adjust these per individual Counties because they feel it would be confusing for drivers.

All of the information related to upcoming proposals, memos about legislation, announcements, public comment periods, and the schedule is on the Office of Intergovernmental Relations website - <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oir/>. All of the County Council meetings regarding legislation are open to the public.

#### **Development of Vision Zero Plan:**

A presentation on the revised Vision Zero Plan was given by Wade Holland with CountyStat. The CountyStat team has been brought on to the project to update and finalize the two-year plan, and to lay out a framework for the ten-year plan.

#### **CountyStat Proposed Vision Zero Project Timeline:**

- November/December 2016- Stakeholder meetings took place and six focus areas were established.
- January/February 2017- First draft of the Vision Zero plan is completed.
- March 2017- PBTSAC Committee reviewed and commented on the draft.
- March-May 2017- RRK and Toole Design Group took those comments and developed a new draft and provided it to CountyStat. From there CountyStat created a new framework.
- May 2017 - New framework (basic structure of the plan) went out on May 31<sup>st</sup> for review and comment to MCDOT, PIO, HHS, MCPS, Park & Planning, MCPD, and the PBTSAC Vision Zero Work Group. Responses are due from stakeholders by June 16<sup>th</sup>. Wade Holland is working with MCPD to clean up and analyze records of pedestrian collisions from 2012 – 2016. This will allow him to provide a more in depth analysis of the pedestrian and bicycle collision data and complete the mapping of the High Incidence Areas.
- June 2017 - Second draft with full data analysis will be released.
- July 2017 – Input will be received from the stakeholders about the second draft. In July there will be a special Vision Zero PBTSAC Committee meeting.
- July/August 2017 – Review of the draft by the County Executive and County Council. Public will get a chance to review the draft and provide comments.

#### **Agency Vision Zero Leads:**

- Engineering – MCDOT
- Education and Training-PIO
- Enforcement- MCPD
- Traffic Incident Management – MCPD and DFRS
- Law, Policy, Advocacy – Undefined

Once the plan is written and approved there will be monthly meetings by the steering committee, quarterly meetings for stakeholders, and annual reports and yearly CountyStat session to track the progress.

The data collected on severe or fatal collisions between 2012-2016 will be incorporated into the upcoming revision. The data showed that while there has been a decrease in severe collision regarding vehicular accidents, while there has been an increase with regards to pedestrians and cyclist during the same time frame.

Jeff Dunkel spoke of his involvement with the Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan, as well as the State Bicyclist work group. The Committee wanted to learn more about how stakeholder information is collected and used, what type of accountability or transparency will be afforded to the public and what are some relevant issues or themes between County and State. Kristy Daphnis recommended thinking of the two-year Vision Zero document as a foundational document, which can be built upon while transitioning to the more extensive Ten-Year Vision Zero Plan.

#### **Pedestrian Safety Education Activities:**

Nadji Kirby and Jeff Dunkel presented on recent pedestrian safety education and enforcement efforts in the County. The County continues to target their education efforts in High Incidence Areas (HIAs) and MCPD "hot spots." Recent outreach efforts have included education at community events, street teams (educating people on the streets in high pedestrian traffic areas), and the use of social media. The pedestrian safety zebra has also been making several appearances at events, which brings a lot of attention to the pedestrian safety displays, especially from kids. MCPD has been enforcing pedestrian safety laws through several crosswalk stings in Gaithersburg, Rockville, Bethesda, Silver Spring, and Germantown. These have received a lot of positive media coverage.

The Street Smart Regional Campaign kicked off this past April 25. In addition to the bus sides they are implementing Pedestrian Alert Zones. This has included placing signage and pavement decals in designated HIAs and having street teams educate pedestrians on safe behaviors.

Nadji Kirby updated the Committee on her pedestrian safety outreach to students. In partnership with MCPD and Fire and Rescue, Nadji Kirby did a safety day at Bethesda Elementary School. In partnership with AAA Mid-Atlantic region, Nadji Kirby participated in two large education assemblies at Hallie Wells Middle School. The second annual Don't be Distracted Contest, open to students across the County, was very successful with a lot of wonderful video and artwork entries about why it's important not to walk or driver distracted. The winners included students from Blake High School, Blair High School, Chevy Chase Elementary, and Rock Creek Valley Elementary. Nadji Kirby also participated in Safe Kids Day, in partnership with the YMCA, reaching a large number of families. For Bike to School Day, Nadji Kirby was able to provide helmet fittings and helmets to students thanks to grant money received. The SRTS social media programs, Twitter (@mocosrts and @pedsafety) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/mocopedsafety/> and <https://www.facebook.com/MOCOSRTS/>) have gained a lot of momentum as an effective outreach tool. Nadji Kirby is working with the City of Takoma Park SRTS program to wrap the bike rodeo trailer.

Jeff Dunkel presented the committee the new creative images being considered for the next campaign. The Committee provided input on the potential draft advertising campaigns that will replace the "Tired Faces" Street Smart Campaign in the fall.

**MCPD Update on Enforcement Activities:**

Lt. David McBain introduced two of his officers that work on pedestrian safety enforcement and reviewed some of the sting operations the officers had recently completed in Bethesda, Silver Spring, Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Germantown. MCPD will continue these stings over the summer and work with Jeff Dunkel and his team to provide education ahead of the enforcement. Lt McBain and the Committee discussed how to sustain the good pedestrian and driver behavior after the stings are over.

**Status of County Projects:**

Dewa Salihi provided a report on the status of Montgomery County DOT ped safety projects:

- The first four Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFBs) were activated on Bel Pre Road and West Lake Drive.
- On Lockwood Drive, MCDOT has submitted work orders for mid-block pedestrian crossing upgrades.
- MCDOT has submitted a task order for intersection improvements for Stuart Lane, which includes marked pedestrian crossing, warning signs, and ADA ramp upgrades. That design is currently pending.
- For Lockwood Drive, MCDOT is providing multi-use path improvements from Northwest Drive to New Hampshire Avenue.

Kristy Daphnis set aside the bike conversation for next committee meeting.

Anyesha Mookherjee provided a Status of MDOT/SHA projects in Montgomery County:

- The Veirs Mill Road and Turkey Branch signal work is still on track. The signal is scheduled to be turned on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Connecticut Avenue and Denfield Road – signal timing changes are being reviewed.
- The signal reconstruction at East West Highway and Grubb Road is in process. The contractor has a notice to proceed.
- The Georgia Avenue study – the signal at Ralph is under review. We are trying to identify one more location for a signal and we should have that done by June 17<sup>th</sup>. Once MDOT identify the signal MDOT they will look at where the bus stop should be placed.
- Discussion of Leland Road at Wisconsin Avenue was tabled for this meeting.

**New Business:**

Emil Wolanin informed the Committee that the capital and operating budget was approved by the Council. The capital formal biannual budget cycle is going to be started. The departments are starting to have meetings to determine if money is or is not available for proposed projects.

The next PBTSAC meeting is September 28. In July a special meeting will be scheduled to discuss Vision Zero. Please submit all agenda items to Kristy Daphnis by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm**