

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR July 5, 2012 MEETING of the
PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE AND TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Executive Office Building, 9th Floor Conference Room
7:00 pm to 9:30 pm**

Member Present: Erwin Mack, Chair; David Anspacher; Ramin Assa; Jeff Dunckel, Pedestrian Safety Coordinator; Steve Friedman; Peter Moe; Alyce Ortuzar; Reemberto Rodriguez, Richard Romer (representing Councilmember Valerie Ervin); David Sharp; Jack Strausman

Members Absent: Cpt. Thomas Didone; Darrel Droblich; Valerie Ervin; Angel Garcia-Ablanque, MCPS; John Hall; Arthur Holmes, Jr., Director, MCDOT; Alan Migdall; Colleen Mitchell

County Staff: William Haynes, MCDOT; Michael Subin, CEX; Nadji Kirby, MCDOT; Bill Selby, MCDOT; Tom Pogue, MCDOT; Linsey Bryant, MCDOT

Guests: Peggy Dennis, WMCCAB; Ben Fulton, Councilmember Valerie Ervin's Office

Chairman, Erwin Mack called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Jack Strausman, PEPCO, discussed and updated the committee on the work Pepco has been doing since the June 29, 2012, storm that ripped through Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Bill Selby also updated the committee on MCDOT's status (road closures, signal outages, etc.)

1. PBTSAC Committee Business:

Richard Romer introduced Benjamin Fulton, Community Liaison for Valerie Ervin's office.

The minutes from the May meeting were introduced. A few minor changes were noted.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the May 2012, minutes; approved unanimously.

Chairman Mack presented Steve Friedman with a letter of recognition on his appointment as PBTSAC's official bicycle representative.

Committee Appointments/Reappointments: Colleen Mitchell and Steve Friedman are due for reappointment to PBTSAC. The committee will send a letter/email to the County Executive office proposing their reappointments. John Hall, who was filling in for John Britton, is also up for reappointment. Jeff Dunckel informed the committee that a solicitation for future PBTSAC members was sent out last week.

Pedestrian/Bicycle Collisions and Fatalities: 2011 Data: Jeff Dunckel reviewed the 2011 Bicycle Collisions Report in Cpt. Didone's absence. It shows an increase in collisions for the past two years; however this may have to do with an increase in ridership. MCPD is also working on a geographical analysis of where collisions occur. There is concern about how to segment the bike population to better analyze the information in the report. David Anspacher informed the committee that the Planning Department collects pedestrian and bicycle data as part of the Development Review Process and that the information can be made available on a special request basis.

2. CountyStat Presentation – May 14, 2012: Jeff Dunckel provided the committee with the Pedestrian Safety Initiative Report that he presented during the May 14, 2012, meeting with CountyStat, which can also be viewed on the Pedestrian Safety website.

Jeff relayed that fatalities are on a down-ward trend. Cpt. Didone is working on including more analysis on bicycle collisions/fatalities. Peter Moe suggested maybe reviewing the time of day and possibly the lighting situation that collisions are occurring. The High Incident Area (HIA) improvements are showing progress in improving pedestrian safety. In areas where the Safe Routes to School program implemented the 3 E's (engineering, education and enforcement) there has been a significant decline in the occurrence of collisions. The traffic calming measures are showing success in bringing vehicles to the posted speed limits which has decrease the occurrence of collisions. As stated previously, there was an increase in the sidewalk installations budget to improve pedestrian access. Traffic has also increased the crosswalk signal timing.

CountyStat requested follow-up on the following items:

- (1) Analyze bicycle collision data in the County and other regional jurisdictions and the Nation to determine impact of bike sharing and bikeway construction on bicycle collision stats,
- (2) Analyze pedestrian collision data to determine how many incidents are occurring in parking lots and compare to previous years',
- (3) Determine if there is a way for measuring the relative growth of HIAs in terms of population density, traffic congestion, and other variables to better evaluate the impact of the Initiative in these locations.

3. Future Meetings – Topics to Discuss; Planning: Chairman Mack reviewed two very important meeting topics that PBTSAC will be discussing at the September and November meetings. Peter Moe recommended that clearness about the outcome we are seeking during the meetings will be key to a successful meeting. Peter also suggested that we prioritize major focuses to keep the meetings on-course.

September 6, 2012 - Issues Affecting Disabilities Community: The purpose of the meeting will be to discover what persons with special needs experience and then decide whether there is anything we can do for them by way of making any recommendation/s to the County Executive and the County Council.

David Sharp is the representative for persons with special needs and will be assisting Jeff with identifying people that will be invited to join us to identify areas of Montgomery County where their lives could be made more safe and comfortable. David noted that he will be inviting persons from the Commission on People with Disabilities.

Each PBTSAC member was asked to identify a guest, or guests, who should be invited to join in this discussion. Also included, should be the names of people who have official responsibilities that may make their attendance vital to the discussion. A formal invitation will be sent to the final list of guests early in August.

The proposed “Green Mile” multi-use facility along Wisconsin Avenue in Chevy Chase was suggested as a possible topic of discussion.

November 1, 2012 - Bicycle Safety and Access: The purpose of the meeting is to discuss accommodating bicyclists and bicycles in our County, and what recommendations we may need to make to the County Executive and County Council.

Steve Friedman is our bicycle representative and provided names of people and organizations that should be invited to this. Steve and Jeff Dunckel will be compiling a list of invitees/organizations that should attend. However, input was also requested from PBTSAC members to gather a list of names/organizations that they feel would like to attend. Peter Moe acknowledged Greg Slater as the person from the Department of Planning in SHA who should attend, as well as

Possible topics for discussion were discussed: communication/coordination between agencies/municipalities, disconnect between neighborhoods and the process to implement bike lanes.

4. Approved Budget for FY13 – Priorities for FY14: Bill Selby provided the committee with a spreadsheet showing the County Council’s approved FY 13 Budget for Pedestrian Safety Initiative Funding. Richard Romer also added some additional CIP Budget information as it pertains to PBTSAC. Essentially, there was an increase in the overall budget from last year.

What Got Funded; What Did Not: Included in the budget is full funding of the HIA’s, as well as an increase in crosswalk installation/maintenance. Richard Romer reviewed a few of the multi-modal CIP projects that the County Council approved: new bike trails, sidewalks, Purple Line, ADA Compliance projects Metro Branch Trail and bikeways projects.

What to Consider for FY14?: Steve Friedman inquired about the feasibility of installing “bike boxes” at crosswalks on roads known for being heavily used by cyclists, during crosswalk installation/maintenance. Will Haynes will look into Steve’s inquiry.

Alyce Ortuzar inquired about how a location is determined to need crosswalk installation/maintenance. Will Haynes explained that an initial assessment is conducted when crosswalks are installed. He suggested informing MCDOT about particular areas of concern and they will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Jeff Dunckel also informed the committee that as part of the audit process, crossings situations are evaluated to determine any issues that may arise. Peter

Moe wanted to know how MCDOT prioritizes for crosswalks. Will Haynes explained that the Traffic Division coordinates with other divisions/agencies, others are request-based.

5. Subcommittee Reports, Updates, Recommendations:

Sidewalks-Pedestrian Networks: Ramin Assa informed the committee that he still needs to work with Steve Friedman on sidewalks and that the sidewalk survey has yet to be conducted. Ramin stated that he may also propose a future meeting focused around sidewalks.

Status on Bicycle Coordinator Position: Steve Friedman requested an update on filling the Bicycle Coordinator Position left vacant by Gail Tait-Nouri. Bill Selby informed the committee that Aruna Miller is currently acting and that MCDOT is in the process of filling the position.

Peggy Dennis, WMCCAB, informed PBTSAC about an issue with vehicles parking illegally along MacArthur Boulevard blocking access to bicyclists and pedestrians. She is suggesting that MCDOT expand the shoulder, marking it for pedestrian and bicycle use. Another suggestion was made to install flexible poles similar to those located further down on MacArthur Blvd. Peggy is in the process of getting the information about alternate places to park, but the process may take up to a year. In the meantime, Police are ticketing vehicles when they are notified of the occurrence.

6. New Business/Committee Comments: Chairman Mack informed the committee that Peter Moe will no longer be a member; he has received a promotion at MVA. The Highway Safety has been getting their regional programs more involved with meeting like this; Kate Elkins will probably be the representative for HSO. Peter Moe also suggested that since the charter calls for a representative from SHA, that if the charter were to be revised that it should include members from both representations; SHA (responsible for infrastructure) and HSO (responsible for safety aspects).

The committee said congratulations, thank you, and best wishes.

MOTION: A motion was made to allow Chairman Mack to do editorial work announcing Peter Moe's departure from PBTSAC. Seconded by Alyce Ortuzar; approved unanimously.

David Anspacher provided a hand-out and updated the committee on the status of Master Plans related to pedestrians and bicycles. Jeff Dunckel requested an electronic version of the hand-out.

Reemberto Rodriguez updated PBTSAC on a meeting that was held between the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board and SHA officials regarding the installation of the ADA sidewalk/ramps in Silver Spring. SHA is going to rebuild some of the intersections. The community realized the Commission on People with Disabilities should have been contacted and involved earlier in the process of installing the ADA ramps. Some members believe that the ADA requirements are too rigid and may need to be revised.

Next Meeting September 6, 2012, will focus on issues affecting persons with disabilities.

7. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.