

## **BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – JULY 17, 2007**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by John Carman.

### Items Requiring Future Action

1. Test County BRAC Web Site
2. Prepare timeline for EIS process
3. Prepare correspondence to County Executive re: response to Draft EIS for NNMC
4. Receive information on other BRAC communities, including OEA video.
5. NNMC briefing on Draft EIS.
6. Receive briefing on Federal, State and County budget and appropriations processes.
7. Process map and chart of organizational relationship among various governmental agencies.
8. Briefing on TDM measures for federal facilities.
9. General briefing on Transportation Demand Management

### Meeting Summary

- John Carman began with several updates and announcements:
  1. Asked committee members for any comments on prior meeting summary - none provided.
  2. Informed committee on June 22 Installation Council meeting.
  3. Mentioned that , per request at last meeting, a letter had been sent to Ike/Praisner urging request for extension of EIS review period and they in turn had sent such a request.
  4. Advised committee that copies of the Baltimore and Frederick Action Plans , as well as, the NIH EIS were available for review.
  5. Asked for any updates from the committee members - none provided
- Phil Alperson, Montgomery County BRAC Coordinator, reported on the following items:
  1. The Governor's BRAC Subcabinet is working with CE Leggett's office to coordinate an event in Rockville which is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 18.
  2. A County BRAC web site is being developed. Hopefully, it will be available to the Committee in the near future for review and comment before it goes public.
  3. The U.S. Department of Labor awarded a \$4 million grant to the State of Maryland for BRAC-related workforce development. This will be administered by the Dept. of Labor and Licensing.

4. In a related development, the next meeting of the Maryland Military Installation Council, September 6 in Crownsville, is tentatively scheduled to focus on BRAC-related workforce development and education.
  5. An update on federal BRAC-related funding:
    1. Congressman Van Hollen was able to include \$1,000,000 in an FY2008 transportation funding bill for a State-County study of the Route 355 corridor near NNMC and NIH. Senator Mikulski has included \$3,000,000 for that project in the Senate bill. Phil guessed that \$2,000,000 ultimately will be appropriated. Meanwhile, MD DBED is working with MDOT on a state-wide OEA grant request that includes \$500,000 for this study. If the federal appropriation is successful, then the DBED request will be reprogrammed for other BRAC needs.
    2. A Defense bill will likely authorize funding to accelerate construction at WRNNMC in Bethesda and the military hospital at Fort Belvoir in order to complete these projects by 2010.
    3. Next year Congress will begin considering reauthorization of the major transportation bill that funds highway and transit projects over a five or six year period. This will be an opportunity to seek BRAC related funding
  6. Montgomery County is joining a multi-jurisdictional regional group focusing on BRAC expansion at Fort Meade in Anne Arundel County. Fort Meade is set to receive over 20,000 new defense-related jobs; regional authorities anticipate almost double that number in total new jobs in central Maryland due to BRAC-related growth, with large impacts on housing, school enrollment, and transportation and infrastructure.
  7. Under BRAC, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) headquarters in Bethesda will relocate to Fort Belvoir. While many NGA employees will endure the commute to Virginia, some may elect not to. The Workforce Investment Board of the County Dept. of Economic Development is looking at ways to match those highly-skilled County residents with new defense intelligence jobs that will be established at Fort Meade.
- John led a discussion about how the Committee will approach the Draft Environmental Impact Study (EIS) which is due to be released by the Navy in early to mid-September. While the Draft EIS will focus on many concerns, the consensus was that it can be assumed that the transportation mitigation will be the number one concern of the Committee. Other concerns will include environmental matters relating to NEPA, and housing costs and availability for outpatients and families at Walter Reed/Bethesda.

- John asked NNMC representatives what the status was of NNMC's response to the July 6 letter from County Executive Leggett and Council President Praisner requesting an additional 45 days for the public comment period, on top of the 45 days already allotted for public review and comment. The NNMC response is being drafted and should be completed in the near future. Concern was expressed that the Navy's current 45-day period will not give the County time to include appropriate mitigation in its FY2008 budget. Given the compressed time frame for consideration of the Draft EIS and the need for the County to develop budget priorities for the BRAC-affected neighborhoods, John Carman expressed his belief that the Committee should issue two responses to the DRAFT EIS: an interim response expressing the Committee's basic concerns, and a final response that would be submitted at the end of the public comment period that would state specific responses to the Draft EIS. The Committee agreed that Phil Alperson should prepare a draft letter for Chairman Carman's signature to the County Executive, urging him to work with the Council to draft a budget that includes mitigation for three obvious areas that will need to be addressed in Bethesda as a result of BRAC: traffic mitigation along the Route 355 corridor, improved access to the METRO station at NNMC, and improved pedestrian and bicycle access to the NNMC and NIH campuses.
- Ron Spalding of MDOT explained that there is a complicated process how projects that are being studied can be elevated to higher phases of engineering study, design, and ultimately construction. Each County must prioritize projects within its own jurisdiction, and projects across the State must be considered and prioritized by State authorities. The Route 355 study funding that is included in the DBED-MDOT OEA grant request currently being assembled would analyze traffic mitigation options. That project has not reached the construction phase.
- John Carman suggested that NNMC should arrange a public briefing by NNMC experts for the Committee about the Draft EIS shortly after the document has been released. Phil Alperson will work with NNMC to arrange this.
- For its final response to the Draft EIS, the Committee agreed that it should develop a series of recommendations that reflect on major points of agreement among the Committee, and that these would likely be concerns of everyone on the Committee. Therefore, while some small groups of Committee members may want to meet to focus on specific policy matters within the Draft EIS, generally the Committee will act as a "Committee of the Whole" to consider the Committee's response to the Draft EIS. It was suggested that the Committee may need some sort of retreat or all-day Saturday session to devise a coordinated response to the Draft EIS, once members have reviewed the document individually or in small groups interested in particular parts.
- Royce Hanson noted that a mandatory referral of the Draft EIS to MNCPPC and NCPC will include Public Hearings as part of their thorough review and comment. Professionals from those agencies will be available to share their thoughts with the Committee. At the same time, relevant Montgomery County agencies (such as DPWT and DEP) will review and comment on the Draft EIS. It was noted that the County BRAC web site should post notices of such public hearings.

- There was a discussion of out patient treatment and housing at the new Walter Reed facility. According to NNMC and WRAMC representatives, philosophical differences between the Army and Navy on the nature of outpatient treatment have not yet been resolved. This could affect potential housing issues at WRNNMC in Bethesda, because there is concern that there may not be enough affordable housing in the community for outpatients and their families.
- The Committee agreed to forego its August meeting. In the interim, the Committee will test the County BRAC web site and communicate via email on issues and concerns relating to the Draft EIS.
- John Carman solicited comments from the audience. Mal Rivkin expressed his strong concern to the Committee that BRAC expansion at NNMC, combined with proposed expansion at Suburban Hospital and the proximity of these facilities to the NIH and USUHS campuses make Bethesda a significant potential terrorist target. George Oberlander expressed his concern that development in the region beyond BRAC expansion at NNMC, such as further development at White Flint and downtown Bethesda, will have significant regional traffic and environmental impacts. A representative of the Parkview Citizens Association noted his presence because Jon Alterman, the Association's designated representative, was not able to attend and encouraged the Committee to post on the web site information about the Draft EIS timeline and public comment opportunities.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30. The next regularly scheduled meeting is September 18, 2007, at 7:30 p.m.

Committee members in attendance, July 17, 2007:

Royce Hanson (MNCPPC)  
 Deborah Michaels  
 Pat Baptiste  
 John Carman  
 Phil Alperson  
 Paul Thaler  
 Ilaya Hopkins  
 David Smith  
 Janet Maalouf  
 Daniel Wheeland  
 Mohammad Siddique (DPWT)  
 Ron Spalding (for Sam Minnitte, MDOT)  
 Melanie Wenger  
 William McGlockton (Stone Ridge)  
 Brian Gragnaloti  
 Mike Plantamura  
 Patrick O'Neill (GBCCCC)

Richard Lashley (BUP)

Ex-officio:

Delegate Bill Bronrott  
Rebecca Lord (Councilmember Berliner)  
Sue Tabach (Sen. Mikulski)  
Joan Kleinman (Rep. Van Hollen)  
Ken Reichard (Sen. Cardin)  
Captain Zulick (NNMC)  
Ollie Oliveria (NNMC)  
David Wade (WRAMC)

Other attendees

Lisa Rother (MoCo Planning)  
Shahriar Etemadi (MNCPPC)  
Neil Greene (Acton Committee for Transit)  
Gerald Cichy (MTA)  
Mike Coveyou (MoCo Finance)  
Cyrena Eitler (OEA)  
Dennis Coleman (NIH)  
George Oberlander  
Mal Rivkin  
Dave Dabney (BUP)  
Pat Xeller (MD DBED)  
Richard Hoyer  
Geoff Binder  
Wayne Jerman  
Rob Klein (MoCo DED)