

**BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY – March 15, 2011**

- **John Carman called the BRAC Implementation Committee to order at 7:35 p.m.**
- **Phil Alperson, the County’s BRAC Coordinator, provided the following updates:**
  - **THE BRAC MOBILITY PROJECTS MATRIX IS POSTED ON THE BRAC WEB SITE.** It has been updated through January 3, 2011 and reflects the multi-modal approach the County, State and other stakeholders are taking to address the transportation impacts of BRAC in Bethesda – transit improvements, pedestrian and bicycle enhancements, intersection upgrades, transportation demand management, etc.  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/transpo\\_project\\_matrix-010311.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/transpo_project_matrix-010311.pdf)
  - **THE “TIERS AND PHASES” OF BRAC PROJECTS** based on available funding streams is also posted on the web site. The Tiers and Phases were developed by MDOT and MCDOT in November 2009 with input from the BIC.
    - **Matrix developed by MDOT-MCDOT, October 2009:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/brac\\_projects-tiers-100609.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/brac_projects-tiers-100609.pdf)
    - **Summary of Tiers & Phases, updated February 4, 2011:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/tiers\\_phases-summary-revised-020411.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/tiers_phases-summary-revised-020411.pdf)
  - **RECENT GAO REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS:** Defense Infrastructure -- High-Level Federal Interagency Coordination Is Warranted to Address Transportation Needs beyond the Scope of the Defense Access Roads Program  
<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11165.pdf> (51 pp)
    - **Summary:** <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-165>
    - **Highlights:** <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d11165high.pdf> (1 page)
  - **POTENTIAL FEDERAL FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN COMMUNITIES WITH BRAC-IMPACTED MILITARY HOSPITALS:**
    - On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the House approved H.R. 1, a Continuing Resolution (CR) that would fund all agencies of the federal government through

September 31, 2011, the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011. The CR includes the language that Congressman Chris Van Hollen and Senators Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin have championed to appropriate \$300 million for transportation projects in communities with BRAC-impacted military hospitals. However, because of disputes over programmatic and spending cuts, HR 1 was “dead on arrival” in the Senate. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee released his Committee’s draft of a substitute for HR 1, and it also included the Van Hollen-Mikulski-Cardin BRAC provision. Ultimately, however, on March 9<sup>th</sup> the Senate couldn’t muster enough votes to pass either version of HR 1. Meanwhile, the bare-bones CR that has been funding the federal government was due to expire on March 18<sup>th</sup>, so the House passed (and the Senate is soon expected to pass) another short-term bare-bones CR that will fund the government through April 8<sup>th</sup>. Conventional wisdom on the Hill is that Congress no longer has the stomach to pass bare-bones short-term CR’s and will negotiate a full-year 2011 CR before the new short-term CR expires in April. At a minimum there is a strong desire to pass a full year Defense Appropriations bill. And, needless to say, we hope the BRAC provision will survive those negotiations; it certainly helps that the BRAC provision was in House and Senate versions of HR 1 which is a good starting point for those negotiations.

- **2-20-11 Washington Post: Bethesda braces for a BRAC traffic nightmare – Commentary by Patrick L. O’Neil, chairman of the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce:**  
[http://voices.washingtonpost.com/local-opinions/2011/02/bethesda\\_braces\\_for\\_a\\_brac\\_tra.html](http://voices.washingtonpost.com/local-opinions/2011/02/bethesda_braces_for_a_brac_tra.html)

- **BETHESDA URBAN PARTNERSHIP WEB SITE ON TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT:**

- **Bethesda Transportation Solutions BRAC web site: We Want You to be Ready!**  
<http://www.bethesdatransit.org/BRAC.shtml>

- **BIC CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEGGETT ON TDM FUNDING:**

- At the February BIC meeting, the committee agreed to urge County Executive Leggett to support full funding of County TDM programs in the upcoming budget. Earlier today, the County Executive released his budget submission to the County Council; unfortunately the budget proposes to eliminate commuter subsidies for Bethesda TDM.

- **2-22-11 Bethesda Patch: BRAC Committee Asks Leggett to Fund Alternative Transportation Programs -- "Transportation demand management" programs necessary to encourage commuters out of cars as BRAC transition nears, committee**  
<http://bethesda.patch.com/articles/brac-committee-asks-leggett-to-fund-alternative-transportation-programs>
  - **2-18-11 BIC Letter to County Executive Leggett:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/bic-tdm\\_lettertocex-021811.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/bic-tdm_lettertocex-021811.pdf)
  - **2-24-11 County Executive Leggett's Response:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/bic-tdm-cex\\_response-022411.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/bic-tdm-cex_response-022411.pdf)
  - **3-15-11 Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett News Release: Leggett Closes \$300 Million Budget Gap, Bringing Five-Year Reductions to \$2.5 Billion; Hard Choices Made Include Significant Reductions in Employee Staffing and Compensation and Cuts in Programs and Services -- Transportation incentive funds for commuters using transit or ridesharing in Bethesda would be eliminated.**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR\\_details.asp?PrID=7413](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=7413)
- **PUBLIC INFORMATION OUTREACH ABOUT UPCOMING BRAC-RELATED CONSTRUCTION AND TRAFFIC:**
- **WEB SITE ENHANCEMENTS:**
    - **Stay tuned for more user-friendly enhancements to the County's BRAC site.** There will be a new user-friendly Home Page with graphics and tabs that will make the site easier to navigate. There will be a new emphasis on information for the general public to address potential traffic impacts, projects to address them, and solutions that are in place right now for people to improve their travels to and through Bethesda: What's happening with traffic in Bethesda, what is being done about it, and what people can do now to improve travel to and through Bethesda.
      - **3-4-11 Bethesda Patch: Bethesda Transportation Solutions Launches New BRAC Site -- New section of bethesdatransit.org educates residents about how BRAC will affect their commute.**

<http://bethesda.patch.com/articles/bethesda-transportation-solutions-launches-new-brac-site>

- **Bethesda Transportation Solutions BRAC web site: We Want You to be Ready!**  
<http://www.bethesdatransit.org/BRAC.shtml>
  
- **There is a new “Projects At a Glance Page” that provides a concise and frequently updated summary of the main projects to mitigate BRAC-related traffic:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/projects\\_glance.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/projects_glance.asp)
  
- **Non-BRAC Construction Disruptions:**
  - **2-26-11 Gazette.Net: Lot 31 retail, housing project expected to start three years of construction in the fall -- Officials prep for where to put drivers, walkers during downtown Bethesda construction**  
<http://www.gazette.net/stories/02262011/montnew10141232578.php>
  
  - **2-28-11 Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation: Reconstruction of Cedar Lane over Rock Creek to Begin this Winter**  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/Blog/pioBlog.asp?blogID=17&blogItemID=1293>
  
  - **1-24-13 Bethesda Patch: Old Georgetown Road Resurfacing Project Expected to Bring Lane Closures -- SHA will soon start work to improve road quality, pedestrian safety.**  
<http://bethesda.patch.com/articles/old-georgetown-road-resurfacing-project-expected-to-bring-lane-closures>
  
- **SHA CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE FOR “PHASE ONE” INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS:**  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/intersections-sha-tieroneschedule-122110.pdf>
  
- **NEW EXPRESS BUS SERVICE AVAILABLE ON ICC CONNECTIONG SHADY GROVE METRO TO BWI AND FORT MEADE:**  
<http://www.mtaiccbus.com/>

- **BUILDING 17 CONSTRUCTION ON NNMC CAMPUS:**
  - **2-24-11 NNMC Journal: Chief of Staff for Integration & Transition's Column**  
[http://www.dcmilitary.com/stories/022411/journal\\_28278.shtml](http://www.dcmilitary.com/stories/022411/journal_28278.shtml)
- **UPDATE ON NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE:**
  - **3-3-11 Fort Detrick Standard: National Museum of Health and Medicine to close exhibits April 3, preparing for move to Silver Spring**  
[http://www.dcmilitary.com/stories/030311/standard\\_28278.shtml](http://www.dcmilitary.com/stories/030311/standard_28278.shtml)
- **Edgar Gonzalez provided an update on MCDOT BRAC-related projects, including bike and pedestrian paths, the Chevy Chase Valley mitigation, and progress on the MD 355-Rockville Pike Crossing.** There was discussion about lighting and pedestrian safety. Edgar noted that the relatively inexpensive relocation of four light poles could not justify the enormous expense to PEPCO of undergrounding utilities along the length of West Cedar Lane. There was discussion of construction of the new Cedar Lane-Rock Creek Bridge that has begun and caused rush hour delays in the Parkview neighborhood. Edgar noted that construction could range from 7:00 am through 4:00 pm, but the resulting shortened construction schedule will cause fewer delays in the long term.
  - **Update on MCDOT BRAC--Related Projects:**  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/mcdot-projectsupdate-031511.pdf>
- **John Carman noted that MDOT was not represented at today's meeting, and asked Phil to convey to them that MDOT should provide the BIC monthly updates similar to Edgar's.**
- **Naval Support Activity-Bethesda Presentation: Transportation Demand Management Update:** Jeff Miller provided an update on Navy Med's TDM Plan. Highlights included an emphasis on reduced staff parking; a program to educate personnel on commuting alternatives; and preliminary discussions with NIH and MCDOT's Office of Commuter Services on establishing a joint express commuter bus service utilizing County Park-and-Rode lots.
  - **Navy Med TDM presentation (10 pages):**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/tm-nnmc\\_bicpresentation-031511.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/tm-nnmc_bicpresentation-031511.pdf)

- **NIH Presentation: Transportation Demand Management Update:** Tom Hayden, NIH Acting Associate Director for Program and Employee Services, provided an update on NIH's TDM Plan. NIH promotes a variety of commuting options, including shuttle bus service, biking amenities, and preferred parking for car and van pools.
  - **NIH TDM Presentation (6 pp):**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/tm-nih\\_bicpresentation-031511.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/tm-nih_bicpresentation-031511.pdf)
  
- **John Carman solicited comment from the public:**
  - Paul Seder, a retired NIH planner, suggested that usage of NIH gates at Wilson Drive, Cedar Lane, and Old Georgetown Road be revised to relieve congestion along Rockville Pike. He also urged greater flexibility of employee hours and services at NIH and NNMC.
  - Richard Hoyer suggested that NIH and NNMC apply for "Bicycle Friendly Community" status and suggested the agencies enhance their housing referral services.
  
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2011, 7:30 p.m., at the BCC Regional Services Center.

**Committee members in attendance, March 15, 2011:**

Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator  
 John Carman, Chairman, BRAC Implementation Committee  
 Larry Cole, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission  
 Dave Dabney, Bethesda Urban Partnership  
 Edgar Gonzalez, Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
 Ken Hartman, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center  
 Ed Krauze, Bethesda-Parkview Citizens Association  
 Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Association  
 Seth Maiman, Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board  
 Debbie Michaels, Glenbrook Village Home Owners Association  
 Sara Morningstar, Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Affairs  
 Patrick O'Neill, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce  
 Dawn Chaikin for Paul Thaler, Locust Hill Citizens Association  
 Phil Neuberger for Dan Wheeland, National Institutes of Health

**Ex-officio:**

Ken Reichard (Senator Ben Cardin)  
 Joan Kleinman (Rep. Chris Van Hollen)  
 Susan Buffone (Council Member Roger Berliner)

Debbie Spielberg (Council Member Marc Elrich)  
Jeff Miller, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda  
Captain Mike Malanoski, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda

**Other Attendees**

Nancy Abeles, Bethesda Crest  
Sandy Dean, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda  
Erin Donaghue, Bethesda Patch  
Sarah Gantz, Gazette Newspapers  
Tom Hayden, National Institutes of Health  
Richard Hoye, Action Committee for Transit  
Marilyn Mazuzan, Town of Oakmont  
Lauri Spiliotes, Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
Tara Mowery, NIH  
Peggy Schwartz, North Bethesda TMD  
Paul Seder  
Ken Strickland, Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Association  
David Winstead, White Flint Partnership  
Julie Woepke, Office of Military & Federal Facilities, MD DBED