

PBTSAC Meeting Minutes

11.21.19

Attendees:

Kristy Daphnis	John Pechilis	Dustin Kuzan
Heidi Coleman	Martin Lindhour	Koushik Barna
Michael Paylor	Lee Keiser	Elliot Wilner
George Branyan (?)	Michael Hering	Mira Peric
Luisa Montero-Diaz (?)	Stewart Schulze	Jodi Danis
Leah Walton (?)	Forrest Blank	Peggy Dennis
Tomas Bridle (?)	Karen Bedell	Allan Coukell
Marybeth Cleveland	Cynthia Green	Jack Cochrane
Dave Helms (?)	Carol Anderson	Damon Luciano
Leon Langley	Katie Mencarini	Ivy Stiller
Jeremy Martin (?)	Alison Gillespie	David Churchill
Matt Johnson	Shawn Brennan	J Bernstein
John Wetmore	Aaron Kraut	Steve Aldrich (?)
Alicia Delahunty	Karin Garner	

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Minutes: K Daphnis called meeting to order at 7:08 pm and did introductions.

K Daphnis: VZ (Vision Zero) Youth Summit and County Council Hearing held on 11.19.19. Pedestrian Safety Forum on 12.15.19 held by Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Committee.

District 16 Delegate Address

M Korman: Goal to build a transportation network to move more people and not cars; bikeways network funded by Governor with \$4M dedicated to program this year; plan to make peds and cyclists priorities on roads; guidelines published by SHA with context specific focus; crosswalk moved on E Bethesda & MD 355 to make it safer to cross; biker fatality on MD 187, meeting scheduled for 12.13.19 for community input; Cordell & MD 187 getting a flashing beacon and landing to make it safer

K Daphnis: (To M Korman): Any County/State bills PBTSAC should support?

M Korman: In January/February bills will be filed and he will work on a bill that is directly related to sidewalks; especially in construction zones. We need ped/bike access even when construction is in progress. State/MCDOT should all be working together to make this happen

H Coleman: What are the challenges with funding from the State that makes the County have to spend more money?

M Korman: Transportation has a lot of demand in it. Gas prices go up and the transportation trust fund is under a lot of pressure.

Resident: How can we get a Ped/Bike trail over Capital Crescent Trail and Little Falls Parkway?

M Korman: Advocate through your County Council members

A Gillespie: Is there any State support for Safe Routes to Schools?

M Korman: Not right now and I do not know if it is in the works

K Daphnis: Re: the study that is/was being conducted on the Capital Beltway inner loop; what does it take to initiate a study?

M Korman: A quick study can be initiated by a resident; an in-depth study can be initiated by a crash or fatality

D Kuzan: I can provide a list of major studies conducted or ongoing in the County

Bethesda – Chevy Chase SHA Projects

D Gunn: Ongoing projects on MD 355, study recommendations and recommended improvements

D Gunn: MD 355 & Chase Avenue approved for a flashing beacon

D Gunn: MD 355 & Middletown looking to install a full ped or HAWK beacon

D Gunn: MD 187 & Commerce will have signal reconstruction

D Gunn: MD 187 & Woodland will have signal reconstruction

Bethesda – Chevy Chase MCDOT Projects, BiPPA

M Johnson: Presentation on Bethesda loop projects; development activity and the challenges and priorities of Bethesda

M Johnson: Explained the types of safety improvements including 2 way separated bike lanes and bike signals

M Johnson: Capital Crescent Surface Trail should open late summer 2020

M Johnson: Updates on Woodmont & Bethesda Ave intersection

M Johnson: Capital Crescent Trail tunnel is 50% done with construction and should open Fall 2020

M Johnson: Cheltenham & Pearl Street will go into construction in 2020

M Johnson: Bicycle Pedestrian Priority Areas (BiPPAs): 30 currently in the County, 8 funded thus far

Bethesda Chevy Chase Crash Data

W Holland: Presentation on Montgomery County Vision Zero One-Year Plan. Provided information on High Injury Networks in the County

District 1 Address

A Kraut: (Representing Councilmember Andrew Friedson): Presented on some of the standards used for engineering decisions

A Kraut: Mentioned legislation being proposed on 12.3.19 on sidewalk closures for construction sites

A Kraut: Showed MCDOT Design Guidelines and County Code for pedestrian access around construction projects

Community Input

R Hoye: (As read by K Daphnis): Concerns in the Bethesda community and recent crashes involving pedestrian and cyclist along MD 187

A Gillespie: We need to rethink schools and think of them first. There needs to be a better way that we fit schools in our pedestrian plan

Scorpiobots: Three 7th grade students from the First Lego League robotics team presented their annual team project on how to improve bike safety in cities/urban areas. The presentation was a result of research they did and meetings with city transportation planning professionals across the region

Resident: Getting to the urban areas from the more suburban areas is very dangerous. We must make sure what we have is updated. Cyclists and pedestrians are put at risk because of debris from crashes swept to the side of the road

L Keiser: Need SHA culture to change and we need to focus on the safety of pedestrians and cyclists on the roadways

Resident: SHA should be more proactive and not reactive. We need to prevent injuries and fatalities from happening in the first place

Resident: Asked for a refuge island on Durbin Road

Resident: Right Turns on Red (RTOR) are dangerous; there should be no RTOR

Resident: Flashing beacons often make drivers go faster; we should only consider installing HAWKS or full signals

Resident: Wilson Lane needs trees trimmed, signs replaced, and a crosswalk at River Road

Committee Business

K Daphnis: Next meeting 1.23.20 in Rockville, meeting after that is 3.26.20 (location TBD)

K Daphnis: There is a Vision Zero forum 12.14.19 in Rockville

K Daphnis: Meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm