

**Draft Summary of October 6, 2016 MEETING of the PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE and TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Executive Office Building, 9th Floor Conference Room**

Members Present: Darrel Droblich, Chair; Kristy Daphnis, Vice Chair; George Branyan; Jeremy Martin, Rockville/Municipal League; Anyesha Mookherjee, MSHA; Valeria Carranza; Capt. Thomas Didone, MCPD; Steve Friedman, Former Bicycle Advocate; Heidi Coleman, New Bicycle Advocate, Marybeth Cleveland, Disabilities Community Representative; Chris Conklin (representing Al Roshdieh, MCDOT); Wendy Leibowitz;

Members Absent: Ramin Assa; Roger Berliner, Councilmember; Marybeth Cleveland; Heidi Coleman, Bicycle Advocate; Reemberto Rodriguez, SSRSC; Leah Walton; Al Roshdieh, MCDOT; Aaron Kraut (representing Councilman Roger Berliner)

County Staff: Venu Nemani, Chief of Traffic Engineering and Operations Division, MCDOT; Michael Subin, CEXO; Jeff Dunckel, MCDOT; Nadji Kirby, MCDOT; Mark Terry, MCDOT; Shawn Brennan, DHHS – Aging and Disabilities Services; Matt Johnson, MCDOT; Pat Shepherd; MCDOT; Tom Heyboer, Councilmember Hans Riemer’s Office); Dee Metz, CEXO;

Guests: Jon Morrison, MBPAC/MCBAG; John Wetmore, Perils for Pedestrians; Peggy Dennis; Mousa Hejazi, PEPCO; Amy Ginsberg, Friends of White Flint; David Anspacher, MNCPPC; Stephen Aldrich, MNCPPC; Chuck Kines, MNCPPC; Greg Billing, WABA

PBTSAC Committee Business:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Darrel Droblich at 7:07 pm. Introductions - the newest member, Heidi Coleman, introduced herself as the new Bicycle Advocate from Silver Spring. She is also with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) under the U.S. Department of Transportation and an avid bicyclist.

Review of Summary from September Meeting:

MOTION: The September meeting summary was approved. George Branyan asked that the details he provided on the State’s position on HAWK signals be added to the discussion of Veirs Mill Road.

Kristy Daphnis is working on a letter to be sent to SHA, supporting the use of HAWK signals in Maryland.

Search Committee for New Nominations:

Volunteers are needed to be on the search committee to find replacements for Darrel Droblich and Ramin Assa. Twelve applications were received by the County Executive. If you’d like to be on the selection committee please send Darrel Droblich your contact information. George Branyan volunteered to serve on the selection committee.

Volunteer to Draft Annual Report:

A report needs to be developed for the County Council and County Executive of PBTSAC activities and recommendations. Darrel Droblich will prepare a draft report.

Recognition in Memory of Sarah Gotbaum:

MOTION: Voted that the Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee recognizes and commends Ms. Sarah Gotbaum for her unflinching and lifelong advocacy for women’s and senior’s

issues and desires to make the County a safer place for all pedestrians. The motion passed unanimously.

Darrel would like to pursue nominating Sarah for the County Executive's Human Rights Hall of Fame.

Recognition of Retiring Members Colleen Mitchell and Steve Friedman:

Jeff Dunckel reviewed the history of long time members Colleen Mitchell, who served since 2008, advocating for a Pedestrian Master Plan, serving as Vice-chair, and Steve Friedman, who served since 2006, championing bicycle issues as the committee's first Bicycle Advocate. Darrel Droblich expressed his appreciation; Jeff Dunckel presented County Executive Certificates of Appreciation.

Invitation for Chairmanship Nominations:

Chris Conklin presented the committee with a letter from MCDOT Director Al Roshdieh inviting members to apply for the position of Committee Chair. Interested members should send an email to Al Roshdieh, expressing their interest. These will be taken until the end of October.

Status of Pepco ROW Hiker Biker Trail:

Moussa Hejazi from Pepco presented plans being developed for constructing a hiker-biker trail as part of the merger agreement with Exelon – from Montgomery Mall to the Soccerplex in Germantown. Parts will be paved, parts will be natural. Pepco is coordinating the planning with both Montgomery County and Prince Georges County, as what is first built in Montgomery County could be replicated in other utility ROWs. Funding for constructing the trail has not yet been established. Clearances for both transmission lines and distribution lines is a concern to be addressed in the design. Mr. Hejazi described the multiple committees that have been established to plan the trail. The kick-off meeting for design is October 14, with design to be completed by March of 2017. Funding can then be determined. Mr. Droblich acknowledged Peggy Dennis, John Wetmore, and Steve Friedman for their efforts to promote this opportunity. The PBTSAC commented on the plans: the trail will cross major roadways; safety of the trail crossings will be paramount; provisions for emergency access/EMS should be considered; maintenance including snow removal needs to be funded and provided; funding will be the challenge – trail may have to be built in phases.

MOTION: Moved that Pepco conduct quarterly briefings of the PBTSAC for updates on the status of the hiker-biker trail. Mr. Hejazi suggested quarterly meetings would be good for the beginning of the project – later they could be less frequent. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on Bicycle Master Plan:

David Anspacher provided a review on progress of revising the Montgomery County Bicycle Master Plan. Bicycle Parking Guidelines were distributed to the committee; they were approved today. A framework report was distributed, establishing the approach to the new Bicycle Master Plan. This plan is expected to be a fundamental shift in how bicycles are provided for. This was submitted to the planning board for comments and input. All bike racks in the county have been identified and mapped. There are currently 400 bike parking locations; 400 more are needed. All documents and reports are posted on Park and Planning's website.

Discussion of Great MoCo Bicycle Summit:

Tommy Heyboer (pronounced "hi-boar"), from Councilmember Hans Riemer's office, described the Annual Bicycle Summit held last June. This is the third year it has been held. It is a forum for the bicycling community to get together and discuss bicycling with the County's decision-makers – and how best to promote the bicycle agenda. Additional budgeting has been provided for bicycle facilities as a

result. Plans for next year: perhaps focus on bicycling behaviors; update on bike projects; how to get more bike parking. Mr. Heyboer is seeking ideas from the PBTSAC and others on what should be included next year. More education needed; drivers need to be informed on new bicycle laws as part of MVA processes; biking for children and students needs to be considered.

MOTION: Moved that the PBTSAC commends Councilmember Hans Riemer for his leadership in promoting bicycling in Montgomery County through the annual Bike Summit. The motion passed unanimously.

Update: Bicycle Facilities Program:

Pat Shepherd provided an update with a presentation on the MCDOT's two most recent bicycle projects: Nebel Street Separated Bike Lanes and Glenbrook Road Contra-flow Bike Lanes with Traffic Calming. The Nebel Street Bike Lanes extend between Randolph Road and Marinelli Road; this is a pair of one-way separated bike lanes that will be connected to future facilities, creating a future network. Pat Shepherd went through a series of slides describing the project. Green pavement markings were introduced with the project. Being a new type of facility, education will be needed for bicyclists, drivers, pedestrians - - and police (on how to enforce traffic safety laws with these facilities.) Signalization needs to be modified to accommodate bicyclists. Ms. Shepherd is working with the signals unit. Marybeth Cleveland expressed concern about modified curb cuts leading blind pedestrians into the bike lanes or into traffic. ADA considerations for the visually impaired need to be included.

Pat Shepherd reviewed slides and described the new Glenbrook Road Contra-flow Bike Lanes, south of Bradley to Little Falls Parkway, connecting to the Capital Crescent Trail. This was constructed as part of the MCDOT neighborhood renewal project. Traffic calming features were incorporated.

ACTION ITEM: Cpt. Didone requested a briefing from Pat Shepherd and others for his traffic officers on what these new facilities are and how they are supposed to function. MCPD needs to be informed about how to work with these new facilities.

Update: Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas – BiPPAs

Matt Johnson explained the BiPPA Program. BiPPAs are established through the County's Master Planning Process. Areas that have or are anticipated to have high volumes of bicycle and pedestrian activity are designated as BiPPAs, where studies, planning/design and funding for bike and pedestrian facilities may be targeted. The State also has a BiPPA program that is independent of the County's program. There are now 30 County designated BiPPAs; six of these have been recognized by the State. The County budgets CIP monies for BiPPA improvements. Five BiPPAs were funded for studies in the first year of the program, with construction money provided last year - Silver Spring, Grosvenor, Wheaton, Glenmont, and Randolph/Veirs Mill. Silver Spring is the first location to receive construction money. Grosvenor will be the next BiPPA for construction. Last year, the County Council identified 3 additional BiPPA locations associated with the Purple Line for priority funding - Flower/Piney Branch, Piney Branch/University, and Takoma/Langley. Improvements include: improving curb cuts, providing and improving crosswalks and pedestrian crossings, installing new bike facilities. In Silver Spring, several cycletracks are being constructed. Mr. Johnson explained the bicycle network this would create. Pepco construction in Silver Spring is complicating construction, but provides opportunities as well. Mr. Johnson explained the various design issues being incorporated into the Silver Spring projects. He also explained designs being developed for the Grosvenor BiPPA. The State issued a letter three weeks ago recognizing 5 additional BiPPAs, in addition to the previously recognized White Flint BiPPA. These are:

Bethesda CBD, Shady Grove, Silver Spring CBD, Takoma/Langley Crossroads, and Wheaton CBD. State-funded improvements to these locations may be provided as a result of recognition.

White Flint – Pedestrian Safety and Walkability/Bikeability:

Amy Ginsburg provided an explanation of the White Flint community's issues of concern for pedestrian and bicycle safety. Amy Ginsburg represents the Friends of White Flint, comprised of residents and business interests to advise on the implementation of the White Flint Sector Plans. With the increase of pedestrians in the White Flint area, the Friends of White Flint partnered with the Coalition for Smarter Growth to identify ways to improve walkability and bikeability in White Flint. She explained the safety campaign that was launched with "renegade" signs on the street raising awareness of safety. There will be a community meeting to discuss these issues on October 25, at the Aquatic Center at 6:30. Ms. Ginsburg invited the PBTSAC to attend this meeting.

Program Updates:

State Road Projects:

Anyesha Mookherjee discussed issues related to State roadways. In response to previous requests from the committee, she ordered crash history for Connecticut Avenue from MD 193 (University) to MD 97 (Georgia). She is also looking at the ADA assessment of this road section. Unable to connect to the internet, Jeff Dunckel directed the committee to use the links from the meeting packet to view video recording of a pedestrian collision on River Road, under the Capital Crescent Trail bridge, with the associated story on Fox News. Poor crosswalk markings were an issue in this crash. Advanced stop lines would also help with driver compliance, stopping for pedestrians. The new crosswalks on MD 410 in Silver Spring need to have the burlap bags over the signs removed, and stop lines installed. Cpt. Didone: signals and beacons are needed at all mid-block marked crosswalks on major roadways, and a massive education campaign is needed to teach drivers how to behave at crosswalks, especially when other vehicles are stopped for pedestrians crossing.

MCPD Update on Enforcement:

Cpt. Tom Didone reviewed the current pedestrian crash data table and described the most recent serious pedestrian collisions in the County. School Bus Camera program is on track: budget approved and enforcement cameras are being installed on all 1,200 County school buses. An awareness campaign is underway on this increased enforcement, teaching drivers they must stop for stopped school buses. Education and enforcement activities will be increased during the coming "dark" months. Droblich requested numbers on the cellphone/distracted driving citations for the next meeting.

Vision Zero Update:

Mike Subin (a.k.a. Captain Zero), provided an update on progress on developing the plan for Vision Zero. The program will not be completed this December, but will be an ongoing program. The team will bring to the PBTSAC a basic plan for Vision Zero at the December meeting. Subin will be looking for input from the committee at the December meeting. The Vision Zero Team will then come to the committee in February with a full draft of the plan describing the proposed structure of the program. Every six months, the PBTSAC will receive briefings on progress of Vision Zero. Right now, the team is trying to put together the basic structure of the Vision Zero Plan. Droblich questioned the County's commitment to Vision Zero if enforcement and County-wide education are not adequately funded. The PBTSAC has had to push for more education and enforcement funding, without apparent support from the County Executive. There is still no budget for bicycle safety education or a pedestrian master plan that he publicly supported at one of the Town Hall meetings with the County's committees. Police pedestrian safety enforcement was zeroed out for two years before the Council restored funding. Subin assured

the PBTSAC that the County Executive has been committed from the beginning to safer, more walkable streets. Budget is always a challenging issue. Subin reported that the Vision Zero Team kick-off meeting in September went well. Greg Billings (Executive Director of WABA) asked that WABA be partners in the planning, and encouraged the team to set dates to achieve zero fatalities; there needs to be a deadline. Engineering needs to be forgiving of mistakes. Education and enforcement are also needed and need to be better funded. Heidi Coleman described NHTSA's efforts in planning for Vision Zero at the national level. They have established a 30 year target date. The Plan needs to be accompanied by actions. Vision Zero will require a culture change – a change for everyone.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.