

**BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY – May 11, 2010**

- **John Carman called the BRAC Implementation Committee to order at 7:30 p.m.**

- **Phil provided his monthly BRAC Updates:**
 - **STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.** Phil gave his monthly reminder that the web site includes an updated BRAC Mobility Projects Matrix, which underscores the multi-modal approach to transportation fixes: transit, intersections, pedestrian and bike facilities, TDM, etc.
 - **UPDATED BRAC TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY PROJECT MATRIX, as of 4-19-10:**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/transpo_project_matrix-041910.pdf

 - **10-6-09 Bethesda BRAC Transportation Investment Priorities: A joint MDOT/MC-DOT memo listing phased implementation of projects and funding streams:**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/bracprojects-tiers-100609.pdf>
 - **11-17-09 Description of “Tiers” and “Phases” of Intersections Improvement Program:**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/intersections-tiersphases-summary-111709.pdf>

 - **CONGRESSIONAL EARMARK:** Congressional and DOD staff continue to work on a legislative way to direct the disbursement of the \$300 million earmark from the defense health care budget to state and local transportation agencies to mitigate BRAC-related traffic around military hospitals at NNMC Bethesda and Fort Belvoir. The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill that is currently working its way through Congress may be the vehicle. Leadership had hoped to finish the bill by Memorial Day but reports are that it may take longer to complete. The approach to the earmark has not been clarified.

- **NNMC:** Jeff Miller reported that sidewalk and bus shelter improvements were quickly completed near the main gate on MD355, from a point north of South Wood Drive to Jones Bridge Road. He commended the cooperation of MC-DOT on this project.

- **MC-DOT: MD355 / ROCKVILLE PIKE CROSSING PROJECT:**

- Edgar Gonzalez and engineering consultant Janie Tiedemann led a presentation on the status of the Crossing Project being conducted as part of the NEPA federal funding process. Various stakeholders – MCDOT, MDOT, SHA, WMATA, MNCPPC, NCPC, NIH, NNMC, DAR, FHWA – have been working together to define the project's Purpose & Need. A Purpose and Need Summary has been created based on these collaborations and public input. Stakeholders have agreed on a number of Design Alternatives that will be considered for further review and input. A Final Purpose and Need Statement will be published and a preferred alternative selected by September 2010. Further discussions and public input could produce a preferred alternative that is a variation of the current designs.
- The Purpose and Need Statement will revolve around these points:
 - Increase and improve access to transit;
 - Mobility and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, and improve vehicular movement in the area of the Metro Station and NNMC main gate.

The Purpose and Need Summary can be found on the NEPA Project Page on this web site:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brcimpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/BRA/C/nepa-pedaccess.asp>

- There are seven design options under consideration: a mandatory “no build” option and six options that would require different levels of construction in the area. *The MCDOT presentation and the seven design alternatives under consideration are on the web site attached to this meeting summary:*
 - No build.
 - Transportations System Management / Transportation Demand Management
 - Grade separation with a jug handle into NIH
 - Grade separation with a “diamond interchange”
 - Double Left Turns at NIH and NNMC combined with one of five WMATA alternatives for pedestrian access
 - Jug Handle at NIH combined with one of five WMATA alternatives for pedestrian access
 - Jug handle at NNMC combined with one of five WMATA alternatives for pedestrian access
- Edgar noted that the design submitted last year under the TIGER Grant application was no longer relevant because Navy ATRP (Anti Terrorism Force Protection) requirements means the Navy guard shack at South Wood Drive must be moved closer to MD 355. This move will prevent certain pedestrian or

vehicular movement enhancement designs from being implemented that would otherwise infringe on the Navy's security perimeter.

- Edgar noted that there will be another Public Meeting on the design process and the Park & Planning Commission will weigh in on the project design in the summer. There is not yet a mandatory referral process because that is for actual construction. Edgar noted that quick and positive resolution of the federal earmark will help expedite this NEPA process. Design alternatives cannot be compared for cost analysis because the designs have not moved forward to that degree of complexity, and only a few designs will advance to that degree,
 - The Committee rose at 8:45 after Edgar and Janie gave the presentations and answered questions from the Committee and the audience. MCDOT posted detailed drawings of the six construction designs; Committee and audience members were able to review and discuss each design with MCDOT and consulting engineers, and could submit comment forms.
 - *The MCDOT presentation, the seven design alternatives under consideration, and a comments form are on the web site attached to this meeting summary:*
- **The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, 2010, 7:30 p.m., at the BCC Regional Services Center.**

Committee members in attendance, May 11, 2010:

Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator

John Carman, BRAC Implementation Committee Chairman

Larry Cole, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission

Edgar Gonzalez, Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Leslie Weber for Brian Gragnolati, Suburban Hospital

Ken Hartman, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center

Ginanne Italiano, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce

Ed Krauze, Bethesda-Parkview Citizens Association

Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Association

Seth Maiman, Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board

Patrick O'Neill, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce

Andy Scott, MDOT

Sara Morningstar for Melanie Wenger, Montgomery County Office of Intergovt. Relations

Susan Hinton for Dan Wheeland, NIH

Ex-officio:

Ken Reichard (Sen. Ben Cardin)

Joan Kleinman (Rep. Chris Van Hollen)

Susan Buffone (Council Member Roger Berliner)

Jeff Miller, NNMC Transportation Program Manager

Captain Mike Malanoski, NNMC Naval Support Activity

Other Attendees

Nancy Abeles, Bethesda Crest Home Owners Association

Naomi Bloch, Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg

Richard Hoyer, ACT

Tracy Johnstone, ACT

Marilyn Mazuzan, Town of Oakmont

Avice Meehan, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Jeanette Musil, DOD Office of Economic Adjustment

Tim O'Brien, Gall Zadler Consultants

Tom Robertson, Bethesda Urban Partnership

Debbie Spielberg, Councilmember Marc Elrich

Ken Strickland, Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Association

Andrew Ujifusa, Gazette Newspapers

Dan Willard, Locust Hill

Julie Woepke, Maryland DBED, Office of Military and Federal Affairs