

PBTSAC Meeting Minutes

10.21.21

Attendees:

Kristy Daphnis
Wade Holland
Michael Paylor
Marybeth Cleveland
John Hoobler
Stephen Aldrich

James Brown
Dave Helms
Jennifer / Carolyn
Francie Gilman
Jeremy Martin
Elijah Kinser
Lauren Berryman

Sonia Moore-Williams
Sara Morningstar
Sanjida Rangwala
Peggy Schwartz
Tomas Bridle
Heidi Coleman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Kristy Daphnis called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

K Daphnis: Still waiting on BCC for in-person vs remote instruction for the committee

K Daphnis: Beginning of November the Council will be moving forward on new committee members

W Holland: Next meeting will be November 18th, one week early due to Thanksgiving Holiday; then back to every other month to meet

S Morningstar: Jan 12 General Assembly starts; Nov 10 MDOT Road Show; Joint House hearing November 15; Dec 6th and 13th dates as well

K Daphnis: Can you share that info on County priorities and the opportunity to weigh in with the committee?

S Morningstar: Yes, and we will be watching them for opportunities to weigh in. General Assembly will be more normal hopefully

K Daphnis: Next agenda item for next meeting is setting committee priorities

J Hoobler: Going through the process of filling committee seats, we should have new members (if County Council approves) by the next meeting, November 18

K Daphnis: Any other items? Seeing none, W Holland will present

J Hoobler: Walktober and lots of outreach on ped safety going on right now

VISION ZERO 10 YEAR ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

W Holland: I am the Vision Zero (VZ) Coordinator for Montgomery County Government; giving an update on the new Vision Zero plan and what we have been doing in the first quarter of FY22, crash trends, and preliminary data for 2021

W Holland: The 2030 plan is a big plan, Vision Zero overlay but focused on three pillars: Complete Streets, Multimodal Future, and Culture of Safety

W Holland: Lots of Action Items and unique tasks in the plan. Relationship between long term plan and short term plan is that FY22 is the expansion plan that continues the work we have been doing to more places throughout the County.

W Holland: Top 10 Priority Action Items – picked out because of their ability to tackle serious and fatal injuries, community priorities, and helps us prioritize things in the budgeting process

W Holland: We heard a lot of feedback from committees and surveys that there was an elevation of lighting so we bumped S-11: Improved Lighting’s Action Item to the priority list

W Holland: Project map is on the website, some larger projects also have the link to their standalone project webpage. There are also links to State projects if applicable

W Holland: Quarter 1 highlights: New beacons installed along Bel Pre Road; outreach to drivers and peds at local shopping plazas and schools; Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHB) along Fenton in downtown Silver Spring; Aspen Hill Road Safety Audits moving forward, one along MD 97 and one along MD 185; we received an award of technical assistance for MD 650 from the Beltway to MD 320 – joint audit between Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation and MCDOT

K Daphnis: Can the PBTSAC be involved in the public outreach part of the audit? Would be helpful to see how it is done and what is done for it

J Hoobler: I do not see why not

MB Cleveland: That particular area can be difficult for certain disabled users, are they being considered as part of this?

J Hoobler: Yes, the audit seeks to be comprehensive in its review for different mode users

W Holland: More Quarter 1 highlights: Grove Street Neighborhood Greenway Pilot going on with installation of walking lane and traffic calming devices. Lots of bikeway construction and projects going on: Planning Place, Bethesda Loop Projects, Emory Lane / Muncaster Mill, Kensington Parkway, White Flint West, and Frederick Road

D Helms: Any opportunity to weigh in on Planning Board hearing for recommended CIPs?

S Aldrich: The hearing was today so not an opportunity anymore, happens every two years. We review the County Exec’s recommended budget in January every two years (odd years) as well.

K Daphnis: Can J Hoobler please send the link via email to the committee?

J Hoobler: Yes

S Aldrich: Goes to Chris Conklin and Glenn Orlin; County has to submit recommended budget by January 15

K Daphnis: Is there an opportunity for us to send recommendations to the County Executive’s office? It would be good for us to at least use MNCPPC’s report as a baseline for our recommendations

D Helms: I will start looking at that and putting something together

K Daphnis: That would be great; S Aldrich – the MD 193 bike lane project is slated to end November 14th, there is support from State Delegations and County Council to extend the pilot and make it permanent – there is a portal you can submit comments for it

M Paylor: May be difficult with the upcoming winter for State to leave it in place; not saying to hold off on comments just providing context

W Holland: Crash data update – weekly crash dispatches went down during pandemic but are headed back up, last week was the first week above the pre-pandemic average for crash dispatches

S Moore-Williams: Do most of the projects in the pipeline develop after perusing the crash statistics?

J Hoobler: Yes – the Vision Zero top priority action item is for the High Injury Networks throughout the County. Overall, the recommendations from MNCPPC for their top 100 CIPs and the budget the County Executive submits encompass lots of different projects, but the Vision Zero ones are focused on safety improvements based on crash data first and foremost, with a follow up along the lines of the Predictive Safety Analysis and looking at other areas once we have tackled the HIN work.

W Holland: When the pandemic started motorist only collisions went down, but we are headed back towards the pre-pandemic range (but not there yet)

W Holland: Pedestrian-involved collisions are highest in the darkest months, winter

W Holland: Serious and fatal combined crashes we are trending low for pedestrians

W Holland: Bicyclist collisions increase throughout warmer months and decrease in colder months – opposite trend of pedestrian crashes. Pandemic has not really shown up in the bicyclist crashes

K Daphnis: Do any members have questions?

D Helms: We have seen a reduction in pedestrian crashes and fatalities – what is your opinion of that W Holland?

W Holland: Speculation is that telework is still high, metro ridership and bus systems is well below pre-pandemic levels even though driving has recovered close to pre-pandemic levels, and the extra trips that were generated before could be lower

K Daphnis: Any updates from Captain J Brown from MCPD?

J Brown: Still working with Procurement; close to having Georgia Ave by Hewitt Ave to get speed cameras, but all the existing speed cameras are being used. The first contract only allotted so many cameras, new contract allows us to double that amount. Easier to get red light cameras installed on County roads than State roads.

K Daphnis: A community wanted Newport Mill & MD 586 red light camera

J Brown: We did a study there that looked at crashes and used a device that monitors red light running; there was not a threshold of safety issues

E Kinser: Officers write citations computerized but also are able to taken into account various factors

J Brown: We are able to see the warnings in the system to provide more context for speed and other factors

K Daphnis: Taking some time to hear from some of the non-committee members who are here tonight. Are there any other thoughts?

K Daphnis: Seeing none, Montgomery County People for Safe Streets is revving back up, we are planning an event in Wheaton at the Marion Friar Plaza Sunday, November 21st, which is World Remembrance Day

K Daphnis: Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm