



**Montgomery County, MD
Commission on People with Disabilities
Meeting Summary Minutes
November 12th, 2014**

Welcome and Approval of October, 2014 Meeting Summary Minutes:

Trish Gallalee, Chair, convened the meeting. Due to time constraints, the approval of the October, 2014 Meeting Summary Minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

Montgomery County Sidewalk Snow Removal Legislation Bill 21-14 – Hans Reimer, Councilmember, Montgomery County Council:

On October 21st, the Montgomery County Council enacted Bill 21-14 that aims to better prepare the County for future snow seasons. The bill, whose chief sponsor was Councilmember Hans Reimer, was introduced last April after a particularly long and snowy winter that led to some sidewalks remaining buried in snow for weeks at a time.

The bill has several key elements. It requires:

- The County Executive to come up with a sidewalk snow removal plan for publicly-owned land that prioritizes high-volume pedestrian routes, bus stops, school zones, along state highways, and urban districts.
- The County Executive to create a digital map of the county that shows who is responsible for clearing snow and ice from each sidewalk in the County.
- The County Executive to conduct a public education campaign on property owners responsibilities for clearing snow and ice from their sidewalk.

While the bill does require the County to come up with a plan that would rationalize and prioritize the clearing of sidewalks adjacent to publicly-owned land, property owners will still bear the primary onus for clearing snow from their sidewalks. Current law requires County residents to remove snow from sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24 hours.

Councilmember Reimer noted that the County spent approximately \$35,000,000 to \$40,000,000 last year clearing snow from roadways. The County has estimated it will cost approximately \$450 per mile to shovel and clear the sidewalk. The Council will be having future debates on funding sidewalk snow removal.

More information about Bill 21-14 is available from the Council web site at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view_id=6&event_id=1693&meta_id=72723

The floor was opened to questions.

Mark Maxin, Commissioner, asked what the consequences are for a private business that does not clear the sidewalks located on or adjacent to their property. He noted that the sidewalks in front of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Rockville Pike are consistently not cleared of snow and ice. The Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) is responsible for enforcement. If commercial and multi-family properties do not clear the sidewalks within 24 hours they will receive a written warning and have 24 hours to correct the violation or face a \$50.00 fine. Each day that a violation continues is a separate violation. These laws

are already in existence. They were not added or altered in the new legislation. Betsy added that it is unclear whose responsibility it is to maintain the roads around the NRC, as some portions are the State and some are the County. Councilmember Riemer asked Mark to contact him directly concerning this issue so he can have DHCA join the discussion. He also suggested the County develop a database to keep track of repeat violators.

It was recommended that snow plows have consistent areas where to dump and store snow as to prevent build-up in disabled parking spaces and on residential streets that prevent homeowners from leaving their homes. It was also suggested that the County develop a database of individuals who are willing to shovel for pay, and that Montgomery County Public School students be able to shovel snow for student serving learning hours.

Councilmember Riemer encouraged Commissioners to send him feedback and suggestions as the County goes forward with creating a plan, which will be continued to be improved upon after implementation. Feedback can be sent via email to Councilmember.Riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Update on Resource Coordination and Aging and Disability Services – Dr. Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services:

The County Council Health & Human Services (HHS) Committee will be holding a follow-up meeting on November 18th to receive an update on Resource Coordination from Uma Ahluwalia, Director, HHS. This update will include detailed information on the costs regarding the recommendation for the County to remain a provider. Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst, is currently reviewing the report submitted by HHS. Jay will return to the Commission and give an update at the next meeting.

The Purple Line and Accessibility Features – Joy Hamilton, Leslie Salgado, and Fred Hiser, Purple Line Management Team, Maryland Transit Partners of the Maryland Transit Administration

Purple Line PowerPoint Presentation: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/CPWD/PurpleLinePresentation.pdf>

The Purple Line will be a brand new 16-mile light rail providing a more direct and reliable East-West transit connection between Bethesda in Montgomery County and New Carrollton in Prince George's County. The Purple Line will consist of 21 new stations serving major employment and activity centers in Montgomery County including the WMATA Metro stations in Bethesda and Silver Spring. It will also connect to the University of Maryland – College Park.

Preliminary planning for the Purple Line was completed in September, 2013, and a Final Environmental Impact Statement was submitted to the Federal Government. The Federal Government has recommended that the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) receive full grant funding for the project.

The Purple Line is being delivered as a public-private partnership (P3). The State intends to solicit a single private partner (concessionaire) who will be responsible for designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining the project, and the private partner will also help finance a portion of construction. On July 28, 2014, the Maryland Department of Transportation and MTA issued a final request for proposals to the shortlisted teams. Proposals are to be submitted on January 9, 2015. Maryland Department of Transportation and MTA will select a preferred partner and recommend the final agreement to the Board of Public Works for its review and approval. There are currently four teams vying to be chosen. MTA hopes to make an award to the contract in March, 2015. The concessionaire will act as an investor and will be investing up to \$900,000,000 of their own funding. The concessionaire will be responsible for operations and maintenance of the Purple Line for approximately 30 to 35 years. The Purple Line is scheduled to be open for service in late 2020.

MTA will retain primary responsibility for certain project elements including public information and outreach all throughout construction and during operational service. In the next three months, MTA will be moving forward with the P3 process, continuing coordination and establishing community advisory teams. There are four teams in Montgomery County and four teams in Prince George's County.

The Purple Line trains are quiet and modern vehicles that are approximately 95 to 100 feet in length. Trains will have designated spaces to accommodate individuals who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices and are designed for level boarding with wide doorways for easy access for all patrons. All trains are designed in accordance with the latest ADA Accessibility Specifications for Transportation Vehicles.

Stations are being designed with an overarching goal of universal design. They will be well lit, attractive and distinguishable from Metro stations. Train information will be available in both visual and audio formats. Ticket vending machines will be ADA compliant and feature both Braille and audio.

The floor was then opened to questions.

Trish Gallalee, Chair, asked if elevators would be centrally located at stations where transfers occur. Fred said that the only station transfers at the Bethesda station and elevators will be in one centralized lobby across from one another. Multiple elevators will be installed to hopefully negate the issue of outages.

Marcie Povitsky, Commissioner, asked about the form of payment to use the Purple Line system. The current intent is to combine the Baltimore system with the DC system to create a one card system. It has also been discussed having an honor system where users would pay ahead of time and be checked periodically.

Mark Maxin, Commissioner, asked for more information about the role of a concessionaire and what the benefits are for the concessionaire. In return for operating and maintaining the project at a specific level of service along with financing a portion of the design and construction, the State will pay the private partner annual service payments (formally called "availability payments") throughout an approximately 30 year operating period. Deductions will be made from these payments if the contractor does not meet pre-determined performance targets. Solicitation documents and background information can be found online at <http://purplelinemd.com/en/p3>.

Diane Stahl, Commissioner, asked how the design of the Purple Line system would be different from the Metro system, which still has many accessibility issues. Metro was designed in 1969, prior to the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, thus it was not built to specifications for individuals with disabilities. Metro has been making its system accessible through retrofits. The Purple Line is being designed and constructed with all ADA requirements in mind including accessible routes, curb ramps, accessible entrances, ramps, lifts, accessible platforms, elevators, and signage.

More information and updates on the project can be found online at www.purplelinemd.com. You can also like them on Facebook at [facebook.com/marylandpurpleline](https://www.facebook.com/marylandpurpleline) or follow them on Twitter at @PurpleLineMD. If you have questions or comments about the project, you can direct them to the Purple Line Outreach Team at 443-451-3706 (V) or e-mail outreach@purplelinemd.com.

New Business: None.

Chair and Vice Chair Report: Trish Gallalee, Chair, reported that the Commission will be having a retreat for its next meeting. The Commission will discuss new goals for the upcoming year.

Commissioners whose terms have expired are asked to please continue to serve until new members have been appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. The Commission will be interviewing new applicants next week. We hope to have new members confirmed by January.

Workgroup Updates: Charlie Crawford, Vice Chair, reported that the Transportation Workgroup met prior to the meeting and discussed a private-public partnership that may increase the availability of accessible taxi cabs for individuals who use wheelchairs.

Roundtable: Diane Stahl, Commissioner, announced that a World of Possibilities disabilities Expo would be taking place this Saturday, November 15th in Tysons Corner.

Community Speaks: Deferred due to time constraints.

Next Full Commission Meeting: **PLEASE NOTE EXTENDED MEETING TIME** - Wednesday, December 10th, 2014 – Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Lobby Auditorium, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 – **5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, December 17th, 2014 - 401 Hungerford Drive, 1st Floor Tan Conference Room, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist I; Betsy Luecking, Program Manager II