



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

### Meeting Summary February 24, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cherian Eapen and introductions were done.

The meeting summary from the December 16, 2013 and January 27, 2014 meetings were tabled until next month.

**Update from the County Council** – Council staff Dale Tibbitts (Councilmember Elrich) provided an update on Council activities, including a reminder about the Council’s Town hall Meeting that is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26 beginning at 7:30pm at Rocky Hill Middle School in Clarksburg.

#### **Update from the Upcounty Regional Director**

Catherine Matthews referred to announcements in the recent newsletter, Upcounty Today!

#### **Discussion – “Upcounty Transportation Projects”**

The guest was Edgar Gonzalez, Deputy Director of Montgomery County’s Department of Transportation. Mr. Gonzalez provided a summary of transportation projects that are planned, scheduled or under construction in the northern part of the county. After many comments and much debate, board member Gail Robinson moved to conclude the discussion for the evening and continue it at the next full board meeting (March 17) with the intention of finishing the debate. Beth Daly seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion (16 in favor, 0 opposed). Chairperson Cherian Eapen stated that the two motions would remain on the table until then. (Motion #1 – support continued funding in order to complete the Midcounty Corridor Study; Motion #2 – to support the master plan alternative.)

#### **Chair’s Report**

Chairperson Cherian Eapen along with board member Mark Firley had worked to draft a letter suggesting priority transportation projects for the County Executive’s consideration as the County prepared comments on consolidated transportation projects that would be forwarded to the State, however this effort did not meet the deadline.

**Committee / Liaison Reports** - None.

**New Business/Announcements** – None.

**Community Concerns/Comments** – Ms. Kari Peterson, Clarksburg resident, stated her concern about unsafe conditions at a couple of bus stops in the vicinity of MD Route 355 and Old Baltimore Road, especially near Greenridge Baptist Church. There is poor lighting and no sidewalks which results in a potentially dangerous situation for pedestrians and drivers alike. Other guest residents participated in the transportation discussion with most focusing on the Midcounty Highway Extended (M83) project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm (Seals moved; Rosenbaum seconded).

*Board Attendance:* Juan Cardenas, Beth Daly, Brian Donohue, Cherian Eapen, Mark Firley, Matthew Leakan, Annie McDonald, Robert Nelson, Daisha New, Tobi Printz-Platnick, Gail Robinson, David Rosenbaum, Pat Seals, Ketaki Singh, Ruyan Teng, and James Wallace.

*Additional Guests:* Bing Garthright, Bonnie Bell, Gwendy Lykke, Charles Tilford, Joe Nelson, Linda Moore, John Duncan, Ed Neal, Donna Pfeiffer, Kari Peterson, Terry O’Grady, Sylvia Carignan (Gazette), Kathie Hulley, Margaret Schoap, Rosemary Arkoian, Ed Pfister, David Stein, Jackie Hawksford (Councilmember Andrews), Rev. Mansfield Kaseman, Keith Silliman, Nancy Aldous, Cindy Snow, Dale Tibbitts (Councilmember Elrich), Paul Majewski, Jane Wilder, Richard Wilder, Doug Reimel, and John & Cynthia Reilly.

*Staff:* Catherine Matthews

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