

**PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE and TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Draft Summary of February 4, 2015 Meeting**  
**Executive Office Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Members Present:** Ramin Assa; Drew Morrison (representing Councilmember Roger Berliner); George Branyan; Marybeth Cleveland; Kristy Daphnis; Capt. Thomas Didone, MCPD; Darrel Droblich, Chair; Steve Friedman, Bicycle Advocate; Angel Garcia-Ablanque, MCPS; Wendy Leibowitz; Jeremy Martin, Rockville/Municipal League; Anyesha Mookherjee, MSHA; Richard Bingham (representing Reemberto Rodriguez), Silver Spring Regional Services Center; Al Roshdieh, MCDOT; Leah Walton; Emil Wolanin, Larry Cole, MNCPPC (representing David Anspacher).

**Members Absent:** Colleen Mitchell, Vice-chair; Roger Berliner, Councilmember.

**County Staff:** Jeff Dunckel, MCDOT; Nadji Kirby, MCDOT; Michael Subin, CEX; Mark Terry, MCDOT; Tom Autrey, MNCPPC.

**Guests:** Peggy Dennis, WMCCAB; John Wetmore, Perils for Pedestrians; Cindy Labon; Sean Brennan, Aging and Disability Services; Jon Morrison, MBPAC; Sean Emerson, Action Committee for Transit.

**PBTSAC Committee Business:**

Chair Darrel Droblich called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. The next meeting will be held on April 7th. The November meeting summary was approved.

**Interviews for Community Member Vacancies (Darrel Droblich and Jeff Dunckel)**

Interviews were held in December. A memo with recommended candidates has been sent to the County Executive and County Council. The new appointees are expected to start in April. There will be a new bicycle advocate to replace Steve Friedman and a new vice chair to replace Colleen Mitchell.

**Review of Draft Annual Report Outline (Darrel Droblich)**

Darrel provided the draft annual report to the committee the week of 2/1. Darrel would like to give the committee members a week to review the report and provide feedback. Darrell forwarded a motion to provisionally approve the report for the time being. If no major changes are made, the annual report will be finalized and approved. If there are significant changes, Darrel will send the report to the committee via email. The motion to provisionally approve the annual report was approved.

**ACTION:** Darrel Droblich asked the Committee to email any feedback to him within one week.

**Committee Discussion: Response to Snow Event**

Darrel had an overall positive experience in regards to the recent snowstorm. Pepco did a good job of keeping the power on and snowplows came within a reasonable time. Darrel was informed that 311 was providing incorrect or inaccurate information and provided feedback to Leslie Hamm.

Al Roshdieh provided a briefing on the County's snow response. Al has lived in Montgomery County for 41 years and has been managing the County's snow response for the last 15 years. This was a significant snowstorm for the County. North Potomac's snow total was 38 inches, which was the third highest snowfall amount on the East Coast. Highway services did an outstanding job. During Snowmageddon people were stuck in their homes for many days. During this snowstorm, the plows arrived as early as Sunday in some areas and as late as Tuesday in others.

Al believes the County needs to do better on communication. The snow map (<http://www7.montgomerycountymd.gov/snowmap/>) was not designed for large snow events. People were seeing the same message, “we are in progress in your neighborhood,” on the website for two days. The snow map provides information based on route and not by street. Some routes may be up to 39 miles long.

For the first time, MCDOT cleared the snow at bus shelters that have over 40 riders per day. This affected 70% of Ride On users. MCDOT also cleared many miles of sidewalk where there were no adjacent property owners. The priority is not just to clear the roads but also to make sure bicyclists and transit riders are safe. On February 9th MCDOT is giving a briefing about snow removal to the County Council.

Montgomery County was the only jurisdiction that pre-treated the road before the two-inch snowfall on Wednesday, January 20. The problem is, when you have snow during rush hour the treatment trucks can't do anything.

Kristy Daphnis did not have a positive experience. The plows didn't come to her neighborhood until Wednesday morning and then that plow hit a fire hydrant. The water from the fire hydrant created a lot of mud and cars were getting stuck in it. She felt the communication from the County was poor. The website says to call 311 and 311 says to look at the website. The County should do a better job of letting people know to park on one side of the street or park in County lots. She saw a man in a wheelchair on Georgia Avenue trying to navigate his way down the street and it was very dangerous.

There were 350-360 county employees, 1100 pieces of equipment, and 77 contractual firms engaged by MCDOT to remove snow.

### **Discussion: What is Vision Zero and Should We Adopt It in Montgomery County?**

#### **Overview of County Council Vision Zero Resolution (Drew Morrison)**

The County Council has passed a Vision Zero resolution and has set up a working group to develop an Action Plan. The Action Plan will include: (a) a date by which to achieve zero deaths, (b) a set of activities that County agencies will take to implement the Action Plan, (c) a set of recommended policy changes at the state and local level. The workgroup will include members of the Police Department, Department of Transportation, Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, and the State Highway Administration. PBTSAC and the public will also be given the chance to comment on the draft plan. See the resolution here ([http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov//DOT-PedSafety/Resources/Files/PBTSAC/05\\_Council\\_VisionZeroPacket.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov//DOT-PedSafety/Resources/Files/PBTSAC/05_Council_VisionZeroPacket.pdf))

#### **Overview of Vision Zero (Wendy Leibowitz and Sean Emerson)**

Vision Zero is an international movement to put an end to fatal traffic crashes that relies on data-driven approaches to improve engineering of roads, to conduct targeted education and enforcement, and to change laws to improve driver behavior and increase penalties for dangerous conduct on the roads. The timeline to reach these goals is usually within ten years. An example of something Vision Zero could explore would be Ride On bus mirrors. Making small changes to the mirror could allow drivers to see better and save pedestrian lives. See the PowerPoint presentation for further information.

### **Vision Zero in Washington DC (George Branyan)**

To create the DC Action Plan, they met with DC agencies to create recommendations for each workgroup (Data, Enforcement, Education, and Engineering). Agencies included the Department of Transportation and Police and many others, including the Office of Planning and Department of Housing. To establish priorities, DC conducted a survey that was distributed at public outreach events in all eight wards. There were also websites and maps available online for citizens to provide comments. Citizens were also encouraged to evaluate data and provide their analysis. The DC Vision Zero Action Plan will introduce new legislation and regulations such as distracted driving penalties, higher speeding fines, and reduced speeds. There is a \$500K implementation fund, which will be used for truck and bus education, disability rights, and bike education. See the entire PowerPoint presentation here ([http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov//DOT-PedSafety/Resources/Files/PBTSAC/08\\_DC\\_Vision\\_Zero-GeorgeBranyan.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov//DOT-PedSafety/Resources/Files/PBTSAC/08_DC_Vision_Zero-GeorgeBranyan.pdf))

### **Vision Zero on National Level (Leah Walton)**

Toward Zero Deaths is the National Strategy working towards a highway system free of fatalities. The Toward Zero Deaths approach targets areas for improvement and employs proven countermeasures, integrating application of education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency medical and trauma services.

Ten cities have launched the Vision Zero Network. The program allows these cities to share what they have learned with other areas interested in Vision Zero. The website [visionzernetwork.org](http://visionzernetwork.org) will operate as a clearinghouse of best practices for all communities looking to advance Vision Zero.

At the next meeting, MD Highway Safety Office will present to the Committee and provide the approved Strategic Highway Safety Plan. The Plan is complimentary to Vision Zero.

### **MOTION: in Support of County Council Resolution**

Motion was made that the PBTSAC commends the County Council and supports the resolution to adopt Vision Zero in Montgomery County and urges the state of Maryland to adopt Vision Zero. The motion was approved.

### **How to Affect State Collaboration**

#### **Day of Action (Drew Morrison)**

Anyesha Mookherjee (MSHA) and Christopher Bishop (District 3) provided their recommendations for River Road and Massachusetts Avenue corridors. They recommended intense traffic studies, restriping of cross walks, traffic signal upgrades, and fixing sidewalk design issues. Some of these improvements are already underway.

#### **Important State Legislation in the Works (Jon Morrison and Capt. Thomas Didone)**

1) Currently, under Maryland law, the maximum sentence for homicide by motor vehicle while under the influence or intoxicated is five years. Often, people receive 1-3 years. Delegate Demas and Senator Raskin are proposing new legislation that would increase the sentence to up to 15 years.

2) Interlock legislation (Noah's Law) would mandate second time DUI offenders to use an ignition interlock device before driving.

3) To deter parent's from hosting underage drinking parties, new legislation would raise the penalty from a fine to jail time. A parent hosts an underage drinking party at least once a week in Montgomery County.

4) Maryland is one of the few states that does not have a dram shop law. Maryland cannot hold businesses accountable that over serve alcohol. Legislation is being proposed that would allow Maryland citizens to bring civil lawsuits to businesses that over serve alcohol.

5) Legislation is being proposed that would mandate that a person has to go to court if their negligent driving causes the death of another person. This allows the victim's family to make a victim impact statement.

Darrel Droblich moved that the Committee support the draft legislation and get approval from the Office of Intergovernmental Relations. If approval is received, the Committee will make that support known to the state legislation. The motion was approved.

**ACTION: Darrel Droblich will draft the motion and request to the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.**

Bicycle Legislation

1) The three-foot law would be enhanced. It would remove the "road is too narrow" exception and it would require drivers to pass at a safe speed. (Bill 214)

2) The bill would relieve the language that requires mandatory use of the existing bike lanes. (Bill 426)

**MOTION:** Darrel Droblich moved that the Committee support 214 and 426 legislation and get approval from the Office of Intergovernmental Relations. If approval is received, the Committee will make that support known to the state legislation. Ramin Assa and Drew Morrison abstained. The motion passed.

**ACTION: Darrel Droblich will draft the motion and request to the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.**

Please see the legislation handout for further information.

#### **State Road Fatalities (Capt. Thomas Didone)**

There were eight pedestrian fatalities and two bicycle fatalities in 2015 on state roads. To deter mid-block crossing near 355/Gunners Branch it is suggested that lighting is enhanced and fences are erected in the median. Overhead flashing beacons are being installed over the crosswalk on Turkey Branch/Viers Mill to bring more attention to the pedestrian crossing.

#### **Program Updates**

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

Verbal approval has been given to install cameras on all buses.

##### **Other Updates**

Kristy Daphnis will be the new Vice-Chair of the PBTSAC.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:33pm**