



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

VALERIE ERVIN
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 5

Memorandum

June 8, 2010

To: Council President Nancy Floreen, T&E Committee Chair
Councilmember Phil Andrews, Public Safety Committee Chair

Re: **Request for Status Update on Pedestrian Safety Programs**

As you know, the County implemented the 2007 Pedestrian Safety Initiative in response to the 2002 Blue Ribbon Panel on Pedestrian and Traffic Safety. The goal of this initiative is to ensure that the County's most vulnerable roadway users receive as much attention as drivers by creating safe, walkable communities in Montgomery County. This initiative approaches pedestrian safety issues comprehensively by conducting an overall analysis of where the County is today and identifying the direction that the County needs for the future.

To accomplish the mission of the Pedestrian Safety Initiative, the County focuses on the three essential components of pedestrian safety: education, engineering and enforcement. Living in and representing District 5, which has a high number of pedestrian-related traffic incidents, I know that the County's initiatives on speed enforcement, outreach and education, especially for children and non-English speaking residents, are critical to improving safety.

Further, I realize that it is imperative that the County continue to encourage and create an environment where alternate modes of transportation are safe and accessible. Improving pedestrian access and infrastructure fits within many of the County's goals. It can enhance mobility, improve public health, promote a sense of place, improve quality of life, reduce vehicle trips, and help to offset environmental impacts by increasing pedestrian routes to mass transit.

I have been proud to serve as the Council's representative on the County's Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (PTSAC). At a recent PTSAC meeting, the Committee discussed the potential for an annual Council review of pedestrian safety expenditures, the implementation of strategies, and progress towards the objectives of the Pedestrian Safety Initiative. While the County publicly engages in progress reports on pedestrian safety in CountyStat meetings, there is no existing comprehensive public review before the Council. I believe it would be in the County's interest for the Council to start reviewing the status of pedestrian safety efforts each fall, so that discussions can begin early in the budget process.

In this respect, I would like to request a joint Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (T&E) Committee and Public Safety Committee meeting on pedestrian safety. Specifically, I would like the joint T&E/PS Committee to take up progress on the County's pedestrian safety efforts, including:

- Agency expenditures on pedestrian safety efforts;
- Targeted improvements in High Incident Areas (HIA);
- Public outreach and education efforts;
- Enforcement actions;
- Coordination with the State Highway Administration (SHA), the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and utility providers in implementing pedestrian safety improvements;
- Emphasis on pedestrian and bicycle safety in the planning process;
- Improvements in pedestrian and bicycle connectivity;
- Impacts on reducing pedestrian injuries and fatalities; and
- Future direction of the Pedestrian Safety Initiative.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. Please let me know how soon any action can be taken. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact my office at 240-777-7960.

Sincerely,



Valerie Ervin
Councilmember – District 5

c: Councilmembers
Timothy Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer
Tom Street, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Esther Bowring, Public Information Officer, Public Information Office
Arthur Holmes, Jr., Director, Department of Transportation
Jeff Dunkel, Pedestrian Safety Coordinator, Department of Transportation
Chief J. Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Police Department
Chief Richard Bowers, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service
Sarah Navid, Plan Reviewer, Department of Permitting Services
Anyesha Mookherjee, Traffic Team Leader, District 3, State Highway Administration
Glenn Orlin, Council Staff
Erwin Mack, Chair, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee