



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

**Meeting Summary**  
**November 22, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Paul Klee. Roll call was done by Wayne Jacas.

September meeting minutes were approved by the Board.

**Regional Director's Report** – Regional Director Greg Wims spoke about Poolesville concerns, the history behind the Emory Grove area, and Hub assistance before Thanksgiving.

**County Council Report** – Ms. Kristen Tribble, Deputy Chief of Staff for Councilmember Rice, reported that there would be public hearings on 11/16 and 11/18 on the county Redistricting recommendation. At that point in time, there was a waitlist for both sessions, so written comments were encouraged. One map would be presented for review and approval by the Council. The Council's final decision would be made on 12/3. She also noted that Councilman Rice's Education Forum would be on 3/2.

**Police Report** – No Report from District 1 or District 5. District 6, Captain Eric Stancliff, reported an attempted kidnapping on 11/3. The Major Crimes Division was still interviewing the victim. This incident occurred near Lakeforest Mall. He also reported a homicide on 11/10. There was a shooting at Lakeforest Mall. The victim was a black male shot and dead on the scene. The incident was also being handled by the Major Crimes division and was still under investigation.

### **Discussion – "I-270 Corridor"**

Guests from the Montgomery County Planning Department, Jesse Cohn McGowan and Jessica McVary, reviewed the Corridor Forward I-270 Plan. This is a functional plan that focuses exclusively on transit between Tysons Corner and Frederick. In their presentation they explained the history of the transit corridor, summarizing that the population density had increased significantly along the I-270 corridor, but transit options had not kept up with this change. The process of addressing this discrepancy began with 15 transit options that eventually resulted in the current preliminary recommendation—the Proposed Transit Network, which had both near term and long-term options. Near term there would be dedicated bus lanes, and long term there would be a metro extension. The recommended bus lanes included Observation Drive, Century Blvd, MD 118 (*MARC station to Observation*), and Great Seneca Hwy (*124 to Blackwell Rd*). There were other unlikely recommendations which included a multimodal transit HUB near the fairgrounds.

Both Board and Community questions were taken. There were concerns about the impact of adding bus lanes to roads that were already busy. Presenters noted that no traffic analysis was included. There was a question about the recently approved federal funding for infrastructure and whether any of that funding would be coming to this project. Presenters could not give a definite answer to this question but hoped that this was the case. There was also a question as to how this transit recommendation would fit into the Council's environmental commitments. According to the presenters, there is an indirect relationship. Other questions included White's Ferry, Thrive 2050, farmers transferring equipment on local roads, and parking. It was also emphasized that the Upcounty wants mobility prioritized. The county should develop an "all of the above" approach to this problem.

**Chairperson's Report** – Funding for the Broadband Initiative from the federal Infrastructure Bill was briefly discussed. Steve Augustino provided updates. A Full Board discussion will be scheduled in the future.

**Committee/Liaison Reports** – Amanda Hunt-Franklin reported for the Land Use Committee and Andrew Saundry reported for the Quality of Life Committee. Both committees are focused on letters of recommendation. The QL

Committee plans to write a letter in support of the eviction crisis in the county and the frustrated resources doing this work. Greg will connect with the Shady Grove Sector Plan Advisory Group.

**Community Concerns** – Carmen raised concerns about a senior development in the area. This issue will be sent to Amanda Hunt-Franklin for the Land Use committee to possibly incorporate into a future discussion.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Attendance: Matilda Adu, Steve Augustino, Susan Baldeh, Christel Bivens, Hassan Dixon, Yamil Hernandez, Amanda Hunt Franklin, Mary Hoel, Wayne Jacas, Revonne Johnson, Paul Klee, Linda Moore, Tangela Nichols, Christopher O'Brien, Andrew Saundry, Carmen Vega, Kraig Walsleben.*

*Staff: Greg Wims, Linda Cooper*