

**DRAFT SUMMARY OF September 4, 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: Darrel Droblich, Chair; David Anspacher, MNCPPC; Ramin Assa; Kristy Daphnis; Angel Garcia-Ablanque, MCPS; Arthur Holmes Jr., MCDOT; Jeremy Martin, ML; Alan Migdall; Colleen Mitchell; Drew Morrison (for Roger Berliner, County Council); Reemberto Rodriguez, SSRSC

Members Absent: Steve Friedman; Anyesha Mookherjee, MSHA; David Sharp; Jack Strausman; Erwin Mack; Captain Thomas Didone, MCPD

County Staff: Keith Compton, MCDOT; Jeff Dunckel, MCDOT (Pedestrian Safety Coordinator); Kim Funderburk, MCDOT; Nadji Kirby, MCDOT; Fred Lees, MCDOT; Emil Wolanin, MCDOT;

Guests: John Wetmore, Perils for Pedestrians; Ken Silverman, Councilmember Riemer's Office;

1.) PBTSAC Committee Business:

Darrel Droblich, Chair

Chair Droblich called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM, calling for introductions.

MOTION: The July Meeting Summary was unanimously approved.

Update on Testimony to T&E Committee – Chair Droblich, with Erwin Mack, addressed the T&E Committee on July 28th. He described issues of concern for the PBTSAC, including the need for a Pedestrian Master Plan and an update to the existing Bicycle Master Plan, the need for additional funding for a public education and awareness campaign for pedestrians and cyclists (citing the expansion of Bikeshare); and funding for MCPD enforcement which has been zeroed out the last three years. Crosswalk safety stings are being expanded by MCPD under Captain Didone.

Discussion ensued, Chair Droblich asked David Anspacher to identify the gaps in existing County Master Plans and Sector Plans to identify needs that should be included in a pedestrian master plan. MCPD

Update on Interviews of Candidates for New Members – Dunckel reported that the County Executive Office had forwarded 10 applications. Candidates appear to represent a good geographical cross section of the County and have lots of pedestrian safety experience. The Selection Committee (Jeff Dunckel, Kristy Daphnis, Darrel Droblich and Steve Friedman) will conduct interviews and make recommendations by the end of September.

Update on Pedestrian and Bicycle Collisions and Fatalities – Captain Didone was unable to attend the meeting. The subject will be revisited at the November meeting.

Follow-up on Committee Motions – Chair Droblich has implemented a new PBTSAC Motions Tracking

Spreadsheet procedure for the Committee and others to use to track responses to actions taken by the committee. He also described new procedures for the committee to submit motions to the appropriate agencies and officials: PBTSAC members will prepare a transmittal letter for approved motions, which includes the language of the motion, to be provided to the Droblich for submittal to the CE and County Council and appropriate agencies. Motions and actions will continue to be kept track of in the spreadsheet to ensure timely submission and accountability. Art Holmes, Jr. suggested submitting motions to the Melanie Wenger at the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, and asked Jeff to contact her regarding the preferred way to submit correspondence from PBTSAC.

Review of County Council Legislation – Bill 21-14, Street and Road – Sidewalk Snow Removal Plan – Ken Silverman, on behalf of Councilmember Riemer, provided an overview of Bill 21-14. The bill, which is co-sponsored by Councilmember Nancy Navarro, was inspired by testimony and comments made to Council regarding the County’s snow removal practices in the wake of last winter’s numerous snow events. The bill would require MCDOT to perform a full inventory of County sidewalks. The (sidewalk) data would be used to develop a map with several GIS layers showing sidewalk locations, property ownership, the parties responsible (to remove snow within 24-hrs.), as well as the real-time location of snow plows and clearing operations in the County. This map would be made available to the public via the MCG website; the site also includes the ability to lodge complaints. The Public Information Office would launch a public awareness campaign. Consequently, enforcement efforts would be stepped up and citations issued for non-compliance – not clearing the sidewalks within 24 hours of the storm event

The bill also requests MCDOT to take the lead in coordinating an interagency sidewalk snow removal plan that is prioritized by usage (utilizing the sidewalk inventory data.) The process would involve community input and would assist the CE and Council preparing the budget for snow removal. A \$450k one-time development cost would provide the sidewalk inventory, GIS map, the development of the plan and the PIO campaign. Bill 21-14 can be found in its entirety on the PBTSAC website:
<http://pbtsac.blogspot.com/2014/09/september-2014-meeting-packet.html>

MOTION: Alan Migdall introduced the following Motion: Snow removal and the general clearance of pedestrian facilities is an important safety issue, and it is one that the County should increase its efforts to ameliorate the hazards that result from the current level of effort. Bill 21-14, with its main thrust being the development of a Plan for removal of snow from sidewalks, is a good first step in increasing focus on this issue. Bill components, which include mapping and prioritizing pedestrian infrastructure, clarifying the removal responsibilities, and educating and enforcement components, are positive elements of this effort and are supported by the Committee. While the Committee fully expects this bill to evolve as input from stakeholders is heard and incorporated, and as a snow removal plan is developed, Bill 21-14 is a good starting place.

The motion was approved with abstentions from Arthur Holmes, Jr., and David Anspacher.

Bill 33-13, Streets and Road – Urban Road Standards and Pedestrian Safety Improvements – Drew Morrison (for Roger Berliner) addressed the committee on Bill 33-13. This bill would legislate engineering standards in the Rode Code for urban roadways. Concerns were raised about the ability to accommodate large vehicles such as commuter and school buses, and the feasibility of reducing speeds to 20 mph on secondary, tertiary, residential roads. Emil Wolanin commented that MCDOT supports the concepts behind the bill, but there are issues with the rigid structure of the bill and its one-size fits all

approach in legislating dimensions for curbs, travel lanes and road speeds. MCDOT feels more flexibility is needed; these issues should be determined on a case-by-case basis by professional engineers who design the roads. Emil Wolanin suggested using guidelines from the Institute of Transportation Engineers and Boston's Complete Streets Guidance (bostoncompletestreets.org). The complete bill can be found on the PBTSAC website.

MCDOT and members of the County Council have established a work group to review the possible changes to Bill 33-13 that would make it work for all stakeholders. Additional proposals will be discussed with the PBTSAC in the future as language is changed by this work group.

July 23rd CountyStat Review – On July 23rd, MCPD and MCDOT presented the Pedestrian Safety Initiative Update at CountyStat. The update covered data from 2013 as well as a detailed analysis of the pedestrian safety initiative from its origin in 2008 to the first full year of funding in 2010 through 2013. Key points include: a reduction in severe collisions; a marked difference in HIAs with targeted enforcement and education efforts; an small reduction in parking lot collisions; an increase in collisions in the 19 – 29 age range – distractions such as texting are thought to be the cause; while collisions in HIAs, Traffic Calming locations and Safe Routes Schools locations continue to be reduced. However, in HIAs, collisions appeared to rise once the concentrated education and enforcement efforts ended. The entire CountyStat presentation can be found on the PBTSAC documents page:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/countystat/Resources/Files/Ped%20Safety%20Web%20Version.pdf>

Review of DOT Budget/Program Priorities for Next Fiscal Year – Tony Alexiou was unable to attend the meeting.

Review of High School Education Program – Nadji Kirby briefed the Committee on the new Safe Routes to Schools, YOLO (You Only Live Once) campaign. The YOLO campaign utilizes thought-provoking taglines on ads (featuring area students) to raise awareness of pedestrian safety. Topics include texting, headphones usage and talking on cell phones while crossing the street. Each high school will receive a toolkit comprised of two posters, pledge banners, pledge drive suggestions, guide book and USB drive with digital copies of toolkit contents. The campaign toolkit is also available to everyone online at:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/safety

6.) New Business/Comments/Topics for September Meeting

- Next Ride-along
- Scheduling of New Committee Candidate Interviews (Drobnich, Dunckel, Daphnis, Friedman)
- Drafting of Annual Report

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.