

**Draft Summary of May 5, 2016 MEETING of the PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE and TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
Executive Office Building, 9th Floor Conference Room**

Members Present: Ramin Assa; Drew Morrison (representing Councilmember Roger Berliner); George Branyan; Marybeth Cleveland; Kristy Daphnis, Vice Chair; Capt. Thomas Didone, MCPD; Darrel Droblich, Chair; Steve Friedman, Bicycle Advocate; Angel Garcia-Ablanque, MCPS; Wendy Leibowitz; Jeremy Martin, Rockville/Municipal League; Dave Murnan (representing Anyesha Mookherjee, MSHA); Aaron Zimmerman, MNCPPC; Emil Wolanin (representing Al Roshdieh, MCDOT).

Members Absent: Roger Berliner, Councilmember; Leah Walton; Al Roshdieh, MCDOT; Reemberto Rodriguez, SSRSC; Colleen Mitchel.

County Staff: Jeff Dunckel, MCDOT; Nadji Kirby, MCDOT; Mark Terry, MCDOT; Mike Subin, CE.

Guests: Mike Sabol, MHSO; John Wetmore, Perils for Pedestrians; Cindy Buddington; Heidi Coleman, NHTSA; John Nuckols, Edmund Nussear, Sarah Gotbaum, MC Women's Aging Alliance.

PBTSAC Committee Business:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Darrel Droblich at 7:05pm. The next meeting will be held on June 2.

Update on Town Hall Meeting with County Executive (Darrel Droblich)

Darrel Droblich, Jeff Dunckel, Al Roshdieh, and Fred Lees attended The Town Hall meeting on March 31. Darrel reported that pedestrian safety was an issue of concern to several of the committees attending the County Executive's meeting. Darrel would like to invite the committees to participate in future meetings and has already accepted an invitation to participate in one meeting about pedestrian safety issues. Darrel stressed his appreciation to the County Executive for his support of the Vision Zero Resolution that was recently passed by the County Council and reminded Mr. Leggett of his past support of the idea of a Pedestrian Master Plan being undertaken by Parks and Planning. Darrel also thanked Mr. Leggett for supporting the updating of the Bikeways Master Plan and commented that the process was going very well.

Action Item: Darrel will follow up with other the leadership of other committees regarding common concerns.

Review of Summary from February Meeting

It was suggested that the bullet point, "the time it took to clear sidewalks seemed excessive" should be included in the February meeting summary discussion about snow removal. Jeff Dunckel agreed to review the recording of the meeting to determine if additional comments could be added to the summary discussion on snow removal. A motion was made and the February meeting summary was approved with the amendment that the snow discussion would be expanded in the summary to include additional comments from committee members.

Update on Committee Member Vacancies: Selection Committee (Jeff Dunckel)

There were 15 applicants and 11 were interviewed in December by Jeff, Darrel, Kristy Daphnis and Ramin Assa. A memo with recommended candidates has been sent to the County Executive and County Council. The new appointees are expected to start in June. There will be a new bicycle advocate to

replace Steve Friedman and Kristy Daphnis has been appointed by Darrel Droblich as vice chair to replace Colleen Mitchell.

Presentation: Maryland's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) (Mike Sabol)

The mission of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is to achieve zero deaths on Maryland highways. The intermediate goal is to cut fatalities down to 387 and serious injuries down to 2,939 by 2020. The 2016-2020 SHSP was developed over the last two years. The creation of the plan began at the Highway Safety Summit in 2014. Summit guests included key stakeholders who comprise the four E's of traffic safety - Enforcement, Engineering, Education, and Emergency Medical Services.

Six emphasis areas of the plan are: aggressive driving, distracted driving, occupant protection, pedestrians and bicyclists, highway infrastructure, and impaired driving.

The target group includes children, young drivers, high risk (21-34), older drivers, peds & cyclists, motorcyclists, and trucks/buses.

Strategies are broad enough so they can encompass strategies within SHA improvement plan and commercial vehicle safety plan.

To accomplish safety goals for the Pedestrian and Bicyclists Emphasis Area, the following strategies will be implemented:

- 1) Identify and target pedestrian and bicycle safety issues, populations and locations of concern through the collection, analysis and evaluation of data and information.
- 2) Promote safe behaviors of all road users appropriate for the environment through education and enforcement initiatives.
- 3) Create and improve roadway environments for safe walking and bicycling through implementation of engineering treatments, land use planning, and system-wide countermeasures.
- 4) Create and improve pedestrian and bicycle safety culture in Maryland including the promotion and implementation of legislation and training of professionals and stakeholders about best safety practices.
- 5) Develop, apply, and promote technological approaches, including those in vehicles and emergency response equipment, in order to better prevent and reduce the severity of collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists.
- 6) Identify and promote safe driving and pedestrian behaviors for all motorists and public safety professionals at the scene of emergency events.

Each strategy has up to 20 action steps to implement the strategy. The executive committee of the SHSP oversees the implementation of the action steps. Meetings are held quarterly and committee chairs report on their action steps. Performance measures are also being developed.

Darrel Droblich started a discussion about retesting drivers periodically throughout their lives by a paper or online test. It was stated that periodic testing is not done because the MVA wouldn't be able to handle the work load. The MVA is not judged on safety measures but on wait times and perceptions on customer service.

Action Item: Jeff and Darrel will follow up with Peter Moe regarding state testing requirements and if there are opportunities to get periodic refresher testing.

Discussion: Update on Vision Zero (Capt. Thomas Didone, Drew Morrison, Emil Wolanin)

The Vision Zero resolution passed in February. Emil Wolanin reported that the Chief Administrative Officer will assign someone from of the County Executive's Office to lead the Vision Zero effort and will organize a county-wide kick off meeting. MCPD and MCDOT will play significant roles. The Vision Zero plan will be reviewed by the PBTSAC committee, County Council, and the public. There was discussion that Mike Subin might be leading the effort from the CE's office.

Discussion: Recommended FY17 Operating and Capital Budget for Ped. Safety Initiative Programs (Emil Wolanin, Jeff Dunckel)

Emil Wolanin stated that Al Roshdieh made the commitment that there would be no cuts to any safety programs and that the current draft budget reflects that commitment. County Council's T&E Committee added an item to the Reconciliation List that the Bicycle Pedestrian Priority Areas (BiPPA) CIP be increased by \$1.5 million for a total of \$2.5 million. Final decision is pending the Council Reconciliation process. The BiPPA program money will be spent on BiPPA's already identified. High Purple Line costs will require cuts and delays to infrastructure projects but safety programs have been left untouched. Funding will not be put towards Vision Zero until a plan is developed. Funding has not been identified for developing the Vision Zero plan.

The Metropolitan Branch Trail will be constructed (Silver Spring to Union Station) by FY19. The Silver Spring Green Trail and completion of Capital Crescent Trail will be funded by the Purple Line project.

Councilmember Reimer is pushing forward with the snow map for sidewalks without asking for additional funding.

How to Affect State Collaboration

Follow up on Day of Action Event (Drew Morrison)

Short-term work such as restriping crosswalks and concrete work have been accomplished or are in the queue. Long-term work such as the Massachusetts Safety Study is happening now. Chairman Droblich asked Drew if there was a response from the state to Councilmember Berliner's letter regarding River Road and Massachusetts and if we are seeing better cooperation from the State about the County's concerns. Drew stated that there continues to be good cooperation from the local regional office, but we will have to wait and see if things continue to improve in Annapolis.

Update on State Legislation (Drew Morrison, Capt. Tom Didone)

Noah's Law passed (the interlock bill). The interlock bill will require drivers to blow into an ignition interlock in order to start the car. Only drivers who blow a .00 will be able to start the car. Over a two-year period, 49 officers were struck by drunk drivers. If you are arrested for a drunk driving offense and blow a .08 – .14 your license will be suspended for 180 days or you can opt-in for an interlock machine. If you blow a .15 or more you have 270-day suspension or 1-year interlock option. If you refuse to take

the breathalyzer test you will get a 270 suspension or opt-in for a 1-year interlock. Repeat DUI offenders will be required to use an interlock for 6 months – 2 years. Jail time was increased for DUI incidents resulting in a death. The adult responsibility bill was passed but Captain Tom Didone believes it's too restrictive and won't be enforceable. Only parents who host house parties where an underage person drives a car and kills someone will be receive a one-year jail sentence. It must also be prove that the homeowner knew the underage person would be driving. The "all occupancy seatbelt" bill and the "must appear" bill did not pass and never got out of committee. The governor will sign the passed bills on May 19th.

Action Item: Committee members to work with Capt. Didone to strategize to advance the "must appear" bill in the next legislative session.

State Road Fatalities – Ped/Bike Fatalities (Capt. Thomas Didone)

There have been three pedestrian fatalities in Montgomery County this year. MCPD is putting pictures and short summaries together for each pedestrian fatality. The protocol is being developed so that these can be put on the MCPD website in the future. The latest pedestrian fatality happened on April 30 on Gude Drive. The pedestrian was a resident of the Gude Men's Shelter and was in a wheelchair crossing Gude Drive. It is unknown if the pedestrian used the hawk signal while crossing.

In the recent traffic fatalities on River Road, speed was determined to be a factor. Making that area a school zone and putting in a speed camera are under consideration.

High schools are not usually given "school zone" status, so they are not provided with speed cameras.

State Designations/Nominations for Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas (Aaron Zimmerman)

Applications have been completed for 31 BiPPA areas and submitted to SHA. A decision will be made by August 5th.

Program Updates

Montgomery County Bicycle Master Plan (Aaron Zimmerman)

A technical advisory committee and citizen's advisory committee has been created that meets regularly. David Anspacher is submitting a methodology planning report in July. Bicycle heat maps are being used to prioritize corridors for improvements. Bicycle Demand Map –

http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/transportation/bikeways/bicycle_demand_map.shtm

Action Item: Darrel Droblich will follow up with David Anspacher to find out if an invite was made to MCDOT to join the bicycle master plan committee? (Darrel Droblich)

School Education (Nadji Kirby)

Several bike rodeos have been held with over 200 kids served. Safe Kids Day was held in partnership with YMCA Youth & Family.

New website <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-pedsafety/srts/home.html>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mocosrts/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MOCOSRTS>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MOCOSRTS/>

Update on School Bus Camera Program (Capt. Thomas Didone)

The school bus camera program will go in front of the school board on May 9th. \$250,000 of funding has already been approved.

Bicycle Safety Materials from SHA for Bicycle Shops (Jeff Dunckel)

MCDOT is working with the state to secure the brochures.

586/Turkey Branch

Overhead flashing beacons were installed at 586/Turkey Branch at the crosswalk. If you press the button it will flash yellow.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41pm