

**DRAFT SUMMARY OF March 06, 2014 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; David Anspacher, MNCPPC; Ramin Assa; Kristy Daphnis; Cpt. Tom Didone, MCPD; Darrel Droblich; Josh Faust, (for Councilmember Berliner); Steve Friedman; Angel Garcia-Ablanque, MCPS; Alan Migdall; Anyesha Mookherjee, MSHA; Jack Strausman;

Members Absent: Roger Berliner, County Council; Arthur Holmes Jr., MCDOT; Reemberto Rodriguez, SSRSC; David Sharp

County Staff: Esther Bowring, PIO; Joana Conklin, MCDOT; Jeff Dunckel, MCDOT (Pedestrian Safety Coordinator); Kim Funderburk, MCDOT; Nancy Greene, DGS; Nadji Kirby, MCDOT; Tom Pogue, MCDOT; Michael Subin, CEO

Guests: Patrick Benko, American Public Health Association; Karen Cordry, resident; Peggy Dennis, WMC/CAB; Marie Didone, resident; John Wetmore, Perils for Pedestrians, Lilah Katz, Ben Katz

Vice-Chair Colleen Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:19 pm – due to traffic, Chair, Erwin Mack was delayed in his arrival.

1) PBTSAC Committee Business:

Colleen Mitchell, Vice-Chair

Welcome and Introductions Guests introduced themselves. Special guest, Lilah Katz, was introduced by Steve Friedman.

Review of Meeting Summary from January – Approval/Changes – The January Meeting Summary was introduced.

MOTION: Approval of the January 7, 2014 Meeting Summary; voted and unanimously approved with minor rewording at the request of Alan Migdall. To be added to summary: “Alan Migdall asked under what conditions PEPCO accesses public property for the transmission of power; Jack Strausman and Jerry Pasternak replied that PEPCO negotiates easements with the government jurisdictions or private property owners whose land they must cross to provide the public benefit of electricity.”

Update on the HIA Novella Campaign (Dunckel)– The Library of Congress contacted MCDOT’s contractor Sharp and Company to request materials from the Maria Novella ads to place in the library’s collection. Voice of America news ran a positive story on the campaign from the perspective of the Hispanic population, interviewing Impact Silver Spring representatives and Jeff Dunckel; Jeff Dunckel shared the video with the committee.

Recognition of Lilah Katz – (Mack) The committee recognized Lilah Katz, an eleven-year-old girl from Bethesda who, through a petition drive and with County Council support, successfully obtained approval by MCDOT to pave a shared-use path near her home. The path is expected to be widened and paved this Spring, weather permitting. Her story was featured in the Gazette (handout #4). Lilah was presented with a letter from the committee.

MOTION: To recognize Lilah Katz for her extraordinary efforts to improve neighborhood facilities; motion unanimously approved.

Maryland Highway Safety Summit and Governors Highway Safety Association Report (Dunckel)

Jeff Dunckel attended the summit and stated the event's purpose was to brainstorm ways to make roads safer under the next Strategic Highway Safety Plan; pedestrian safety was one of the emphasis areas discussed; groundwork to expand pedestrian safety in the State was established; overall, he felt the event was successful. (Jeff Dunckel handed out the Governors Highway Safety Association's report on Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State, 2013 Preliminary Data. NPR radio also did a story on the report; the governor's report listed many of the things to improve pedestrian safety that the County is already doing.)

Update on 2013 Pedestrian and Bicycle Collisions (Didone) – With 2013 crash data still under review, final numbers are not yet available– (see handout). Tentative numbers show 482 pedestrian collisions in 2013], an upward trend over 2012 data; there were 13 fatalities in 2013; approximately 5 of the fatalities were accidents that would not have been prevented by traffic countermeasures. There have been 3 fatal pedestrian crashes since January 2014; two involved elderly pedestrians killed in a 24 hour time period last month. A discussion followed about signal timing. Cpt. Tom Didone stated that MCPS works with SHA and MCDOT to determine crossing signal timing

Capt. Didone has been asked to present at the Lifesavers Conference in Nashville, TN at the end of April – a great honor for Montgomery County. There is much interest in pedestrian safety strategies. **CountyStat Review of Pedestrian Safety Initiative – (Dunckel)** The next CountyStat review is tentatively scheduled for April 23 (Note, this review has been rescheduled to June 25.). Analysis of the causes, locations, times, and other factors will be performed after the crash data for 2013 is finalized.

Update on Chairman Selection Process for Future Chairman – (Pogue) – Tom Pogue encouraged the committee to continue submitting nominations for the upcoming vacant committee chair position; nominations will be packaged and submitted to Mr. Holmes by the week of March 10th at the earliest.

Update on Bill 33-13 – Road Code Revisions for Urban Road Standards (Faust) – Josh Faust, speaking on behalf of Councilmember Berliner, touched on a few key points of Bill 33-13. The bill, still in the early stages, is looking at ways to make streets more walkable and bikeable in urban areas. Traffic lane widths, turning radii and speed limits along urban corridors will be reviewed; a small working group is being formed; comments/suggestions are welcomed and can be sent to Mr. Faust. Tom Pogue stated that if roads are too narrow and turn radii too tight, the ability to provide bus service and biking lanes would be lost and snow would have to be hauled.

County Planning Board Hearings 3/20; Purple Line, Bethesda Metro Station South Entrance, Capital Crescent Trail and Silver Spring Green Trail (Anspacher) – David Anspacher led the discussion. The Purple Line reached a major milestone, having received recommendation for funding, as requested by the State. Angel Garcia-Ablanque expressed concern over the policy forbidding school buses from crossing railroads in the County; he will further research the policy to determine jurisdiction and any other pertinent details that could affect MCPS buses and the Purple Line Project. There were questions from the committee on whether this was an MCPS Policy, or County Ordinance, or a State Traffic Code law. (Mike Subin found at least one reference to it within MCPS policy; he could not find a citation within County Code.) On March 20th, the Planning Board will hold a hearing on the Purple Line, Bethesda Elevator, Bethesda South Entrance and the Capital Crescent Trail and Silver Spring Green Trail projects.

2.) Report on “Heads Up In Parking Lots:” Campaign (Bowring) – Esther Bowring updated the committee on the status of the current parking lot pedestrian safety campaign – (see handout #5). With a budget of \$50,000, the County has installed curb markers at Dawson's Market in Rockville and produced flyers, palm

cards, bus shelter and bus ads, two public service announcements (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-pedsafety/parkinglot/index.html>) and 15,000 shopping bags. Curb markers are now being installed at other parking lot locations in the county, with help from property owners and property managers.

Two versions of bus shelter ads have been posted in approximately 40 bus shelters. Ads were also placed on the exterior of 85 Ride On buses, and on the interior of 385 buses.

Most property owners were not aware of the 125 pedestrian collisions in parking facilities in 2012; many have agreed to cover installation costs for curb markers in their lots. A major concern shared by private lot owners is the enforcement of parking violations. Capt. Didone stated that MCPD does not have a parking enforcement unit; that parking lot rules on private property are not enforceable by law, with the exception of handicap parking violations and fire lanes. There are a number parking enforcement options available to private parking lot owners willing to invest.

Parking Lot Issues for the Disabled (Greene) –David Sharp, representing the Disabilities Community did not attend the meeting. Nancy Greene, ADA Compliance Officer for Montgomery County, discussed legal issues pertaining to required handicapped parking. Issues include improperly designed handicap parking spaces, illegal/improper use of handicap hang signs and limited handicap access following snow removal. Capt. Didone stated that MCPD is working with MVA to make the database for handicap tags accessible to police. Councilmember Riemer is now proposing certain types of additional snow removal in the wake of several winter weather events that left handicap citizens without proper access to crosswalks and crossing signals.

4.) BAS Subcommittee: Report on Shared Use Trails on PEPCO Property (Friedman) – Steve Friedman stated that the BAS subcommittee has no recommendations at this time. The work group will continue to meet to explore the possibility of using PEPCO property for bike trails.

5.) Annual Meeting with County Executive (Mack) – Daryl Droblich will represent the committee at the annual meeting with County Executive Ike Leggett. The annual report will be used as a guideline for his presentation. Committee member suggested topics to bring up to the County Executive, including additional funding for the Heads Up In Parking Lots campaign and other pedestrian safety education, the school bus camera project, and the need for better construction site signage for pedestrians (including contact information for reporting construction site, pedestrian-access violations). Ramin Assa suggested recommending funding to educate drivers about the school bus camera project. Over thirty tickets have been issued in two months.

6.) New Business/Comments/Topics for May 1st Meeting

Possible topics to discuss at the May meeting include:

- Budget Requests for Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety
- Review of High School Education Program
- Review of Conclusion of HIA Novella Campaign – First and Second Waves
- Presentation on County Stat Review
- Report on Bikeshare
- Pedestrian Access to Transit Centers

7.) Adjourn – Erwin Mack adjourned the meeting at 9:21 pm.