

BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – February 3, 2009

- John Carman called the Committee to order at 7:35 pm
- Phil Alperson provided the following updates:
 - Phil thanked George Milne for offering Stone Ridge School as a site to hold a Committee meeting later in the week if this evening's meeting had to be postponed due to hazardous weather conditions.
 - On January 15 the Park & Planning Commission considered the NNMC Master Plan and Transportation Management Plan. John Carman offered a statement on behalf of the BRAC Implementation Committee (BIC) and Phil spoke as the County's BRAC Coordinator. *Attached to this meeting summary are links to the NNMC Master Plan and information relating to the Jan. 15 Park & Planning Commission meeting.*
 - In December the Governor's BRAC Subcabinet, chaired by Lt. Gov. Brown, issued a Statewide BRAC Progress Report and unveiled a new website. *These are linked as an attachment to this summary.*
 - Also in December, the state announced the designation of five communities as "BRAC Enterprise Zones." BRAC Zones are the product of legislation passed in Annapolis last year. They are designed to provide development assistance (i.e. to construct new housing, commercial or office developments and related infrastructure) to neighborhoods that are impacted by significant BRAC Growth and are in need of revitalization. These zones are in specified neighborhoods in Laurel and Odenton (near Fort Meade), Camp Springs (near Andrews AFB), Frederick (near Fort Detrick), and Baltimore (near Fort Meade and Aberdeen Proving Grounds). Areas around Bethesda would not qualify for BRAC Zone designation because they neither need revitalization, nor do they need or seek new development. *Additional information is attached to this summary.*
 - Federal Economic Stimulus update: The House of Representatives passed a controversial stimulus package; the Senate is working on its own version. It is unclear at this point how much funding will be available for transportation projects or if any such funds can be earmarked for specific projects. However, NNMC BRAC transportation projects are not "shovel-ready" and wouldn't qualify for stimulus funds. It is likely that any transportation stimulus funds would be administered by MDOT; in December Montgomery County provided a "wish list" to state agencies that included NNMC BRAC projects.
 - Metro entrance/pedestrian tunnel project: WMATA intends to provide a status report to the BRAC Committee on February 24.

- The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently published an update on BRAC cost overruns. *The report is documented on the web site's IN THE NEWS Page, along with articles about overruns at Fort Belvoir and funding problems related to the TBI Center at NNMC.*
- **Community Update / “Vision” letter:** John Carman sought formal approval by the Committee of the letter that had been discussed at the November meeting regarding long-term planning and coordination of BRAC transportation projects, to ensure they conform with livability and sustainability in the community around NNMC. Drafts and revisions had been circulated via email. Without objection, the Committee approved, and John signed, a letter to County executive Leggett. *That letter is attached to this meeting summary.*
- **MDOT/State Highway Administration – Funding issues:** Andy Scott of MDOT provided an update on the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) and funding of NNMC BRAC Intersections Projects. Declining Transportation Trust Fund revenues statewide have forced \$2 billion in reductions to the State's six year CTP; \$1.1 billion was deferred in the Draft CTP released in the fall and another \$1 billion in the Final 2009-2014 CTP released in January. Last year, SHA deferred \$14 million in out-year construction funds from the \$45.3 programmed for the NNMC BRAC intersections project. Despite declining revenues this year SHA has been able to avoid further deferrals, maintaining a level of \$31.3 million for the Bethesda BRAC Intersection Program. However, it should be noted that funds originally programmed for FY2011 have been moved back to FY2012; this should not disrupt the project since target completion is September 2011, which falls within Fiscal Year 2012. *Information about the CTP is attached to this meeting summary.*
- **Intersections Projects:** Andy then led a discussion on how SHA will coordinate the Intersections Project with local planning agencies and the community. The four projects are now at the 30% design level, almost ready for public input. SHA is now consulting with staff of local agencies including the County's DOT and the Park and Planning Commission. This coordination will help SHA refine its current designs to take into account Master Plan requirements such as pedestrian and bike paths. SHA will then seek public comment, which Andy emphasized is a significant part of the design process. SHA hopes to begin the public input process in late March, and plans to meet first with the BIC before holding public workshops. Andy emphasized that these are relatively low impact projects designed to maintain or improve the Level of Service (LOS) at the intersections. Funding, environmental, and right-of-way acquisition constraints could limit the actual scope of work or the number of intersections that can be improved. Public input and further technical input from the county will be considered in prioritizing projects or phases of projects. Andy also stated that North Wood Drive access improvements are being considered in coordination with the Navy and will be included in the public input process. *A status fact sheet on the intersections projects is attached to this meeting summary.*

- **Update from NNMC on BRAC construction, Master Plan, and Transportation Management Plan:**

Ollie Oliveria gave an update on construction, which continues at a furious pace. Construction on Outpatient Building A and Inpatient Building B is moving forward. Construction on the first new parking garage has begun. He observed that the Fisher Foundation's fundraising efforts towards the Intrepid Center for Traumatic Brain Injury are behind pace so the project is facing delays but he is confident that it will be completed. Jeff Miller essentially repeated his November presentation on the MP/TMP, which the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) will consider this Thursday, February 5. The Master Plan results in a net loss of over 1,000 parking spaces for NNMC personnel, so the TMP has been designed to meet NCPC's goals of a 1:3 ratio of parking spaces to staff, and 28% staff using single occupancy vehicles to get to work; currently that figure is over 70%. It should be noted that SOV and parking ratio figures account only for NNMC staff, but not hospital patients or visitors. Reductions in parking will require NNMC personnel to seek alternative modes of commuting, particularly greater use of mass transit. The proposed Metro entrance/pedestrian tunnel project is still under review and no decision has been made on federal funding. Even if it is approved, it would be a long-term project that wouldn't be ready for 2011. NNMC is working with MC-DOT and SHA on short-term improvements at the Metro station, such as improved signage, signaling and traffic enforcement. *The NNMC PowerPoint presentation is attached to this meeting summary, along with information about the Master Plan.*

- John Carman solicited comments from the public. Ken Reichard, representing Senator Cardin, noted that he had visited a new TBI facility at NNMC and was impressed with the quality of the facility and the staff.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at the BCC Services Center.

Committee members in attendance, February 3, 2009:

Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator
Ed Krauze for Jon Alterman, Bethesda-Parkview Citizens Association
John Carman, Committee Chairman
Leslie Weber for Brian Gragnolati, Suburban Hospital
Ilaya Hopkins, East Bethesda Citizens Assn.
Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Assn.
George Milne, Stone Ridge School
Lulu Gonella for Michael Plantamura, Chevy Chase View
Andy Scott, MDOT
Paul Thaler, Locust Hill Citizens Association
Sara Morningstar for Melanie Wenger, Montgomery County Intergovernmental Relations
Dan Wheeland, NIH

Ex-officio:

Denise Nooe (Sen. Barbara Mikulski)
Ken Reichard (Sen. Ben Cardin)
Joan Kleinman (Rep. Chris Van Hollen)
Jeff Miller, NNMC Transportation Program Manager
David “Ollie” Oliveria, NNMC BRAC Program Manager
Capt. Daniel Zinder, Deputy Commander NNMC

Other attendees

Brigitte Akalovsky, Village of North Chevy Chase
Neil Becker, Coakley & Williams
Gerald Cichy, Maryland Transit Administration
Sandy Dean, NAVFAC
Tom Doerr, Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee
Neil Greene, Action Committee on Transit
Kristi Kelly, JTF CapMed
Paul McComb, NNMC
Claudia Meer, Edgemoor Real estate Services
Andrew Ujifusa, Gazette Newspapers
Julie Woepke, Office of Military Affairs, MD DBED