

PBTSAC Meeting Minutes

04.22.21

Attendees:

Kristy Daphnis  
Heidi Coleman  
Chris Conklin  
Michael Paylor  
George Branyan  
Dave Helms  
Leah Walton  
Leon Langley

Sanjida Rangwala  
Sonia Moore-Williams  
Marybeth Cleveland  
Steve Aldrich  
Jeremy Martin  
Tomas Bridle  
Wade Holland  
Sara Morningstar  
Jesse Cohn

Mandeep  
Patrick Sheehan  
Francie Gilman  
Kandese Holford  
Shawn Brennan  
Jennifer Chen  
Joe Gillespie

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair K Daphnis called the meeting to order at 7:06PM.

The PBTSAC has been meeting every month through since fall 2020 to gather more information on the County workgroup's development of the new Vision Zero Action Plan and have an opportunity for PBTSAC members to provide input. This meeting is the last of the "off-month" meetings where attendance for PBTSAC members is optional.

Daphnis opened the floor for guests at the meeting to make any announcements, suggestions, or mention concerns they may have. Guests that introduced themselves were Francie Gilman from Silver Spring, Patrick Sheehan from Silver Spring, and Mandeep from Wheaton.

**2021 Maryland Legislative Session**

S Morningstar from the County's Office of Intergovernmental Relations, which tracks bills in Annapolis and provides the County Government's views on bills affecting Montgomery County, provided an update on where bills relevant to the PBTSAC stood at the close of the 2021 legislative session. The session ended on April 12.

S Morningstar noted that police reform and COVID-19 relief were primary goals for this session and took up a lot of the legislator's time. Due to the ongoing pandemic, social distancing was needed in Annapolis and some activities were done remotely adding to the challenges of moving through a very busy session.

**House Bill 562 (Montgomery County speed limits) passed and sent to Governor's desk.** This local bill, only relevant to Montgomery County, allows the County Government to set a posted speed limit to 15 miles per hour (MPH) if warranted based on an engineering study. A clause was added when the bill went to the Senate that prohibits the use of automated enforcement (speed cameras) if a speed limit is lowered using this new authority.

**House Bill 564 (moving management of automated enforcement from Police to DOT) passed House, but not Senate.** The bill died in committee in the Senate. It was in the same committee handling all the police reform bills. The bill was supported by the County Executive and the County Council.

**House Bill 487 (School Pedestrian Safety Act) passed House, but not Senate.** This bill would have required certain county boards of education seeking State funds for the construction of a new school, or the renovation of or an addition to an existing school that would increase the capacity by more than 100 students, to submit a pedestrian safety plan to the Interagency Commission on School Construction under certain circumstances; requiring the Commission to review the plans in consultation with the State Highway Administration (SHA); providing for the contents of the plan to ensure safe routes for students to walk or bike to school; etc.

**House Bill 118/Senate Bill 293 (vulnerable road user bill) passed and sent to Governor.** This bill had been brought up in prior sessions, but not passed. The law prohibits an individual from causing the serious physical injury or death of a certain vulnerable individual as a result of the individual operating a vehicle in violation of Maryland Vehicle Law; defining "vulnerable individual" as a person acting lawfully including a pedestrian, certain workers and emergency services personnel, an individual walking an animal, or an individual operating certain modes of transport; establishing certain penalties of a fine of up to \$2,000, community service, motor vehicle safety education; etc.

#### **UNIVERSITY BLVD W BIKE LANES PILOT**

- A group advocating for “open streets” asked SHA to examine roadways where general travel lanes could be repurposed for pedestrian and bicycle use.
- During 2020, SHA repurposed a northbound lane for Georgia Avenue in Downtown Silver Spring to support outdoor dining.
- SHA responded to the Open Streets group a few months ago with a proposal on University Boulevard West between Amherst Avenue and Arcola Avenue in Wheaton to repurpose the curbside lanes to bicycle lanes. The bike lanes will be separated from traffic using flexposts.
- The pilot project will open in June and close in September.
- The pilot project is being funded by a federal grant secured by SHA. As part of the grant, SHA will be evaluating multiple datapoints such as pedestrian and bicycle volume and bus/car travel congestion and operations.
- The pilot will have breaks in the bike lanes to allow for bus rider access. SHA will monitor for any delivery and home access issues.
- The pilot project will close the slip lane along Arcola Avenue.

#### **NEXT MEETING: VISION ZERO AND POLICE ENFORCEMENT**

- The next meeting will feature a discussion between the committee and Montgomery County Police about Police’s role in Vision Zero and potential changes as a result of Reimagining Public Safety.
- Members should reach out to K Daphnis and T Bridle, who is working on his own analysis of police traffic violations data, if there are particular topics you would like to discuss on this issue.

#### **PBTSAC MEMBER OPENINGS**

- An announcement for upcoming openings closes tomorrow (4/23), so feel free to share if you know anyone interested in joining the PBTSAC.
- In particular, the committee is looking for more representation from UpCounty, East County, bike community, and disability community.

- PBTSAC members should reach out to K Daphnis if they are interested in being on the interview panel.

### **VISION ZERO 2030 PLAN**

K Daphnis turned the floor over to W Holland, the County's Vision Zero Coordinator, to provide an overview of the draft Vision Zero 2030 Plan that was released on April 15. [Overview slides can be found here](#) and the [draft plan here](#). W Holland asked the committee to consider how the committee would like to provide its feedback regarding the draft to get incorporated into the final draft and determine how it would like to handle its review during potential May and June meetings.

After W Holland's presentation and a short Q&A, K Daphnis asked the committee that any comments from the PBTSAC should be kept at a high level and encouraged individual members to submit their feedback via the survey and at the upcoming listening sessions.

K Daphnis will writeup a letter of support for the plan and will create a draft for discussion for the May meeting and approve a final draft in the June meeting.

### **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

L Walton announced the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released its [Most Wanted List](#) and for highway safety is promoting the Safe Systems Approach and eliminating speed-related deaths. NTSB is hosting an equity in transportation roundtable.

G Branyan let members know that the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is hosting a Vision Zero Arterial Design workshop tomorrow that will include presentations from Montgomery County, DC, State of Maryland, VDOT, and Federal Highway Administration. Attendance is free and virtual.

K Daphnis is working to form a Families for Safe Streets chapter in Montgomery County. She is working on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Washington Area Bicyclists Association (WABA) to help the group get off the ground and support its efforts.

S Aldrich mentioned that the Planning Department will be launching an access management study this summer, which is mentioned in the VZ 2030 Plan.

Kandese Holford with SHA announced that there will be a meeting on April 30 at 1PM for the [State's Pedestrian Safety Action Plan](#). As part of developing the Plan, SHA will have an interactive map where residents can place their concerns about particular locations on the map.

### **CLOSEOUT**

K Daphnis thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.