Commission on People with Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2022

**MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM **

Welcome and Approval of April 2022 Meeting Minutes
Seth Morgan, Chair, convened the meeting. A motion was made to approve the April 2022 Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the April 2022 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Approved minutes are available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd.

Pedestrian Master Plan Discussion – Eli Glazier, Transportation Planner Coordinator, Montgomery County Planning Department

Website: https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/pedestrian-planning/pedestrian-master-plan/

PowerPoint: https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/CPWD/202220511_CPWD_RecDiscussion_local.pdf

Please review PowerPoint presentation. The following are notes Eli included in his presentation.

Accessibility for people with disabilities is a major focus of this plan. The phrase "walking and rolling" is inclusive of people who may be disabled or have mobility challenges but do not use a wheelchair or scooter. There are a lot of places in this County where a park or a grocery store might be a quarter-mile away, but people don't feel safe walking to it. This plan hopes to change that. Not to make everyone walk, but to give people the option to.

The pedestrian experience is multifaceted and this plan will be as well. It's not just about building or rebuilding sidewalks and street crossings. It's about having enough time to cross the street safely. It's about parking lots being designed with pedestrians in mind. It's about lighting, shade, pedestrian detours through construction zones, shoveling snow, and smooth and flat surfaces to walk and roll on. This is an opportunity for the County to take serious and necessary steps to improve pedestrian safety, comfort, and access in all its communities in the years ahead.

Montgomery Planning's role is facilitator and enforcer. Throughout this planning process, they will be working closely with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), Department of Permitting Services (DPS), Parks Department, Department of General Services (DGS), Police Department and others to recommend new and improved pedestrian pathways and crossings as well as important changes to the way the County is currently doing things. The intention is for this plan to not sit on a shelf and not be implemented. Montgomery Planning will be coordinating with their colleagues at these agencies and getting them to buy into a more pedestrian-friendly Montgomery County.

Crossings are more uncomfortable than pathways. Most pedestrian severe/fatal crashes happen on 5% of roads (major highways/arterials in urban areas). Elementary school students most likely to walk to school with drops in walking in middle school and high school.

During the months with longer nights, the number of pedestrian crashes increases. As shown in the figure on page 9 of the presentation, while the number of daylight pedestrian crashes tends to be higher during months with more daylight hours, there is a noticeable jump in pedestrian crashes occurring in darkness beginning in October

and ending in February when there are fewer hours of daylight. In fact, in November, December, and January, the majority of pedestrian crashes take place when it's dark outside. Most of these nighttime crashes take place in areas with existing streetlights. Perhaps it is because there is more street lighting in places with greater pedestrian volumes or that the existing lighting does not provide sufficient illumination to ensure pedestrians and drivers are visible to each other.

The countywide pedestrian survey found that overall, while 52% of respondents are satisfied with the pedestrian experience, only 43% of pedestrians with reported disabilities are satisfied with their overall pedestrian experience in Montgomery County. However, there are notable differences based on land use type with respondents in urban areas reporting about the same level of satisfaction whether they have a reported disability (59%) or not (60%). In contrast, respondents with reported disabilities in transit corridors are substantially less satisfied (33 percent) than respondents without reported disabilities (52%). Respondents with reported disabilities in exurban/rural areas are also less satisfied (36%) than respondents without reported disabilities (47%), but the differences are less pronounced.

While pedestrian comfort and safety need to be improved throughout the county, particular areas of focus emerge from the data.

- **Address Issues Pedestrians with Disabilities Face:** Improve the pedestrian experience for residents with disabilities, particularly in transit corridors and exurban/rural areas.
- **Improve Pedestrian Satisfaction Along Streets:** Address issues with low levels of pedestrian satisfaction throughout the county, with a focus on transit corridors and exurban/rural areas. Elements with countywide satisfaction below 40% include speed of cars along sidewalks and paths (21%), snow removal (28%), distance between sidewalks and cars (31%), how often driveways cross sidewalks (35%), and shading by trees or buildings (39%).
- **Improve Pedestrian Satisfaction at Crossings:** Address issues with low levels of pedestrian satisfaction throughout the county, with a focus on transit corridors and exurban/rural areas. Topics with countywide satisfaction below 40% include the number of vehicles cutting across the crosswalk (22%), places to stop partway while crossing (33%), and drivers stopping when pedestrians cross the street (34%).
- **Prioritize Buffers on High-Speed Streets:** Provide a buffer between the sidewalk and the street, prioritizing roads with speeds greater than 40 miles per hour; 31% of sidewalks on these streets are missing a traffic buffer.
- **Focus on Crossing Improvements:** Prioritize improvements to the comfort and safety of crossings, as crossings are less comfortable than street segments and result in a greater number of pedestrian crashes resulting in severe injuries and fatalities.
- **Provide Pedestrian Refuges:** Increase the number of pedestrian refuges to improve crossing comfort, particularly on roads with six or more lanes of traffic. Today, only 16% of crossings with six or more lanes have pedestrian refuges that are ADA-compliant.
- **Improve Comfortable Access to Elementary Schools:** While elementary schools already have the highest connectivity comfort, this connectivity should be enhanced further. Improving comfortable access to elementary schools will increase the number of students walking to school, reduce busing costs, and make it more comfortable for all pedestrians to travel in school areas.
- **Prioritize Safer Crossings to Parks:** Improve the comfort of crossings to parks, as parks have lower comfortable pedestrian access than recreation centers and libraries (34% relative to 66%).
- **Reduce High-Speed Pedestrian Crashes:** Identify strategies to reduce pedestrian crashes on high-speed roads, given the correlation between pedestrian crash severity and vehicle speeds.
- **Improve Lighting:** Identify strategies to improve pedestrian visibility in dark conditions (e.g., lighting at intersections and along streets).
- **Address Safety Disparities:** Concentrate safety improvements in Equity Focus Areas (EFA), given the overrepresentation of crashes and severe injuries and fatalities in these communities. EFAs comprise 15% of the county's roadway miles, but experience 40% of the county's pedestrian crashes and 44% of the county's pedestrian severe injuries and fatalities.

Due to technical issues, the meeting was not recorded for the question and answer portion. Main recommendations were:

1) Educating and enforcing laws about not blocking sidewalks with driveway parking.

2) Using flexible pavement to expand narrow sidewalks around tree roots.

Commissioners can submit recommendations or comments to Eli Glazier via email at Eli.Glazier@montgomerycountymd.gov

Chair and Vice-Chair Report
Seth reported on the actions of the County Council's Transportation & Environment (T&E) Committee of the County Council. The Commission objected to MCDOT's proposed uses of the Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF), which did not align with the original intent of the fund. This resulted in Councilmember Hans Riemer proposing uses that significantly increased the benefits for drivers to make driving a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) taxi financially appealing and bolstered the available funds to purchase or retrofit vehicles to be made WAVs. These changes were approved at the T&E Committee meeting.

Seth also reported that $99,200 has been included in the County's FY23 Operating Budget to fund MoCo Better Beginnings – an early intervention screening initiative. This effort was led by Commissioners Avner Shapiro and Larry Bram. Funding will be used for both an outreach/project manager position and for subsidizing/promoting the use of an electronic system of care, such as CHADIS, by area pediatricians. This initiative has had support from County Council President Gabe Albornoz and several other Councilmembers.

Steering Committee meeting to be held Wednesday May 18 from 5pm to 6pm. Zoom link to be announced.

Update on Montgomery County Government ADA Compliance – Matt Barkley, ADA Compliance Manager

Website: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DGS-ADA/Home.html

Matt reported the ADA Compliance Team has been working closely with MCDOT on issues of sidewalk accessibility. MCDOT has an online ADA Ramp/Sidewalk Inspection Form for individuals to notify the County of ADA compliance issues including missing curb ramps; ramp too steep; and missing or inadequate landing areas as well as ADA compliance sidewalk issues including obstruction in sidewalk; sidewalk too narrow (less than 36 inches wide); sidewalk cross slope more than 2%; and tripping hazard. Form: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/resources/files/ADAweb.pdf.

The Team is working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to review the County's transition plan and sidewalk inventory. If the plan is not to the satisfaction of FHWA, the County will need to look further into the accessibility of existing sidewalks.

The Team has been providing training to several departments on providing reasonable accommodation requests. They have also been working with the Office of Public Information to ensure information on the website is accessible and includes how to access materials in alternate formats.

To contact the ADA Compliance Team for information, to make a comment, ask a question or file a grievance please contact 240-777-6197 (Voice), MD Relay 711, or email adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Update On Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee – Larry Bram and Jeneva Stone
Larry Bram reported the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (DDAC) had a discussion at their meeting on Monday regarding individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have complex medical needs. The medically complex population includes both persons with developmental disabilities and persons without developmental disabilities. Per the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, in Montgomery County, as well as throughout the country, services for school-aged children with developmental disabilities (3 through 21 years of age) are provided free of charge through the public school system.

At school students who have non-delegable nursing needs receive them throughout the scheduled school day hours. State programs often provide overnight and after school supports. The issue of skilled nursing services occurs after the individual exits the school system at age 21 if they do not qualify for the Rare and Expensive Medical (REM) Care state Medicaid program

Available data suggests there are approximately 4,000 or more individuals aged 0 to 64 in Maryland who are enrolled in state programs that provide home nursing services. It is estimated that approximately 700 of these individuals live in Montgomery County. This approximate number may be an undercount due to waiting lists and other factors. Such individuals include those who use a tracheostomy or a vent to assist their breathing; those who require injections for insulin, severe allergies or epilepsy; those who get their nutrition using a feeding pump; those who need IV treatments and many other conditions.

The DDA community-based services waiver, which is called the Community Pathways waiver, does not cover skilled nursing services. DDA waivers do not include skilled nursing or non-delegable nursing services but a person may receive them from REM if they qualify. Of those who choose the Community Pathways self-directed option, as many medically complex persons do, they face uncertain futures as their parents age and die. These individuals will go into medical day. For older adults, medical day may be a way to create a community.

Larry reported staff from DDA said they would contact Medicaid about convening a meeting to include MBN, REM, DDA, MDH, Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD), Arc of Maryland and families who can share their experiences and assist in identifying the gaps. He asked for this Commission's support in sending a letter to Secretary Carol Beatty, MDOD, and to Secretary Schraeder, MDH, in support of this meeting. If approved by the Commission, the letter would then need to be approved by the Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR) before being sent as the Commission cannot advocate at the state level without prior approval. Larry noted that a letter has yet to be drafted by this Committee. Seth said any letter drafted by a Committee must be sent out under his name as the Chair of this Commission. He has final authority over the language in the letter.

CMS has issued regulations that define the settings in which states are allowed to pay for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). The purpose of these regulations is to ensure that individuals receive Medicaid HCBS in settings that are integrated in and support full access to the greater community. All states must be in full compliance with the community settings rule by March 17, 2023

Ex-Officio Member Updates:
Denise Isreal, MCDOT, reported Ride On Transit Services is conducting a food drive from May 15, 2022 through May 22, 2022 in partnership with Manna Food Center, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) and Regional Services Centers. All food donations will go to Manna Foods to help members of our community who are in need. View locations of where food donations are being accepted: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Transit/food-drive.html.

Angelisa Hawes, MCPL, reported the Maggie Nightingale Branch in Poolesville will reopen on Saturday May 21. Building renovations included accessibility upgrades. The Potomac Library will close on Sunday May 22 at 6pm to undergo interior improvements. The library will be closed for approximately eight to 10 months.

Announcements
Jeneva, Liaison to Countywide Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, reported the Board had a presentation on ADA access from Montgomery Parks. She will share the presentation with Betsy. She also has an issue that she will discuss at the Steering Committee meeting.

Eric Cole, Commissioner, reported he spoke with Maryland Medicaid about their current approach to medication coverage. Currently, Medicaid publishes a list twice a year of medications that have changed from brand name to generic brand. This list is sent to pharmacies and physicians but is not shared with Medicaid recipients or their caregivers. Eric is working with Medicaid to determine how they can inform Medicaid recipients or their caregivers as well so they can make informed decisions about their medications.

Meeting adjourned – 7:30pm

Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
June 2022 Meeting and Events Calendar

Full Commission Meeting – Wednesday, June 8
6pm to 7:30pm to be held via Zoom – link to be announced

Developmental Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC) – Monday, June 13
4pm to 5:30pm to be held via Zoom – link to be announced

Steering Committee Meeting – Wednesday, June 15
5pm to 6pm to be held via Zoom – link to be announced

Submitted by: Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist I
Betsy Tolbert Luecking, Community Outreach Manager

Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities Attendance Report
June 2021 – May 2022

VOTING MEMBERS ☒ Volunteer Form on File with Risk Management C = Conference Call / C* = Alternate Attended / P = Present / A = Absence W = Waived Absences by County Executive / R = Waiver Requested			JUNE	SEPT	OCTOBER	NOV	DEC	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	ABSENCES
1. Al-Mohamed, Deena ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	2nd term expires 9/2023 **RESIGNED**	A	C	C	A	C	C	C	C	A	X	X
2. Anderson, Jametta ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	1st term expires 9/2022	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	0
3. Bolston, Marcus ☐	Agency Rep.	Partial term expires 9/2021	A	C	A	C	A	C	C	A	C	A	5
4. Bram, Larry ☐	Agency Rep.	2nd term expires 9/2022	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	0
5. Carter, Neal ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	2nd term expires 9/2022	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	0
6. Coffield, Myra ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	2nd term expires 9/2023	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	0
7. Cole, Eric ☐	Agency Rep.	1st term expires 9/2022	A	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	1
8. Damiani, Mario ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	1st term expires 9/2023	C	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	C	A	4
9. Davis, Kaylee ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	1st term expires 9/2023	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	0
10. Ditkowsky, Marissa ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	Partial term expires 9/30/2022	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	1
11. Gallalee, Patricia ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	2nd term expires 9/2023	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	1
12. Gilchrist, Tonya	Person w/ Disability Rep	Partial term expires 9/2022	X	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	C	1
13. Greenberg, Michael ☐	Parent Rep.	1st term expires 9/2022	C	A	A	C	A	C	C	A	C	C	4
14. Hurtado, Luis ☒	Person w/ Disability Rep.	2nd term expires 9/2021	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	10
15. Liniak, Tom ☒	Agency Rep.	2nd term expires 9/2021	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	C	1
16. McCarthy, Mandy ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	1st term expires 9/2023	C	C	A	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	1
17. Morgan, Seth ☒	Person w/ Disability Rep.	4th term expires 9/2021	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	0
18. Morgret, Karen ☐	Agency Rep.	2nd term expires 9/2020	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	0
19. Rice, David ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	1st term expires 9/2022	C	A	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	C	3
20. Salzano, Eric ☐	Agency Rep.	1st term expires 9/2023	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	C	C	C	1
21. Shapiro, Avner ☐	Parent Rep.	2nd term expires 9/2023	A	A	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	2
22. Shermanski, Richard ☒	Agency Rep.	1st term expires 9/2021	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	0
23. Stone, Jeneva ☐	Parent Rep.	1st term expires 9/2024	X	X	C	C	A	C	C	C	C	C	1
24. Whittle, John ☐	Agency Rep.	1st term expires 9/2022	C	C	C	C	A	C	A	C	C	C	2
25. Wortham, Najla ☐	Agency Rep.	1st term expires 9/2023	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	C	1

Attendance Policy: A Voting Member may miss up to 3 meetings within a one year rolling period. Voting Members who miss more than 3 meetings in that period or who miss 3 consecutive meetings will be automatically removed. Waivers may be requested for absences caused by extenuating circumstances.

Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members	JUNE	SEPT	OCTOBER	NOV	DEC	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	ABSENCES
1. Barkley, Matthew – DGS – ADA Title II Compliance Officer / Alternate – Anil Saini	C	C	A	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	2
2. Buckley, Maria – Maryland Dept. of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) - RESIGNED	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3. Geness, Simone – Montgomery County Public Schools	A	C	A	C	C	A	C	A	A	A	6
4. Green, Bob – M-NCPPC, Montgomery Parks	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	C	C	0
5. Hawes, Angelisa – Department of Public Libraries – Special Needs Library	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	0
6. Hochberg, Karen – Targeted Recruitment Specialist - Office of Human Resources	C	A	C	C	C	A	C	A	C	C	3
7. Isreal, Denise – Department of Transportation	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	C	C	4
8. Luskey, Angela – Department of Recreation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	C	C	C	0
9. Moy, Christopher – ADA Compliance Officer, Montgomery College - RESIGNED	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10. Smith, Susan – HOC – Coordinator of Services for Residents with Disabilities ☒	C	C	C	A	C	C	C	A	C	A	3
11. VACANT – Health and Human Services											
12. VACANT – Health and Human Services - Children and Youth, School Health											
13. VACANT – Montgomery County Commission on Human Rights											