

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



Week of July 17, 2017

Crime and Gang Activity, Head Start Expansion, Viva White Oak Update, Bethesda Overlay Zone, and Ripley/Silver Spring South Overlay Zone



Council Coming Attractions is a summary of some of the issues before the Council. All Council staff reports and additional information on each item scheduled for Council or Committee review can be viewed at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html>.

Also the Council meeting schedule may change from time to time. The current Council and Committee agendas can also be viewed at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html>.

- 🌟 On July 18, the Council session will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a discussion of the State Legislative Program.
- 🌟 Councilmember Craig Rice will present a proclamation at 10:35 a.m. to recognize Jubilee's 40th anniversary.

COUNCIL

- 🌟 Zoning Text Amendment 17-05, Ripley/Silver Spring South Overlay Zone – Standards
The Council is scheduled to introduce Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 17-05. Councilmember Hucker is the lead sponsor. A public hearing is scheduled for September 12 at 1:30 p.m. The staff report can be viewed at: http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5033&meta_id=141281. ZTA 17-05 would add building height flexibility in exchange for significant public benefits. According to the sponsor, the ZTA would create incentives for major public facilities and retail opportunities in the Ripley/Silver Spring South Overlay zone area.



Zoning Text Amendment 16-20, Overlay Zone – Bethesda

The Council is scheduled to vote on Zoning Text Amendment 16-20. The lead sponsor is Councilmember Floreen at the request of the Planning Board. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5033&meta_id=141283 .

ZTA 16-20 was introduced at the request of the Planning Board to implement the Bethesda Downtown Plan as proposed by the Board. The Council's approved changes to the Bethesda Downtown Plan warrant changes to the proposed overlay zone. Council staff amended the ZTA to mirror the changes made by Council to the Bethesda Downtown Plan.

On July 11, 2017, the Council took straw votes on ZTA 16-20 as recommended by the Planning, Housing & Economic Development (PHED) Committee, with the following substantive changes:

- Line 199 The timing of the Park Impact Payment was changed from the filing of a building permit to the issuance of that permit.
- Lines 201-206 The Park Impact Payment was indexed to the construction cost index.
- Lines 219-200 Additional building height for MPDUs was limited to a mapped Height Incentive Area.
- Lines 229-233 Outside of the Height Incentive Area, a project with 17.5% MPDUs or more may get some relief from the Park Impact Payment requirement.
- Line 235 The relief from the Park Impact Payment for projects with 25% or more MPDUs was limited to the residential gross floor area of the project.
- Lines 269-273 The formula for granting public benefit points for Park Impact Payments was corrected.
- Line 313 The number of benefit points for minimum parking was increased to 20 points.
- Line 316 The number of points for Dwelling Unit Mix was increased to 30 points.
- Line 368 A map of the Height Incentive Area will be included (see page 2 of the staff report).



Site 2 – Viva White Oak Project

The Council is scheduled to receive a briefing on the Viva White Oak Project. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5033&meta_id=141285 .

Executive staff will provide an update on the progress of the Viva White Oak Project, including the developer's proposed sketch plan for the 280-acre site (see staff report ©1). Those expected to attend the meeting include:

- Ramona Bell-Pearson, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer;
- Greg Ossont, Deputy Director, Department of General Services; and
- Peter Fosselman, White Oak Science Gateway Implementation Coordinator.

The Council approved the Declaration of No Further Need for the disposition of Site II by Resolution 18-727 on February 14, 2017. During its early review of the material terms for the disposition of Site II, the Council requested this briefing prior to the developer submitting the sketch plan to the Planning Board. In addition, the County is hosting a pre-submittal meeting to receive comments from the community about the sketch plan on July 18, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the White Oak Community Recreation Center.



Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY18 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY17-22 Capital Improvements Program, Arts and Humanities: \$50,000 for Additional Funding for Public Arts Trust (Current Revenue)

The Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on a \$50,000 special appropriation for additional funding for the Public Arts Trust. The Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee recommends approval. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5033&meta_id=141293 .

The purpose of the Public Arts Trust is to incorporate art into public facilities and sponsor privately-funded temporary or permanent displays of art on public property. The FY18 Approved Capital Budget has \$190,000 in programmed expenditures and is funded by Current Revenue. The Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCMC) requested an additional \$50,000 for critical conservation and maintenance needs and to supplant and conserve the County's aging collection of works on paper.

 Supplemental appropriation to County Government's FY18 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY17-22 Capital Improvement Program, Department of General Services: \$570,000 for Judicial Center Annex (State Aid)

The Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on a special appropriation for \$570,000 for the Judicial Center Annex. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5033&meta_id=141295 .

The appropriation for this project will fund structural improvements to the Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library. This increase is needed to leverage outside funding for the completion of the renovations. The recommended amendment is consistent with the criteria for amending the CIP because this project leverages significant non-County resources.

 Rental Housing Study

The Council will receive a briefing on the Rental Housing Study. The following individuals are expected to attend the briefing:

- Kyle Talente, Principal, RKG Associates;
- Casey Anderson, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board;
- Clarence Snuggs, Director, Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs;
- Gwen Wright, Director, Montgomery County Planning Department;
- Jalal "Jay" Greene, Division Chief, Division of Housing, Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs;
- Carrie McCarthy, Chief, Research and Special Projects, Montgomery County Planning Department; and
- Lisa Govoni, Housing Planner, Montgomery County Planning Department.

With Council approval, the Planning Department's Research and Special Projects Division (RSP) coordinated with the County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) to conduct a rental housing study to assess how the County can best meet the needs of residents across the income spectrum. Study partners include DHCA, RKG Associates, and an Advisory Committee representing diverse perspectives from the public and private sectors. The full report can be viewed:

http://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/RHS_Strategy-Documents2.pdf .

The staff report can be viewed:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5033&meta_id=141297 .

- The economic trends of the County and the Washington metropolitan region have exacerbated the rental housing shortage. Providing the appropriate housing stock to meet the demand for affordable housing is a challenge. The purpose of the study is to identify the County's rental housing issues and needs and offer holistic and sustainable approaches to meeting them. The goal of the study is to help guarantee the long-term affordability of rental housing for a diverse range of households. The study provides recommendations, which begin on page 19, for increasing the availability of affordable rental housing by determining the factors that contribute to increased housing costs, identifying best practices to preserve and add to the affordable rental stock, and recommending potential changes to current policies and programs.

COMMITTEE

Bill 21-17, Animal Control- Municipal Dog Exercise Area

On July 17 at 10 a.m. the Public Safety (PS) Committee will review Bill 21-17. Councilmember Katz is the lead sponsor. Council President Berliner and Councilmembers Rice and Elrich are cosponsors. The staff report can be found at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5967&meta_id=141232.

Bill 21-17 would allow a dog to be off leash if it is in an area that a municipality has identified as a dog exercise area and would amend the definition of at-large animals.

Crime Statistics

The Committee will receive an update from the Police Department on crime statistics. Those expected to brief the Committee include:

- J. Thomas Manger, Chief, Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD);
- Darryl McSwain, Assistant Chief, MCPD;
- Darren Francke, Captain, Major Crimes Division, MCPD;
- Charles Carafano, Captain, Special Victims Investigations Division, MCPD;
- Michael Ward, Captain, Criminal Investigations Division, MCPD;
- Paul Liquorie, Captain, Special Investigations Division, MCPD; and
- Michael Wahl, Captain, Policy and Planning Division, MCPD.

The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5967&meta_id=141234

In 2016 the County saw a 5.6 percent reduction in Part I (serious) crimes. This is the second year that more serious crimes have decreased. The Police advise that 2016 crime rates are almost identical to those of 2013, which marked the lowest crime rates in the County in more than a decade. The Police Department will provide detailed statistics on crimes in the County, as well as closure rates, firearms recovery, mental health calls for service, and bias incidents.

Gang Activity

The Committee also will receive an update from the Police Department on gang activity. Those expected to brief the Committee include:

- J. Thomas Manger, Chief, MCPD;
- Robert Green, Director, Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (DOCR);
- John McCarthy, State's Attorney;
- Suzy Malagari, Warden, DOCR; and
- Paul Liquorie, Captain, Special Investigations Division, MCPD;
- Shelford Gilliam, Deputy Warden, DOCR; and
- Louis Le'Compte, Deputy Warden, DOCR.

The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5967&meta_id=141236.

Recently there have been several high-profile crimes that involve gang-related activity. The Police Department advises that gang activity constitutes a relatively small percentage of reported crime in the County; however, gang homicides have seen a significant increase. The State's Attorney's Office indicates that since mid-2015, half of the County's homicides have been gang-related. The Police Department reports that robberies also spiked last year, but have since returned to historical levels. Other gang-related crimes have remained fairly level since 2011.

- This update does not include a substantive discussion of prevention issues, which are generally addressed through the County's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Recreation. Staff from HHS will be able to answer any questions the Committee may have.

 **Supplemental Appropriation and CIP Amendment- Department of Recreation: \$6,582,000 for Wall Park Garage and Park Improvements (GO Bonds)**

On July 17 at 2 p.m. the Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee will review a supplemental appropriation for \$6,582,000 for the Wall Park garage and park improvements. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5968&meta_id=141261 .

The appropriation for this project will fund the relocation of surface parking from the Wall Park and Kennedy Shriver Aquatic Center (KSAC) to an adjacent parking garage on private property, as suggested by the White Flint Sector Plan. This increase is needed because the relocation of the surface parking to a parking garage will provide for an urban park with amenities in an area with significant multi-family residential development. This appropriation will facilitate development that will provide the opportunity for the County to obtain right-of-way through dedication from the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

- Upon completion of the garage project the County will own 30 percent of the parking spaces under a condominium regime that affords voting rights and ownership to the County for a specific portion of the garage.
- This recommended amendment is consistent with the criteria for amending the CIP because it offers the opportunity to achieve significant savings through a public private partnership that takes advantage of economies of scale, which will provide the parking garage at a lower cost than if the County had to build its own garage.

 **Rock Spring Master Plan**

The PHED Committee will continue reviewing the Rock Spring Master Plan. The staff report, which addresses property-specific recommendations and follow-up issues from the previous meeting, can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5968&meta_id=141240 .

The Rock Spring Master Plan, as submitted by the Planning Board, can be viewed at:

<http://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Planning-Board-Draft-Final.pdf> .

- Rock Spring is in North Bethesda. The Rock Spring Master Plan is bounded by I-270 to the north, Old Georgetown Road to the east, Democracy Boulevard to the south, and Westlake Drive to the west. The central portion of the 535-acre Rock Spring Master Plan area is a typical suburban office park with buildings that are widely dispersed, centered in large sites with sizeable setbacks, ample surface and garage parking, and substantial landscaping. West of the office park, across the I-270 spur, the area includes a large regional mall and other retail uses. East of the office park are two retail centers, a multi-family residential complex, and a public high school. Established residential neighborhoods surround the plan area.
- The proposed plan envisions Rock Spring as an employment center that includes new housing, where appropriate, with concentrations of retail at each end of the central spine. New development and redevelopment should focus activity along the proposed central spine. The Rock Spring Master Plan seeks to build on the goals of the previous plan and leverage the inherent strengths of the Rock Spring area through a measured, form-based approach by:
 - Establishing a redevelopment framework that provides greater amenity options and a mix of uses for companies and their employees, as well as residents, both in the short- and long-term.
 - Elevating the North Bethesda Transitway to a high-priority transit corridor.
 - Concentrating new activity, both public and private, along the central spine.
 - Enhancing connectivity between the Rock Spring Plan area and surrounding residential neighborhoods, adjacent parks, and nearby community facilities.
 - Creating linkages between existing trails and green spaces, and establishing new open spaces through redevelopment.

 **Special Appropriation – MCPS \$2,186,180 for Head Start Program Expansion (General Fund-Reserves)**

On July 17 at 2 p.m. the Education Committee will review a special appropriation to the FY18 Operating Budget to implement the Head Start program expansion. The Board of Education requested this appropriation on June 29. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5969&meta_id=141242.

As part of its final action on the FY18 budget, the Council supported the Executive's recommended appropriation for early childhood education services in both the County Government and MCPS budgets and took action to expand these services by appropriating an additional:

- \$2,186,180 to the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) budget to expand 10 MCPS Head Start classrooms from half-day to full-day programming;
- \$342,000 for community-based Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) services delivered by Centro Nia to accommodate an additional 40 three- and four-year-olds; and
- \$50,000 for higher education scholarships for child care providers to build a quality workforce to expand Pre-K services.

The additional funding to expand MCPS Head Start classrooms to full-day was appropriated to the DHHS budget since the Community Action Agency in DHHS is the recipient of federal Head Start funds. MCPS is the implementing agency for Head Start funds in the County, and it was the Council's intention that MCPS would implement the program expansion in conjunction with the existing Head Start programs. MCPS currently operates 34 Head Start classrooms, with 17 full school-day programs and 17 half-day programs. The additional funding will bring 27 of the 34 MCPS Head Start classes to full school-day programs, impacting 200 students. In preparing to implement the program expansion for the upcoming school year, MCPS has determined that it requires appropriation authority from the Council to spend these dollars. Thus, the Board of Education requested a supplemental appropriation of \$2,186,180 for the MCPS FY18 Operating Budget. The Board's request would not require the appropriation of any new dollars; instead, it would allow MCPS to receive and spend the additional Head Start dollars.

 **Executive Regulation 6-17, Childcare Regulations for Before and After School Childcare Programs in Public Schools**

On July 18 at 3 p.m. the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee and Education (ED) Committee will review and make recommendations on Executive Regulation 6-17. The proposed regulation implements Resolution No. 19-13, which was adopted by the Board of Education on January 8, 2013. Resolution No. 19-13 delegates the authority to schedule the before and after school child care programs in Montgomery County Public School facilities to the Interagency Coordinating Board for the Community Use of Public Facilities. The HHS and ED Committees met jointly on July 13 to review Executive Regulation 6-17. There was not a quorum present at this meeting, so committee recommendations were not made. The HHS Chair recommended reconvening to make recommendations on the proposed regulation. At the July 13 joint committee meeting, Councilmembers discussed how the attributes of quality child care have informed the CUPF selection process and how parents are educated about what quality child care looks like. The staff report, which includes responses to questions raised in the joint committee meeting, can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5033&meta_id=141299.

 **OLO Report 2017-8, Student Loan Refinancing Authority**

On July 20 at 9:30 a.m. the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee and the Education (ED) Committee will meet jointly to review OLO Report 2017-8. The full report can be viewed at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2017%20Reports/2017-8%20Report%20Student%20Loan%20Refinancing%20Authority.pdf>

According to OLO staff, student loan debt in the United States reached \$1.28 trillion in 2017, with 44.2 million residents having an average monthly payment of \$351. Refinancing a student loan can help borrowers by lowering interest rates or reducing the length of the loan period by lowering monthly payments and/or lowering the overall amount of repayment. Neither Maryland nor the County currently have a student loan refinancing authority.

- In 2016 the Maryland State legislature passed enabling legislation to allow the County to establish a Student Loan Refinancing Authority (SLRA). Before the County can establish a SLRA, the enabling legislation (House Bill 1079) requires the County to conduct a study that, among other things, examines feasibility and demand and studies the operations of similar refinancing authorities in other systems.
- The Council asked OLO to undertake the study by executing a feasibility and demand study, assessing potential benefits to recruitment and retention, and studying the operation of similar programs in other systems, including operating and startup costs.
- OLO's research shows that it would be feasible to establish a student loan refinancing authority in the County. Fully analyzing market demand in the County would require the determination of major program characteristics and a professional market study.
- Councilmember Hucker is working on legislation to create a Student Loan Refinancing Authority in the County.
- Timothy Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer, does not recommend that the Council pursue a Student Loan Refinancing Authority. His response to the OLO report can be found on pages 37-41.

 Declaration of No Further Need: Disposition of 9975 Medical Center Drive, Treatment and Learning Center (TLC)

On July 20 at 10:30 a.m., the GO Committee will review the declaration of no further need for 9975 Medical Center Drive, Treatment and Learning Center (TLC). The staff report will be available on July 18.

 Expedited Bill 25-17, Elections – Public Campaign Financing – Amendments

The GO Committee will review Expedited Bill 25-17. Councilmembers Navarro, Katz, Riemer, and Elrich are the lead sponsors. The staff report will be available on July 18.

In 2014 the Council enacted Bill 16-14, Elections – Public Campaign Financing, which established the first public campaign financing system in Maryland. The law designates the Maryland State Board of Elections to certify candidates and generally administer the public campaign financing system. The Director of Finance is responsible for establishing a Public Election Fund and distributing the public contributions to certified candidates. The Council has appropriated approximately \$11 million for the Public Election Fund.


- In June the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee received an update on the status of the public campaign finance system from David Crow, Department of Finance, and Jared DeMarinis, Director - Division of Candidacy and Campaign Finance for the State Board of Elections. The Committee discussed several issues that have arisen as the system goes through its initial election. The Committee decided to introduce legislation to resolve these outstanding issues for the 2018 election cycle. Expedited Bill 25-17 would resolve these issues.
- Expedited Bill 25-17 would:
 - permit a candidate to correct a mistake in an application for certification in a certain time;
 - clarify that a candidate may receive a matching public contribution during the general election for certain unmatched qualifying contributions received during the primary election; and
 - permit a candidate to use unspent funds returned to the County after an election as a credit against any repayment required for a public contribution mistakenly received.

 Executive Regulation 9-17, Telework

The GO Committee also will review Executive Regulation 9-17. The staff report will be available on July 18. The proposed regulation can be viewed at:

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/exec/Resources/Files/O9-17.pdf> .

The proposed regulation implements Bill 12-14, Personnel – Telecommuting – Amendments, which was enacted by the Council in 2014. Bill 12-14 was sponsored by Council President Berliner and Councilmembers Floreen, Riemer, Leventhal, Elrich and Navarro. It required the Executive to adopt a regulation to identify the circumstances under which a County employee may telecommute and establish procedures that a County employee must follow to obtain permission to telecommute.

 Expedited Bill 20-17, Taxicabs – Licenses

On July 20 at 9:30 a.m. the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (T&E) Committee will review Expedited Bill 20-17. Council President Berliner is the lead sponsor. The staff report will be available on July 18. Expedited Bill 20-17 would provide that any applicants approved for issuance of a taxicab license, under Section 3 of Chapter 39 of the Laws of Montgomery County 2015, must be issued a license if the applicant:

- ✓ notifies the Department of Transportation of its intention to place a vehicle in service under this Section;
 - ✓ is a qualified applicant under Chapter 53; and
 - ✓ places a taxicab in service no later than January 31, 2019.
- In 2015 the Council enacted Expedited Bill 53-14, Taxicabs – Licenses – Vehicle Requirements – Driver Identification Cards. The law substantially revised the County's regulation of the taxicab industry. One of the objectives of the law was to increase the number of accessible taxicabs serving County residents by specifically providing for the issuance of additional licenses for accessible taxicabs and requiring a plan to increase the number of accessible taxicabs Countywide.
 - In addition to requiring a plan to increase the number of accessible taxicabs in the County, the law required the issuance of 100 new taxicab licenses, as follows:
 - ✓ 25 to individuals who do not hold a license under this Chapter, and of these, eight must be for accessible vehicles;
 - ✓ 25 to fleets that hold fewer than 100 licenses, and of these, eight must be for accessible vehicles; and
 - ✓ 50 accessible vehicle licenses to a driver-owned cooperative fleet that the Director determines is a qualified applicant under Chapter 53.
 - Of these licenses, many were approved for issuance but never issued because taxicab vehicles were not placed in service. Thus, the number of accessible taxicabs operating in the County has not increased since the enactment of the 2015 law.

 Executive Regulation 1-17, Transportation Services Improvement Fund

The Committee also will review Executive Regulation 1-17, which establishes the procedures for disbursing funds from the Transportation Services Improvement Fund. The proposed resolution can be viewed at: <http://montgomerycountymd.gov/exec/Resources/Files/1-17.pdf> .

The purpose of this regulation is to provide guidance for distributing funds to taxicab owners and operators to offset the increased costs of owning and operating accessible vehicles and to provide incentives for improving or expanding transportation options for seniors and persons with limited income. This proposed regulation establishes procedures under which an eligible person may apply for these funds.

 Amendments to Ten-Year Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan: Creation of the South Overlea Drive Special Sewer Service Area and Associated Category Changes

The T&E Committee will continue its review the creation of the South Overlea Drive Special Sewer Service Area and associated category changes. The staff report will be available on July 18.

- On April 27 the Executive transmitted his recommendation to create a special sewer service area along Overlea Drive in the Glen Hills area of Potomac. In total, 24 lots were reviewed.
- The recommended special sewer service area includes 16 of the lots reviewed of which 13 are recommended for sewer category changes from S-6 to S-3 (restricted to single sewer hookups only). Three others already have S-1 or S-3 designations. Two other properties not in the special sewer service area are recommended for category S-1 corrections since they have existing sewer service. The requests and recommendations will be summarized in the Council staff report.



Resolution to Approve the 2017-2026 Ten-Year Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan

The Committee also will continue its review of the Executive's Recommended 2017-2026 Ten-Year Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan. The staff report will be available on July 18. The last comprehensive revision to this plan was approved by the Council in November 2003. A summary of the major changes proposed is included in the Council staff report from the June 22 Committee meeting, which can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view_id=169&clip_id=13486&meta_id=140240 .

The primary focus of this comprehensive review is in Chapter One of the Plan, which covers Objectives and Policies. Both the Approved 2003-12 Plan and Recommended 2017-2026 Plan can be viewed at:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/supply/county-water-plan.html> .



Safe Routes to School Program

On July 20 at 2 p.m. the ED and T&E Committees will review the County's Safe Routes to School Program. The staff report will be available on July 18. The following individuals are expected to attend the meeting:

- Venu Nemani, Chief, DOT Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations;
- Captain Thomas Didone, Director, MCPD Traffic Division; and
- Todd Watkins, Director, MCPS Department of Transportation.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national model for making walking and bicycling to school safer and more accessible for children and for increasing the number of children who choose to walk or bicycle. The County initiated its SRTS program in 2004. In October 2016, the Council received and released Office of Legislative Oversight Report 2017-1, Impact of Montgomery County's Safe Routes to School Program. In December 2016, the Council received a briefing on the OLO report. OLO found that traffic engineering improvements in areas around schools made as part of the County's SRTS program may have reduced pedestrian and bicycle collisions near schools, though this impact may not persist in the long term. The purpose of the joint Committee meeting is to get an update on the progress of the SRTS program since the release of the OLO report.