

**DRAFT SUMMARY OF July 11, 2013 MEETING of the
PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE, and TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Executive Office Building, 9th Floor Conference Room

7:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Members Present: David Anspacher, MNCPPC ; Ramin Assa; Cpt. Tom Didone, MCPD; Darrel Droblich; Benjamin Fulton (representing Councilmember Valerie Ervin); Steve Friedman; Angel Garcia-Ablanque, MCPS; Arthur Holmes Jr., MCDOT; Erwin Mack, Chair; Colleen Mitchell, Vice Chair; Anyesha Mookherjee, MSHA; Alyce Ortuzar; Reemberto Rodriguez, SSRSC;

Members Absent: John Hall; Alan Migdall; Jack Strausman; David Sharp; Councilmember Valerie Ervin

County Staff: Gary Erenrich, MCDOT; Anne Root, MCDOT; Andrew Bossi, MCDOT; Dan Sanayi, MCDOT; Emil Wolanin, MCDOT; Patricia Shepherd, MCDOT; Jeff Dunckel, MCDOT (Pedestrian Safety Coordinator); Nadji Kirby, MCDOT; Michael Subin, County Executive's Office; Andrew Bossi, MCDOT; Fred Lees, MCDOT; Tom Pogue, MCDOT

Guests: Michael Sabol, MHSO; Peggy Dennis, WMC/CAB; Mike Madden, MTA; Liliana Pena Rodriguez, PURPLE LINE; Jeremy Martin, resident; John Wetmore, Pedestrian.org; Kate Elkins, MVA-MHSO; Kristen Blackman, BUP/BTS; Peggy Schwartz, NBTMD; Karen Cordry, KHCA;

Chairman Erwin Mack called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

1) PBTSAC Committee Business:

Erwin Mack, Chair

Welcome and Introductions: Started with introducing Patricia Shepherd and other guests at the meeting.

Purpose of Tonight's Meeting – To review status of past action items and to receive a briefing on the planned Purple Line light rail project.

MOTION:

Review of Meeting Summary from May – Approval/Changes - The summary of the May meeting was introduced.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the May Meeting Summary; it was approved unanimously.

Update on Reappointments (Dunckel, Subin) – Board vacancies were posted last month; with acceptance of applications closing on June 28. There were 11 applicants, including four current members who were eligible and applied for reappointment. A revised version of the current membership list was distributed for the committee's review for accuracy. Concern was raised that certain positions on the PBTSAC might not be filled by the September meeting. It was clarified that any member currently serving in a position will continue to serve until the County Council approves recommended candidates for that position. The concerns that were brought up at the May meeting have been passed on to the County Executive's staff, so they are aware of the PBTSAC's desire for timely filling of positions by either incumbents or new members.

Pedestrian Collision Data (Didone) – Cpt. Didone stated the preliminary data shows we are exceeding last year’s totals; there have been 11 pedestrian fatalities to date this year. There were 6 pedestrian fatalities in 2012. Total vehicular crashes are overall about the same as last year, so now a higher percentage of all traffic crashes are now pedestrian; pedestrian crashes comprise just 3% of all County vehicular crashes. MCPD handed out a summary of fatalities for the first 6 months of 2013 with a summary of all crashes that happened in the County.

Awards and Recognitions (Dunckel) – Recognized Erwin Mack, who received the William Donald Schaefer “Helping People” Award, issued by Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot, and Steve Friedman, who received the NIH Carl Henn Award on Bike-to-Work Day.

2) Issue of Lighting (Wolanin) – Follow up to Delegate Carr’s presentation at the May meeting. Emil Wolanin from MCDOT’s Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations reviewed the street lighting program and future plans. Emil Wolanin will make sure 311 has PEPCO’s phone number to give out to callers reporting problems with lighting.

3) Follow-up on January Bicycle Meeting

Steve Friedman

- Issues Raised in January and Any Action Items: Steve Friedman presented a follow up to the May meeting, which was a follow up to the January meeting on bicycle issues. He thanked MCDOT for their time and efforts. He reviewed the 5 recommendations that were presented at the May meeting (and sent in a separate email message to MCDOT), and the MCDOT responses to the issues.

Develop Bike Safety Education Campaign (Root) – Anne Root spoke about the Bikeshare program. There is a small amount of money in Bikeshare for marketing and safety education (about \$50,000 per year). The funds are being used to promote safe bicycle riding, lower income riders getting access to Bikeshare, and safety classes in general. Anne Root spoke about the helmet that is being offered to participants for \$16 each. A discussion ensued on educating motorists about bike safety.

MCPD bike patrols use streets (Didone) – At the May meeting the PBTSAC asked that police bike patrols ride on the streets rather than sidewalks. Officers are sympathetic, but their role is to be in areas that can’t be reached by cars. The bicycle officers have agreed to encourage safe bicycling and encourage the safe use of streets within the department’s prime mission to go where the cars can’t go. Captain Didone has asked other officers to start fining motorists who are breaking the law regarding bicycles. He continues to educate the officers to get them on board.

Improve bicycle infrastructure (Shepherd, Lees) – Fred Lees summarized a two-prong approach – first developing signage for the Bikeshare routes – under way right now; second reviewing routes that have been tentatively identified by Bikeshare as priorities to see what needs to be done to physically improve these routes for bicycles. The focus is primarily on Bikeshare routes, not just bicycles in general. A bike lane might not be the best plan for all roads. Traffic Engineering is reviewing all options.

Adherence to Master Plan (Shepherd, Mookherjee) – The County works to make sure that all contractors are following the Master Plan. The Master Plan states what facilities are to be provided on the roadways. All road projects must conform to the Master Plan. This includes private development. For the State, all projects start with the State Master Plan. There are places where they can’t accommodate bikes. The State has had problems with contractors not knowing how to mark roads for bikes when implementing repaving projects. If a bike lane won’t fit on the roadway, they will put shadow signs and marking on the roadway. The State is getting a lot of requests from Bike riders about needing to clean the road surfaces.

Repeat 2011 Ride-along (Dunckel) – Jeff Dunckel reported MWCOG is sponsoring a Ride-along with DDOT and WABA for August 22, 2013 at 9:00 am leaving Union Station. They are looking forward to robust participation from the County. Bikes can't go on the Metro to Union Station until after rush hour. Jeff Dunckel stated MCDOT will explore setting up transportation for bikes (maybe getting a trailer) like was done in 2011. Anne Root said there is no money in Bikeshare for this; resources other than Bikeshare or Bikeshare's budget will be needed. Jeff Dunckel will keep the committee informed of this event as it is planned by MWCOG, DDOT, and WABA.

4) Issues of the Disabilities Community:

Pedestrian Road Crossings - Follow-up on March Meeting

Colleen Mitchell

- Update on action items from March Minutes
- Montgomery County Pedestrian Master Plan
- Unfinished Issues for September?

Chairman Mack - Advised that this topic was moved to the September Meeting so there is more time to present.

5) Committee's Budget Recommendations for Ped Safety in FY15

Darrel Droblich

- Review of FY14 Approved Budget for Ped Safety – Jeff Dunckel reviewed tables of the Council-approved Pedestrian Safety Initiative budgets since 2010 and overall County spending on pedestrian-oriented projects. The Initiative-related table included the current budget for FY14. There was a slight increase in funding this year: MCDOT received \$100,000 for a high school outreach program, and PIO received additional funds for pedestrian safety education for parking lots. The Pedestrian Safety Initiative now has \$404,295 for pedestrian safety education in FY14. Otherwise, funding is virtually the same. MCPD spent \$100,000 last year out for enforcement activities.

6) Review of Purple Line (5)

Michael Madden

Michael Madden gave a presentation on the Purple Line. It will extend from new Carrollton to Bethesda, running through College Park and the Takoma Langley community. There will be 21 stations. This is a light rail system that will connect with other transportation hubs. It's a 16 mile project, and will be built at one time. Funding is shared equally between Federal and State. Construction is expected to begin in 2015, with the system operational by 2020. All the stations will be clearly marked as Purple Line Stations. Michael Madden explained various design issues that MDOT has been addressing in moving the project forward.

7) New Business/Comments

Committee

- Discussion ensued on PBTSAC Priorities related to issues pertaining to the disabled community, including the need for more and better marked crosswalks. Chairman Mack advised that the issue of access during construction will be discussed in September.
- Ben Fulton announced that the full County Council will be reviewing the pedestrian safety program on September 24. He referred to the three memorandums from the Council that were included in the meeting packet. The PBTSAC is invited to participate in the presentation and discussion.

The next meeting will be held on September 12 due to Rosh Hashanah occurring on September 5.

8) Adjourn – Chair Erwin Mack adjourned the meeting at 9:28 pm.