

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR May 3, 2012 MEETING of the  
PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE AND TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Executive Office Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
7:00 pm to 9:30 pm**

**Member Present:** Erwin Mack, Chair; Ramin Assa; Lt. Robert McCullagh (representing Cpt. Didone); Darrel Droblich;; Steve Friedman; Arthur Holmes, Jr., Director, MCDOT; Alan Migdall; Colleen Mitchell; Kate Elkins, SHSO (representing Peter Moe); Alyce Ortuzar

**Members Absent:** David Anspacher; Angel Garcia-Ablanque, MCPS; John Hall; Peter Moe; Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, SS RSC; Richard Romer (representing Councilmember Valerie Ervin); Valerie Ervin, Councilmember; David Sharp; Jack Strausman; Cpt. Tom Didone

**County Staff:** Joana Conklin, MCDOT; Fred Lees, MCDOT; Michael Subin, CEX; Nadji Kirby, MCDOT; Linsey Bryant, MCDOT; Jeff Dunckel, Pedestrian Safety Coordinator

**Guests:** Peggy Dennis, WMC/CAB; Mary Arzt, Sharp and Company; Enas Elhanafi, Montgomery College (Committee Evaluation Review Board); Qi Duan, NIH (Committee Evaluation Review Board)

Chairman, Erwin Mack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1. PBTSAC Committee Business:**

The minutes from the March meeting were introduced.

**Action:** The committee moved to approve the March, 2012, minutes; approved unanimously.

Chairman, Erwin Mack, introduced members of the Committee Evaluation Review Board (CERB) that were present. PBTSAC members introduced themselves and explained their roles in the committee. Quests also introduced themselves. CERB representatives informed the committee why they were there and the purpose of the CERB.

**Committee Appointments:** Jeff Dunckel informed the committee that the County Council had approved the committee re-appointments. John Hall will be the new Municipal League Representative, replacing John Britton. Cpt. Tom Didone, Peter Moe and Angel Garcia-Alblanque were approved, as well as Jack Strausman, Alan Midgall, and David Sharp. Steve Friedman and Colleen Mitchell will be up for re-appointment in July 2012.

**Pedestrian/Bicycle Collisions and Fatalities:** Lt. Robert McCullagh (representing Cpt. Didone) reviewed the MCPD 2011 Pedestrian Collisions Annual Report in the meeting packet. Overall, there was a decrease of 8.3% from 2010.

**Pedestrian Safety Initiative Budget – FY 13:** Arthur Holmes, Jr., Director of MCDOT, updated the committee on the proposed pedestrian safety budget. MCDOT is awaiting council approval which should occur on, or around May 17, 2012. Overall, an increase in the pedestrian safety budget was proposed. Operating budget included improvements in signal timing, increased Ride On service and an increase of parking rates, to decrease traffic on the roadways and encourage the use of alternative transportation: transit, walking, and biking.

**2. HIA Education: Four Corners (Blair HS,) Randolph @ Veirs Mill:** Joana Conklin, MCDOT, and Mary Arzt, Sharp and Company, prepared a presentation updating PBTSAC on the Spring 2012 Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign. A survey was conducted at Four Corners identifying a majority of pedestrians being high school students; the Montgomery Blair High School Pedestrian Safety Working Group was formed. The group is comprised of students, school administration and staff, as well as a PTSA representative. The students involved will earn community service hours.

**Blair High School Best Eyes Poster Contest:** Mary Arzt informed the committee of the work being done at Blair High School. A “Best Eyes” poster contest was held to promote eye contact between drivers and pedestrians and vice versa. Committee members suggested that we widen the aspect to included posting posters on buses, shelters, at crossing areas, etc. Students also came up with the idea of “SWAG” and “FAIL” bracelets which have sayings to reinforce good (SWAG) while discouraging bad (FAIL) behaviors. A text message contest” will be conducted; students answer three questions about pedestrian safety per week. Committee Members suggest outreach to other schools (Elementary and Middle), as well as follow-up evaluation with education to ensure people are “getting it” (long-term affects).

**Randolph Road @ Veirs Mill Curb Markers:** Joana Conklin updated the committee on the educational efforts that will begin at Randolph Road HIA. Staff will use the Piney Branch HIA techniques for a “quick hit” at Randolph Road HIA in May. Kate Elkins, MSHO, informed the committee that since Randolph Road is one of the State’s Pedestrian Priorities Corridors that they coordinated with County staff for a “Van Hit” on April 20, 2012. Radio stations were present, as well as police and safety promotion teams. Leveraged outreach was conducted at area churches. A public meeting will be held on May 9, 2012, and a booth will be set up at the Taste of Wheaton on May 20, 2012.

**Grouping of HIAs for Education Effort:** Joana Conkin also explained the future educational efforts that are going to focus on groups of HIAs, rather than one location at a time. The groupings are data-driven based on the characteristics of crashes, as well as the population demographics and land-use. Two groups were identified; Group 1 (FY 12-13) includes Randolph Road, Reddie Drive, Connecticut Avenue and Piney Branch; Group 2 (FY 14-15) includes Wisconsin Avenue, Rockville Pike, Colesville Road and Georgia Avenue. Overall, MCDOT believes grouping the HIAs together will be more cost-effective.

**Plans for coordinated enforcement:** Lt. McCullagh informed the committee that the police will be doing traffic and pedestrian safety enforcement coordinated with the education outreach noted above at three locations (Veirs Mill Road & Randolph Road, Four Corners area, and Piney Branch Road & University Boulevard) throughout the month of May.

**3. Maryland House Bill 946: Riding Bicycles on Sidewalks:** Steve Friedman reviewed what the committee discussed at the March 1, 2012, meeting regarding Bill 946.

**Review of PBTSAC Recommendation:** At the March 1, 2012, meeting PBTSAC passed a motion to support House Bill 946, sponsored by Delegate Aruna Miller. House Bill 946 will clarify the State-wide law regarding the operation of bicycles on public sidewalks, allowing bicycles on sidewalks unless banned by a local jurisdiction.

**Report on Annapolis Testimony:** House Bill 946 did not get out of committee, in part due to how it was written. Delegates wanted more clarity on the meaning of the legislation. There was some concern about how to ensure safety when sharing the sidewalks. The PBTSAC will continue to support this bill in the future.

**Follow-up with Municipalities?:** Erwin Mack suggested that PBTSAC have a meeting with local municipalities regarding reasons for their “bicycles on sidewalks” laws.

**ACTION:** Alan Migdall expressed concern about the possibility of repealing the criminal negligence law for killing persons on bicycles. Erwin asked that Migdall look further into it and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

**4. Safe Routes to School Update:** Nadji Kirby made a presentation on the work she has been doing with the schools to promote the Safe Routes to School Program.

**School Pool:** School Pool is a matching service for parents of children attending the same school to share in transporting their children to and from school on foot or bike. It is managed by Commuter Connections, a program of the Council of Governments. Schools are required to register for this program and parents’ permission is necessary. The program helps to alleviate traffic congestion around the schools and is a cost-effective way of getting to and from school, as well as it teaches kids about cooperating and protecting the environment.

**Bike Rodeo/Crosswalks Simulation Activities:** A week long Bike Rodeo was held at Bells Mill Elementary School in Potomac to educate students on bike safety and empower young children to feel comfortable with their on and off the road skills by performing helmet fittings and bike safety inspections, as well as ride through a mock course to practice what they learn. WABA (Washington Area Bicyclist Association) provides the bikes and helmets, as well as the training for the rodeos, at a cost. Staff is currently working to train gym teachers to conduct the rodeos in-house, which will alleviate costs and enable MCDOT to expand the educational efforts to more schools.

Crosswalk Simulation is similar to the Bike Rodeo, except it simulates the experience of crossing the street; students practice approaching the street, looking both ways and crossing in the middle of a crosswalk. The children interacted very well and had a great time with both activities.

**Blair Walk Project:** This is a project where the students from the Blair High School Pedestrian Safety Working Group teach students (elementary & middle) about pedestrian safety. Nadji will begin training the Blair students the end of May and they will then go to the area schools and teach younger students about crossing the road safely.

**Walk to School Day (WTSD), Surveys, and Partnerships w/ MCPD/MCFRS:** Nadji also informed the committee of some upcoming events; Walk-to-School Day will be October 3, 2012, at Dr. Charles Drew Elementary School in Silver Spring, and Bike-to-School Day will be May 9, 2012.

Spring surveys will be sent to parents in the next two weeks. Nadji is continuing to partner with MCPD on enforcement around schools and recently met with Cpt. Didone on a schedule for next school year. Nadji will work with MCFRS on joining forces with them to spread the message on pedestrian safety. She is also working with elementary and middle schools to form a calendar, programming pedestrian safety activities regularly each year.

Alyce Ortuzar inquired about how we assess the effectiveness of our efforts. The effectiveness is generally judged by feedback; parent and teacher surveys, student quizzes (before and after the rodeo), etc.

## **5. Subcommittee Reports, Updates, Recommendations:**

**Sidewalks-Pedestrian Network Assessment:** Ramin Assa informed the committee that the sidewalk assessments will be delayed due to the County's budget. Ramin is going to continue to work on developing alternate ways to assess the County pedestrian networks.

**Request for Update on Bicycle Coordinator Position:** Arthur Holmes, Jr., informed the committee that Aruna Miller is currently acting as the County's Bicycle Coordinator. She will be supported by Rob Elder for operational issues. Both are members of MCDOT's Division of Transportation Engineering.

**MCBAG Meeting – Coordination with PBTSAC:** Erwin Mack made the suggestion to have Steve Friedman represent the committee on bicycle issues at MCBAG meetings.

**MOTION: Darrell Droblich made the motion to select Steve Friedman as PBTSACs representative on bicycle issues at the MCBAG meetings; approved unanimously.**

**6. Committee Evaluation Review Board (CERB):** Jeff Dunckel prepared a draft for PBTSAC Submission to CERB and provided it to the committee for review and comment. The report is to include information pertaining to the prior two years. Colleen Mitchell has agreed to assemble the final report.

**Comments on Draft PBTSAC Report:** Erwin Mack noticed that "bicycle" needs to be added to the title. Ramin Assa (sub-committee: sidewalks) and Steve Friedman (sub-committee: bicycles) were requested to provide input on their sub-committees. The information in the report will be used to assess the committee's functionality.

**How Best to Follow-up by May 6:** Mike Subin suggested that the committee contact Connie Latham about the possibility of receiving an extension due to short notice and the PBTSAC's inability to meet prior to tonight's meeting.

## **7. New Business/Committee Comments:**

**Request SHA Presentation on Policies for Crosswalks and Pedestrian Signals:** A request for information was made for clarification of the policies for requesting mid-block crossings on State-maintained roadway.

**ACTION: Fred Lees will get in touch with the State for clarification and report back to the committee.**

**Request for Discussion of Pedestrian Impact Statements:** Dave Anspacher wanted to discuss an article that erroneously stated that Prince George's County was the only county doing a Pedestrian Impact Statement. Article stated false information and the committee will discuss the issue when David is present.

**Bike to Work Day – May 18:** Bike-to-Work Day will take place on May 18, 2012.

**Next Meeting July 5 – Change Date?:** The committee agrees that there is no need to change next meeting date. The next meeting will be held on July 5, 2012.

**8. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 9:45.