

## **BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – December 15, 2009**

- John Carman called the Committee to order at 7:35 p.m.
- Phil Alperson gave the following updates (NOTE: these notes provide more detail than was reported at the BIC meeting):
  - **UPDATED BRAC MOBILITY PROJECT MATRIX.** Phil gave his usual reminder that the BRAC web site has an updated “BRAC Project Mobility Matrix” that reflects the integrated multi-modal approaches to BRAC-related traffic in Bethesda, including intersections improvements, pedestrian and transit enhancements, pedestrian and bike paths, and NNMC’s on-campus mobility improvement projects and transportation demand management programs.
    - **BRAC TRANSPORTATION PROJECT MATRIX, as of 12-10-09:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/transpo\\_project\\_matrix-121009.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/transpo_project_matrix-121009.pdf)
    - **BRAC INVESTMENT PRIORITIES: Phased implementation based on funding streams, as of 11-17-09:**  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/intersections-tiersphases-summary-111709.pdf>
  - **NIH HAS NEW COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE:** Ron Wilson is retiring from the federal government and will no longer represent NIH on the BRAC Committee when Dan Wheeland cannot attend. Susan Hinton, a Master Planner for NIH, is taking Ron’s place.
  - **BREAKING NEWS: ADDITIONAL \$4.4 MILLION CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR THE INTERSECTIONS PROJECT.** Last week a House-Senate Conference Committee agreed on an omnibus appropriations bill that will fund numerous federal agencies through Fiscal Year 2010 (that is, through September 30, 2010). Funding for the U.S. Department of Transportation includes \$4.4 million designated for the improvements along MD 355 relating to BRAC at NNMC Bethesda (i.e. the intersections improvement project).

What is especially interesting is that the House initially appropriated \$3.25 million for the project, and the senate appropriated \$2.3 million. It is highly unusual for a Conference Committee to report a figure that is higher than either of the House or Senate figures; normally, the Conference reports a number somewhere in between.

These \$4.4 million FY2010 transportation funds are in addition to \$3 million and \$1.97 million appropriated in FY2009 and FY2008, respectively. Andy Scott of MDOT noted that these funds will supplement \$29.2 million funding currently programmed by the State of Maryland for the intersections improvement project

for NNMC BRAC. He is especially pleased that these funds will not require a State match.

Also interesting is that more funding is directed to the NNMC BRAC project in Montgomery County than to BRAC projects in three other Maryland counties impacted by BRAC growth (Anne Arundel, Harford, and Prince George's Counties). Scroll to Page 161 of this 294 page document:  
[http://does.house.gov/rules/omni2010/hr3288er\\_diva\\_jes.pdf](http://does.house.gov/rules/omni2010/hr3288er_diva_jes.pdf)

In addition, the Military Construction portion of the omnibus FY2010 appropriations bill includes funding to study transportation issues in BRAC-growth communities, and to help determine ways to make the Defense Access Road (DAR) program more applicable to transit and other alternative modes of transportation. This is a direct result of issues raised by Montgomery County and DOD's decision to consider transit improvements when it certified Rockville Pike at NNMC Bethesda for certification under the DAR program. Scroll to Pages 10 and 11 of this document:  
[http://docs.house.gov/rules/omni2010/hr3288cr\\_dive\\_jes.pdf](http://docs.house.gov/rules/omni2010/hr3288cr_dive_jes.pdf)

Once again, many thanks go to our congressional delegation, especially Congressman Chris Van Hollen, for their leadership.

○ **GOVERNOR'S BRAC SUBCABINET CONVENED IN BETHESDA ON NOVEMBER 19, 2009**, as a follow-up to the Subcabinet meeting in Montgomery County two years ago.

- 11-20-09 Corridor Inc. (Capital News Service): Concerns over gridlock in Bethesda loom as BRAC draws near <http://www.corridorinc.com/corridor-news-mainmenu-119/2647-concerns-over-gridlock-in-bethesda-loom-as-brac-draws-near>
- Maryland BRAC site: <http://www.brac.maryland.gov/>
- Governor's BRAC Subcabinet site:  
<http://www.brac.maryland.gov/subcabinet.asp>
- MC-DOT Presentation -- Where Were We Two Years Ago? Where Are We Now? Where Do We Want to Be in the Future?  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/subcab-mcdot\\_update-111909.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/subcab-mcdot_update-111909.pdf)
- 11-19-09 Remarks of County Executive Isiah Leggett -- Governor's Base Realignment and Closure Subcabinet  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/speeches/SP\\_details.asp?SpID=32](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/speeches/SP_details.asp?SpID=32)

- **PARK & PLANNING COMMISSION TO HOLD MANDATORY REFERRAL HEARINGS ON INTERSECTIONS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.** The Park and Planning Commission will hold public hearings, probably in February (date and time TBD), on the SHA intersections improvement project relating to BRAC in Bethesda. Prior to that, there will a briefing on January 21 (time TBD but possibly 11:00 a.m.) between the Planning Commission and key Commission staff that the public can attend or hear via webcast.
  - 11-19-09 M-NCPPC letter to MDOT re: Mandatory Referral hearings for Bethesda BRAC Intersections Improvement project:  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/intersections-mncppctomdot-mandatoryreferral-111909.pdf>
  - Planning Board calendar:  
<http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/about/boardbusiness.shtm>
  - Planning Board webcast:  
[http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/planning\\_board\\_live/board\\_live.shtm](http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/planning_board_live/board_live.shtm)
  
- **12-2-09 HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HEARINGS:** The New Walter Reed: Are We on the Right Track? -- Joint Hearing of the Readiness and Military Personnel Subcommittees:
  1. Selected Media Reports:
    - 12-3-09 Federal News Radio 1500 AM: (INCLUDES AUDIO) Who is in charge at the new Walter Reed? - - The House Armed Services Committee found that the road to the new Walter Reed is currently paved with a lot of uncertainty.  
<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?id=35>
    - 12-3-09 U.S. Department of Defense News Release: 'New Walter Reed' Effort On Track, Officials Say  
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=56930>
  2. Hearing Testimony:
    - 12-2-09 Committee Summary Memo (10 pp)  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/hasc\\_walterreedhearings-cominiitteenemo-120209.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/hasc_walterreedhearings-cominiitteenemo-120209.pdf)
    - 12-2-09 Opening Statement of Readiness Subcommittee Chairman Solomon Ortiz  
[http://armedservices.house.gov/apps/list/speech/armedsvc\\_dem/OrtizOS120209.shtml](http://armedservices.house.gov/apps/list/speech/armedsvc_dem/OrtizOS120209.shtml)

- 12-2-09 Opening Statement of Military Personnel Subcommittee Chairwoman Susan Davis  
[http://armedservices.house.gov/apps/list/speech/armedsvc\\_dem/DavisOS120209.shtml](http://armedservices.house.gov/apps/list/speech/armedsvc_dem/DavisOS120209.shtml)
  - 12-2-09 Statement of Congressman Chris Van Hollen on related traffic congestion issues  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/hasc\\_walterreedhearings-cvh\\_lettertoskelton-120209.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/hasc_walterreedhearings-cvh_lettertoskelton-120209.pdf)
  - 12-2-09 Testimony of Mr. Al Middleton, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs  
[http://armedservices.house.gov/pdfs/READMP120209/Middleton\\_Testimony120209.pdf](http://armedservices.house.gov/pdfs/READMP120209/Middleton_Testimony120209.pdf)
  - 12-2-09 Testimony of Dr. Dorothy Robyn, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Installations and Environment  
[http://armedservices.house.gov/pdfs/READMP120209/Robyn\\_Testimony120209.pdf](http://armedservices.house.gov/pdfs/READMP120209/Robyn_Testimony120209.pdf)
  - 12-2-09 Testimony of Vice Admiral John M. Mateczun, USN, Commander, Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical  
[http://armedservices.house.gov/pdfs/READMP120209/Mateczun\\_Testimony120209.pdf](http://armedservices.house.gov/pdfs/READMP120209/Mateczun_Testimony120209.pdf)
  - 12-2-09 Testimony of Dr. Ken Kizer, Chairman, Defense Health Board National Capital Region Base Realignment and Closure Health Systems Advisory Subcommittee  
[http://armedservices.house.gov/pdfs/READMP120209/Kizer\\_Testimony120209.pdf](http://armedservices.house.gov/pdfs/READMP120209/Kizer_Testimony120209.pdf)
- **NAVY UPDATES:** Ollie Oliveria said that exterior work is practically finished and interior work is progressing quickly.
  - **PEDESTRIAN/BIKE PATHS PROJECT UPDATE:** Edgar Gonzalez gave an update on the status of the OEA-funded \$750,000 Facilities Study that will lead to the eventual construction of new and improved paths in the area of NNMC. The ongoing Facilities Study includes surveying and site analysis. He estimates construction will cost between \$4.5 and \$5 million; these funds are not part of the OEA grant. The County Executive will submit a formal FY2011 funding request to the County Council so construction can begin at the beginning of that fiscal year, in July 2010. Larry Cole noted that the Park & Planning Commission will make clear its views on proposed construction designs, balancing what is possible with what is preferable. Target completion would be summer 2011 but might be accomplished within 2010. *Edgar's PowerPoint presentation will be added to the web site along with this meeting summary as soon as it is available.*

The program has three specific construction projects, plus signage and safety enhancements in the Battery/Glenbrook area:

- **CEDAR LANE/ROCK CREEK TRAIL:** The first project will be construction of an 8-foot wide path along the south side of Cedar Lane between Old Georgetown Road and Rockville Pike. This will involve coordination with NIH ROW. The path would extend east of MD 355 and join an existing trail along the north side of Cedar Lane towards Rock Creek. A major element of this project is reconstruction of the Cedar Lane Bridge over Rock Creek to Beach Drive. MC-DOT has already had meetings with the nearby impacted community and has determined that the bridge should be closed for 2-1/2 months. This would enable MC-DOTY to complete the reconstruction more quickly and at less cost than closing one lane at a time over a more extended period. Completion of this project would connect the Rock Creek trail to Navy Med, NIH, downtown Bethesda, and the Capital Crescent Trail.

Concerns were expressed about bike trails conflicting with pedestrians waiting at bus stops, and about the general issues of bike/pedestrian conflicts. Additional concerns were raised about the coordination of the pathways project with the intersections project, and whether work completed on the paths would have to be undone because of intersections work. Edgar noted that the various transportation and planning agencies are coordinating their work, and that the pathways project would be constructed keeping in mind the parameters of the intersection project, and vice versa.

- **ROCKVILLE PIKE FROM CEDAR LANE TO JONES BRIDGE ROAD:** This project runs along the east side of MD 355 parallel to the Navy gate. There currently exists a deteriorating 3-foot wide sidewalk that would be replaced by a 5-foot wide path. A wider path is preferable but the location of the fence makes that impractical. Edgar added that the curb lane of MD 355 would be re-striped to create a wider lane that could accommodate cyclists who would prefer to ride on the main roadway. Edgar also noted the existence of a wide pedestrian/bike path on the west side of MD 355. Jeff Miller noted that the Navy still has unresolved issues about the project's implications for bus shelters near the Navy gates. Andy Scott noted that the current plans for MD 355 do not include an east-side Kiss and Ride pull-off that had been previously discussed. Design for this project (and the first project) are only 20% complete at this time, and the Kiss and Ride issue will be taken up when public comments are submitted. Concerns were raised that the project does not account for heavy commercial traffic anticipated at the Navy's new Commercial Vehicle Inspection facility at North Wood gate.
- **JONES BRIDGE ROAD FROM ROCKVILLE PIKE TO CONNECTICUT AVE:** Edgar said this is the most complicated of the three construction projects. MC-DOT would like to construct an 8-foot wide path along the north side of Jones Bridge Road, but the Navy has concerns that certain NNMC facilities are

located very close to the fence and the road, notably a child care center and the Navy Exchange. Lanes on Jones Bridge Road could be narrowed to accommodate the path and there could be road widening towards Lancaster Drive, but widening has been ruled out for a path long the south side of Jones Bridge Road. Concerns were raised about the feasibility of a bike path in the area of the Hawkins Lane Historic District along the north side of Jones Bridge Road.

- **PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS UPDATE:**

- Edgar reported that the County Executive has authorized the expenditure of \$350,000 for an Environmental Analysis of the Pedestrian Underpass Metro Access project, which has been ongoing. Stakeholders have been in constant communication, including MC-DOT, MDOT, SHA, NNMC, NIH, Park & Planning, WMATA, and the DOD's DAR officials. A draft Purpose and Need statement is being prepared. Hopefully, the Purpose and Need process can be completed by May 2010, by which time we should know if a TIGER Grant will be awarded for the project. Edgar expressed extreme confidence in the success of our TIGER Grant application, but the truth is no one knows which projects will be selected.
- A Public Outreach process for the NEPA process will commence in January. Edgar suggested that the next BRAC Committee slot – January 19, 2010 – be used as the greater public forum, but several Committee members expressed concern that this process would not allow the Committee to have a complete discussion about the NEPA process. It was agreed that the public forum would take place at 6:00 p.m. on January 19<sup>th</sup>, followed at 7:30 by the regularly scheduled BRAC Committee meeting.
- Edgar noted that the Purpose and Need statement does not define a specific project design and at this point the stakeholders have not agreed on a specific design. All proposals, including the pedestrian underpass that is the centerpiece of the County's TIGER Grant application, as well as the five WMATA alternatives presented in the July 2009 report, are on the table. The results of the NEPA study will help stakeholders determine the final design, which must conform to the Purpose and Need statement and the Navy's security requirements.

- **“LONG TERM VISION” DISCUSSION:**

- John Carman noted that the Committee's deliberations on Edgar's presentation took much longer than anticipated, so a “long term vision” discussion would not take place this evening. He held out the hope of having that discussion as part of the January 19<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting, depending on the length of committee discussion on the NEPA process for the Pedestrian Access project. Several committee members expressed concern that the discussion includes not just the perspectives of residents but also those of business owners, major employers, schools and research institutions.

- o John raised the six questions he had mailed out to the Committee earlier this month and added another question. He directed Phil to share the seven questions with the Committee members, and that members reply to Phil by January 8<sup>th</sup> with short, to-the-point responses that could be compiled into a matrix document the Committee could discuss on January 19<sup>th</sup>:

1. Strengths of my community -- Why did I choose to live or work here?
2. Weaknesses of my community -- What would make me live or work elsewhere?
3. What distinguishes my community from others?
4. Opportunities of my community -- How can we make it better?
5. Threats to my community -- What is worrying me?
6. Defining the ideal community -- "Long term vision."
7. What do I need to know? -- Questions for government and planning officials.

- **John Carman solicited questions from the audience.** There were none.
- **The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2010, 7:30 p.m., at the BCC Regional Services Center.**

**NOTE: This meeting will be preceded by a separate Public Meeting in the same location hosted by MC-DOT regarding the NEPA process relating to the proposed pedestrian access project between NNMC and the Medical Center Metro station.**

**Committee members in attendance, December 15, 2009:**

Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator  
 John Carman, Committee Chairman  
 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  
 Ilaya Hopkins, East Bethesda Citizens Assn.  
 Ginanne Italiano, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce  
 Ed Krauze, Bethesda-Parkview Citizens Association  
 Allen Myers for Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Association  
 Debbie Michaels, Glenbrook Village Home Owners Association  
 Andy Scott, MDOT  
 Susan Hinton for Dan Wheeland, NIH

**Ex-officio:**

Ken Reichard (Sen. Ben Cardin)  
 Jahantab (J-Tab) Siddiqui (Sen. Barbara Mikulski)  
 Joan Kleinman (Rep. Chris Van Hollen)

Susan Buffone (Council Member Roger Berliner)  
Jeff Miller, NNMC Transportation Program Manager  
David "Ollie" Oliveria, NNMC BRAC Program Manager  
Captain Daniel Zinder, NNMC Deputy Base Commander

**Other Attendees**

Nancy Abeles, Bethesda Crest Home Owners Association  
Esber Barakat  
Gerald Cichy, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)  
Richard Hoyer, ACT  
Greg Humes, Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Association  
Marilyn Mazuzan, Town of Oakmont  
Avice Meehan, Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
Jeanette Musil, Office of Economic Adjustment  
Ken Strickland, Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Association  
Andrew Ujifusa, Gazette Newspapers