

**DRAFT SUMMARY OF May 2, 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: Erwin Mack, Chair, Colleen Mitchell, Vice Chair; Ramin Assa; Cpt. Tom Didone; Darrel Droblich; Steve Friedman; Benjamin Fulton (representing Councilmember Valerie Ervin); John Hall; Alan Migdall; Alyce Ortuzar; David Sharp (via phone); Jack Strausman; Larry Cole (representing David Anspacher); Yvette Freeman (representing Reemberto Rodriguez); Al Roshdieh (representing Arthur Holmes, Jr.)

Members Absent: David Anspacher; Angel Garcia-Ablanque; Arthur Holmes Jr.; Reemberto Rodriguez; Anyesha Mookherjee, Valerie Ervin

County Staff: Joana Conklin, MCDOT; Jeff Dunckel, Pedestrian Safety Coordinator; Will Haynes, MCDOT; Nadji Kirby, MCDOT; Stacy Leach, MCDOT; Emil Wolanin, MCDOT; Michael Subin, CEX

Guests: Kristen Blackmon, BUP; Delegate Al Carr; Peggy Dennis, WMCCAB; William Liu; Peggy Schwartz, NBTMD; Ari Ashe, WTOP

Chairman Erwin Mack called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

1) PBTSAC Committee Business:

Erwin Mack, Chair

Welcome and Introductions: Purpose of Tonight's Meeting - Follow up on previous meetings. Chair Erwin Mack also thanked Vice Chair Colleen Mitchell for chairing the March meeting.

MOTION: To send a letter of appreciation to Bill Selby for providing the refreshments for the meeting. Motion was approved, and Erwin Mack will be preparing the letter.

Review of Minutes from January Meeting – Approval/Changes - The meeting minutes from March were introduced (first item in packet).

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the March 7, 2013, minutes; approved unanimously with one change to reflect that the word “disagree” will be stricken by Jeff Dunckel from Alyce Ortuzar comments.

Future Meeting Minutes – Erwin Mack proposed to committee that from this meeting on, the minutes will be a summary, not detailed. This is being done to get the minutes and action items out to the committee quicker. There is not a requirement to have detailed minutes.

Update on Reappointments (Dunckel) - According to County policy, the nomination committee cannot tell the board who applied for each vacancy – the board is only to know what positions are vacant. Applications are confidential and only the nomination committee will know who applied. Mike Subin explained to the committee how the application process works, and why it can't be started six months before the position is vacant. No action item came out of this discussion but Mike Subin offered to talk to the staff and see if anything can be done to speed up the process.

Selection Committee for Next Applicant Interviews – Erwin Mack asked for volunteers. The new committee is Jeff Dunckel, Erwin Mack, Steve Friedman, and Colleen Mitchell. The committee approved.

Selection of new Bicycle Capital Projects Manager – Pat Shepherd is the new Bicycle Capital Projects Manager. She will be at the next meeting.

MOTION: The committee will write a letter welcoming Pat Shepherd as the new Bicycle Capital Projects Manager. The motion was approved.

Pedestrian Collision Data – Captain Tom Didone spoke about pedestrian collision data. A chart was provided in the packet. His department has been busy preparing for CountyStat on May 8. Pedestrian collisions have increased by 24, but the most serious types (levels 4 and 5) have decreased by about 20. Parking lot collisions have increased by 35. Tom

Pogue started a working group last November to look at parking lots.

Update on Speed Camera Legislation – Captain Tom Didone spoke about the status of speed cameras in Maryland after the Baltimore incident. No action was taken by the State Legislature, but two other transportation bills were passed:

All riders in a car must wear seatbelts, including backseat passengers. This is now a secondary offense;

Cell phone bill passed – it is now a primary stop offense if using a cell phone while driving. The police do not need to follow you, but can immediately stop cars if the driver is using or making hand motions like they are using a cell phone while driving and the car is in motion.

2) Delegate Alfred Carr – Issue of Lighting

Delegate Alfred Carr

Delegate Carr showed the committee a presentation on street lighting, showing the four different types of street lights, and how the technology has improved since the 1950s. Included in the presentation were several before and after pictures from various locations that have changed to the newer LED or Induction lighting. As part of the presentation, he showed the difference in cost between utility owned and local government owned (which uses the lowest bidder, in this case LMI) There are 68,000 street lights in Montgomery County, and 24,000 are county owned, and 44,000 are PEPCO owned.

Delegate Carr said he would like the PBTSAC to write a letter to the County Executive and the County Council requesting a review of the County’s lighting policy and best practices for street lighting technology ownership.

Chairman Erwin Mack advised the committee that no action would be taken at this time. Jack Strausman offered to have someone from PEPCO speak at the July meeting if the PBTSAC wanted to pursue the issue. MCDOT stated that they were evaluating this issue as well.

3) Follow-up on January Bicycle Meeting

Steve Friedman

Steve Friedman and Jeff Dunckel will continue to discuss comments that were made from outside bicycle advocates. Capital BikeShare will be implemented by the end of summer. Steve Friedman introduced five topics that resulted from the January PBTSAC meeting that warrant consideration for future action:

1. Develop, implement and conduct an educational campaign targeted to all road users which would occur in the area of Montgomery County where BikeShare stations are to be installed. The campaign would begin just prior to the start of BikeShare. Specific details of the campaign are to be worked out with MCDOT.
2. Encourage/request that MCP bike police ride more on the streets.
3. Identify and act upon bike infrastructure that will be utilized by BikeShare users. Such locations may include, but are not limited to, Jones Bridge Road, Woodmont Ave., and Battery Lane. A full slate of locations and specific recommendations need to be worked out with MCDOT.
4. Adherence to the Master Plan where any new construction, redevelopment or road work requires consideration of an implementation of biking infrastructure.
5. Repeat bike ride-along to include DC facilities.

Al Roshdieh stated that MCDOT will review these five items and ensure the correct staff will be in attendance at the July meeting to discuss these issues. In addition, Al Roshdieh and Tom Didone will look into having a “bike box” for bicycle parking installed at Edison Park facility to allow for the County’s policy of inside bike storage.

MOTION: The committee moved that this list be incorporated into the meeting packet for the July meeting to assist the committee in discussing the items with MCDOT staff at that meeting.

4) Pedestrian Crossings

Colleen Mitchell

Due to time constraints, Colleen Mitchell skipped straight to the Pedestrian Master Plan. At this time, Montgomery County does not have a Pedestrian Master Plan. It was suggested that a Master Plan should be written up for the County, and that the committee should use Washington D.C. and Arlington County as two examples of pedestrian friendly areas that have pedestrian master plans. Larry Cole stated that bicycle and pedestrian provisions were included in all sector plan revisions and master plans; the Road Code revisions stipulated that the County would do a better job of this but it is still being improved upon. He also stated that Councilmember Valerie Ervin had recommended a pedestrian master plan several years ago. The state created a designation for Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas, with White Flint being the first. As part of the BRT program, Larry Cole stated that Park and Planning is now designating a dozen locations for this designation - a pedestrian master plan should focus on specific areas. There was a discussion on whether Montgomery County is or is not pedestrian friendly and how the county compares to other jurisdictions like D.C.

5) Pedestrian Safety Education & Enforcement

Cpt. Tom Didone, Joana Conklin

Joana Conklin and Cpt. Tom Didone made a short presentation on the spring 2013 education and enforcement activities, as well as the new Street Smart campaign.

Seneca Valley High School (SVHS) – MCDOT is preparing a tool kit for MCPS to send out to all principals in all County schools. At this time, the focus has been on high schools, but kits are also being developed for middle and elementary schools to implement. On April 11 there was an assembly at SVHS, and a Public Service Announcement was produced by the students. The school's principal has been actively reaching out to the students using the website, a block, ConnectED and other media sites to get the word out. Volunteer Champions and MC Fire and Rescue are taking the message to the street and distributing reflective materials to pedestrians. In addition, there has been media coverage, a train the trainer program and a two-week targeted enforcement campaign.

Street Smart – the new campaign, using local people as models, has started. The new ads are being placed on Ride-On buses and bus stops. In addition, a new Street Safety Tips brochure has been produced and was handed out.

Group I HIAs - The County is reactivating the two volunteer brigades to get the word out on pedestrian safety in the Group 1 HIAs.

There is \$50,000 in the budget request for Parking Lot Education. Darrel Droblich said that compared to the \$150,000 budgeted for education by MCDOT for HIA Ped Safety Education last year, he thought this was a decrease from last year's effort. (Editor Note: the Council has continued to approve \$150,000 for HIA Pedestrian Safety education in FY14, plus an additional \$50,000 for Parking Lot pedestrian safety Education, and another \$100,000 for pedestrian safety educational outreach to local high schools.)

Captain Tom Didone gave a rundown of the **HIA efforts to date:** 697 warnings, 1924 citations

Citation Details: 77 driver citations, 1787 pedestrian citations

Upcoming Efforts – Pedestrian Sting - This is a police decoy in visible clothing crossing at the crosswalk. Drivers who do not stop for the pedestrian are ticketed. This will take place at 15-20 locations in across the County. These include: Aspen Hill, Bethesda, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Rockville, Silver Spring, and Wheaton.

6) New Business/Comments

Committee

New Meeting Dates - July 11 (instead of July 4) and September 12 (instead of September 5, which is Rosh Hashanah)

Bike to Work Day: May 17 – go to the web site WABA.org to register.

MCBAG Meeting: May 16 – EOB – Pat Shepherd will attend.

Issues for July Meeting – Mike Madden (Purple Line) will be making a presentation. This will be a 2.5 hour meeting since we have a lot of information to cover, including the bicycle issues noted above and continued discussion of issues associated with the list from October of issues from the disabled community.

The next meeting will be held on July 11.

7) Adjourn – Chair Erwin Mack ended the meeting at 9:28 pm.