

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY / NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY BETHESDA  
BRAC INTEGRATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY – DECEMBER 2, 2014**

- **Ilaya Hopkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.**
  - Ilaya reminded BIC members to update their calendars to include the 2015 Quarterly BIC meetings, which will be held at 7:00 PM at the BCC Regional Services Center on the following dates:
    - March 17, 2015
    - June 16, 2015
    - September 15, 2015
    - December 15, 2015
  
- **Updates from Phil Alperson, Montgomery County Military Installations (BRAC) Coordinator:**
  - **Matters discussed at BIC meetings are detailed chronologically with background material on the website’s “Get Involved” Page:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/brac/get\\_involved.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/brac/get_involved.asp)
    - **Printable Timeline: Anticipated Construction-Related Traffic Disruptions in Bethesda:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/resources/files/brac\\_projects\\_timeline.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/resources/files/brac_projects_timeline.pdf)
    - **BRAC Transportation Projects and Commuting Options:**  
[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)
  
  - **Phil reminded the Committee to get traffic and BRAC news and information first by following Montgomery County BRAC on Twitter @BracMoCoMD .**
  
  - **RideOn Bus 34 continues to detour around Cedar Lane in the eastbound direction during current construction.** The regular route will be restored when SHA can re-open eastbound lanes to bus traffic.
  
  - **State Highway Administration Project web site.** SHA has established a web site that should be the go-to source to get information or relay questions or comments to SHA on the BRAC-related intersection projects:
    - [www.roads.maryland.gov](http://www.roads.maryland.gov)
      - Select “Projects and Studies” from left-column menu
      - Scroll Down and select “SHA Projects Page”

- Scroll way down. Select “Montgomery County” from “Select a County” drop down menu
- Currently, there is one BRAC Interaction Project: #4 – MD 355/Cedar Lane.
- Select that project. There are several tabs to look at:
  - Project
  - Schedule
  - Documents
  - Contacts
  - Maps
  - Media
  - Feedback
  - FAQ
- It is **highly recommended** that you use the **FEEDBACK** tab to ask questions or relay concerns about the project.
- **SHA will add similar pages for the projects at Connecticut avenue/Jones Bridge Road and at West Cedar Lane/Old Georgetown Road when construction commences.**
- **NIH Final EIS for its Master Plan:** Phil reported that the NIH published its Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on November 28, 2014. This publication date initiated a 30-day public comment period during which time NIH can take no action on the Master Plan. These links include the 584 Final EIS plus public contact information:
  - **12-1-14 Gazette.Net: NIH open to comments on major expansion in Bethesda -- Agency wants to move 3,000 workers to Bethesda campus**  
<http://www.gazette.net/article/20141201/NEWS/141209934/1257/nih-open-to-comments-on-major-expansion-in-bethesda&template=gazette>
  - **11-28-14 Notice for the National Institutes of Health Bethesda Campus Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement:**  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/Resources/Files/NIH-FinalEIS-FedRegNotice-1112814.pdf>
  - **FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT for NIH Bethesda Campus (584 pp)**  
[http://nems.nih.gov/Documents/2014\\_FINAL\\_EIS\\_BETHESDA%20MP%20%282%29.pdf](http://nems.nih.gov/Documents/2014_FINAL_EIS_BETHESDA%20MP%20%282%29.pdf)
  - **To request a hard copy of the Final EIS:** [nihnepa@mail.nih.gov](mailto:nihnepa@mail.nih.gov)

- **Background on NIH EIS and Master Plan:**  
<http://orf.od.nih.gov/PlanningSpaceManagement/NIHMasterPlanning/Pages/NIHMasterPlanandEIS.aspx>
- **SHA Project Updates: Phil shared the following updates from SHA on the four intersection projects:**
  - **MD 355 (Rockville Pike) / Cedar Lane. The project is approximately 40% complete. The estimated completion date (subject to change) is late fall 2016. Ongoing work includes:**
    - Widening continues southbound MD 355 at North Wood. This will increase storage in the left turn lane into NSAB North Gate, and help keep those vehicles from blocking through traffic lanes. This work could be complicated by the end of the year, weather permitting.
    - Drainage work and box culvert construction continues on 55 at Cedar.
    - The new pedestrian bridge on NIH property over the culvert west of 355 is open. Additional signage will be added to direct pedestrians to the bridge.
    - Resurfacing work by the new Stone Ridge School entrance on northbound 355 could be complicated by the end of the year, weather permitting.
  - **MD 355 (Rockville Pike) / Jones Bridge Road / Woodmont Avenue:**
    - SHA's dynamic signaling is in place but won't be activated until the full scope of the intersection project, in conjunction with the Multimodal Crossing Project, is complete.
    - Sidewalks, pedestrian crossing and vehicle movements have been discussed with stakeholders. SHA plans to provide pedestrian crosswalks at the four legs of the intersection. SHA will look at the placement of sidewalks relative to the roadways but may be limited by drainage and other infrastructure issues constraints. Sidewalks on the north and south sides are planned to be 10 feet wide to accommodate cyclist, but it might be necessary to reduce the south walk to five feet in which case cyclists will be directed to use the north path.
    - To promote pedestrian safety, SHA is proposing to increase the turn radius from northbound 355 onto eastbound Jones Bridge Road. SHA will study traffic noise and turning speeds at this corner. Signage will be considered to provide additional measures of pedestrian safety.
    - A grassy bulb-out will be added to the west side of the median at 355/Woodmont Avenue to calm traffic and protect pedestrians. The "Welcome to Bethesda" sign will be relocated but remain on the median.
  - **MD 187 (Old Georgetown Road / West Cedar Lane:**
    - The Notice to Proceed (NTP) to the contractor is on hold while MCDOT, NIH, and SHA resolve storm water management (SWM) issues. These issues are expected to be resolved in the near future, but until then the estimated start and completion dates are not set.

- **MD 185 (Connecticut avenue) / Jones Bridge Road:**
  - Phases 1 and 2 along Connecticut Avenue are complete.
  - Phase 3 on Jones Bridge Road: Issues with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) regarding utilities relocation and the HHMI retaining wall are still being worked out. The estimated start and completion dates cannot be set until these issues are resolved.
- **Questions were raised about the MD 355/Cedar Lane intersection. Phil said he would relay them to SHA:**
  - When will a second eastbound lane on Cedar Lane be re-opened?
  - Why does it appear that the median on MD 355 north of Cedar lane is being narrowed?
  - It was also suggested that SHA send a project engineer to the March 2015 BIC meeting to answer technical questions about the project.
- **NIH UPDATES:**
  - **Phil Neuberg reported that NIH hopes to resolve storm water management issues for the Old Georgetown Road/West Cedar Lane intersection soon so that the intersection p project can be complete by the end of summer 2015.**
  - **Phil discussed NIH's Transportation Management Plan as it relates to the Final EIS of the Campus Master Plan.** He noted that a 1992 MOU allows NIH to maintain a 1:2 parking ratio, but that the Final EIS calls for a 1:3 ratio for the 3,000 additional personnel that would come to the campus under the Master Plan.
- **NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY BETHESDA UPDATES:**
  - **Ryan Emery and Ron Inman reported that there has been heavier security at the NSAB gates recently;**
  - **The planned demolition of five interior buildings and constructing a new "Building C" is still on hold but may be included in the FY17 defense budget.**
  - **On the fate of the traffic signal at North gate: The Navy needs the North Gate traffic signal to help control access to the base but that the ultimate fate of the signal lies with SHA.** SHA plans updated traffic and environmental studies upon the completion of Phases 1-3
  - **Karen Kuker-Kihl raised the issue of enhanced access to the campus for individuals. She also noted the lack of Beltway signage directing vehicles to the Connecticut Avenue exit and Jones Bridge Road gates.** The Navy noted

her complaint that signage is insufficient to direct Metro Access and other vehicles to appropriate gates.

- **There was also a discussion about a potential “Kiss & Ride” facility to accompany the new Crossing Project that will soon begin construction.** Phil A[person noted that the various transportation stakeholders, including MCDOT, SHA, Navy and NIH, have had initial conversations about basic parameters of such a project but that real planning cannot begin until the Crossing Project is under way. Issues include the size and scope of a K&R, source of funding, and who would construct, maintain and own the project.
  
- **STONE RIDGE SCHOOL UPDATES:**
  - **Rich Vogel reported that changes to the entrances on Rockville Pike are nearing completion, that the new turf fields are in place, and that the new driveway at Cedar Lane is almost complete.**
  
  - **The new traffic signal on Cedar at Stone Ridge and Elmhirst is in place but has not been activated at this time.** SHA has been working with Stone Ridge and the Locust Hill and Bethesda Parkview neighborhoods to coordinate traffic issues.
  
- **SUBURBAN HOSPITAL (Johus Hopkins Medicine):** Leslie Weber reported the pre-construction is under way for the hospital expansion project. Most of the work is taking place on side streets. Visible construction on Old Georgetown Road will come later.
  - **Suburban Hospital 2020 Campus Plan:**  
<http://www.suburbanhospital2020.com/>
  
- **MCDOT PRESENTATION: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR THE MD 355 CROSSING PROJECT**
  - **Tim Cupples, the MCDOT Project Manager for the Crossing Project, gave an overview on the Crossing Project and how the RFP would be conducted to help MCDOT select a Design/Build Contractor.**
    - **MCDOT Presentation (requires Adobe Flash Player):**  
[https://prezi.com/vyzxo9dddmj2/md-355-crossing-brac/?utm\\_campaign=share&utm\\_medium=copy](https://prezi.com/vyzxo9dddmj2/md-355-crossing-brac/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy)
      - **PDF version (6 pp):**  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/Resources/Files/MMX-MCDOT-BIC-RFP-120214.pdf>
      - **CROSSING PROJECT OVERVIEW:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/projects/metro\\_mc.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/projects/metro_mc.html)

- **The RFP, in several thousand pages, lays out MCDOT’s project parameters and performance expectations to the two bidding contractors who will attempt to provide the best value bid for the project.** The “best value” may not necessarily be the lowest dollar bid. The two finalists which were announced some time ago are Clark Construction and a joint venture of Corman Construction and Bradshaw Construction. The project is expected to be complete by Fall 2018, weather permitting.
- The foundation of the RFP is in the six-party Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was signed in June, 2013. Parties were:
  - MCDOT
  - Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA)
  - DOD/U.S. Navy
  - WMATA
  - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
  - National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- The RFP also includes the Tier Two elements of the SHA Intersection Project at MD 355 and Jones Bridge Road/Woodmont Avenue/Center Drive. This project was joined with the Crossing Project to eliminate duplication of effort and to maximize efficiency of construction. The entire project will be managed by MCDOT under a single contract.
- Utility relocation may begin in the summer of 2015, with major construction to follow. Start of construction has been delayed for a number of factors, primarily:
  - Lengthy negotiations over the MOA;
  - The decision to combine the County and State projects, which ultimately will benefit the community but added new administrative delays.
  - Greater than expected utilities relocation that needs to be completed.
- **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY DISCUSSION:**
  - Ilaya continued the discussion from last September’s BIC meeting about pedestrian safety during construction of the intersections projects, and what safety measures would be in place after the projects are complete. In September the BIC agreed to draft a letter to appropriate SHA and MCDOT officials. BIC members reviewed the draft and decided to include specific references to improving access for students and people with disabilities.
    - **11-28-14 DRAFT BIC pedestrian safety letter to SHA and MCDOT**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/Resources/Files/BIC\\_PedSafety-111614.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/Resources/Files/BIC_PedSafety-111614.pdf)

- **Ilaya adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the BCC Regional Services Center.**

**BRAC Committee members in attendance, December 2 2014:**

Nancy Abeles, Bethesda Crest Home Owners Association  
 Phil Alperson, Montgomery County Military Installations (BRAC) Coordinator  
 Matt Folden for Larry Cole, Montgomery County Planning Board, MNCPPC  
 Lulu Gonella, Chevy Chase View  
 Ken Hartman, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center  
 Ilaya Hopkins, East Bethesda Citizens Assn. and Chair of the BRAC Integration Committee  
 Karen Kuker-Kihl, The Promenade Apartments  
 Richard Levine, Locust Hill Citizens Association  
 Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Association  
 Marilyn Mazuzan, Town of Oakmont  
 Debbie Michaels, Glenbrook Village Homeowners Association  
 Sara Morningstar, Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations  
 Phil Neuberg, National Institutes of Health  
 Rich Vogel, Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart  
 Leslie Weber, Suburban Hospital (Johns Hopkins Medicine)

**Ex-officio:**

Ryan Emery, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda  
 Ron Inman, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda  
 Laurie Edberg, Office of Senator Barbara Mikulski  
 Ken Reichard, Office of Senator Ben Cardin  
 Catherine Provost for Joan Kleinman, Office of Congressman Chris Van Hollen  
 Drew Morrison, Office of Council Member Roger Berliner

**Other Attendees**

Al Carr, Maryland House of Delegates District 18  
 Stacy Coletta, MCDOT Transit Services  
 Tim Cupples, MCDOT Division of Transportation Engineering  
 Richard Hoye  
 Tracey Johnstone  
 Jeanette Musil, DOD Office of Economic Adjustment  
 Paul Seder  
 Elizabeth Weibel, Gazette Newspapers  
 Julie Woepke, MD DBED Office of Federal and Military Affairs  
 Robert Young, Bethesda Parkview Citizens Association