

PBTSAC Meeting Minutes

1.27.22

Attendees:

Kristy Daphnis
Wade Holland
John Hoobler
Jacob Green
Jeremy Martin
John Kellenberg
Lee Keiser
Marissa Valeri
Marybeth Cleveland

Michael Bomgardner
Sonia Moore-Williams
Sara Morningstar
Michael Paylor
Kevin Permisohn
Sanjida Rangwala
Samwel Zephaniah
Zach Weinstein
Gail Landy

Tommy Heyboer
Fabiola Yurcisin
Jim Brown
Betty and Jim McDonald
Serese Aranha-Scott
Tomas Bridle
Dave Helms
Carolyn Chen
Vivian

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

K Daphnis: Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

K Daphnis: Welcome to guests and new members

K Daphnis: Introductions for everyone seeing many new attendees

K Daphnis: Need to start looking at meeting in-person and keeping call in option, also whether we can move to different areas of the County like we were pre-COVID

BILL UPDATE

S Morningstar: General Assembly began 1.12.22 GA started and goes until 1.11.22. There are many ped safety bills. There are a couple local bills – including HB-231 that would transfer ATEU from MCPD to MCDOT. It was approved at the local level and goes 2.10.22 to House. MC3-22, proposal from Delegate Moon, would deal with speed cameras, school-bus cameras, and medians in roadways. Would require the County and State to construct medians on certain roadways that have high instances of school-bus camera violations

M Paylor: Motorists do not always see the safety need to stop for school buses that are so far away, not a one-size-fits-all approach. Need to make sure we collaborate to sort out conflicts.

S Morningstar: HB-19 from Delegate Solomon, safe walk to schools, requires Board of Educations seeking state construction money to submit a ped safety plan and have it reviewed. County did not take a position this year, it did not seem to be heavily contested, was just heard on the 18th.

S Morningstar: HB-254, Delegate Carr, is a State Highway bill dealing with Vision Zero. Reporting and investigating – County Government did not take a position as it was specific to State Highway.

S Morningstar: HB-404 to lower speed limits – a nod to Montgomery County and we are flattered as we are doing this already.

S Morningstar: Federal level has \$6B for safe streets and road programs, a lot directed to State but opportunity for competitive grants.

K Daphnis: The nice thing about that is that it has a lot of good Vision Zero adjacent language and also includes a four-year update cycle for the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

K Daphnis: Safe Roads Act from Charkoudian and Waldstreicher has some good Vision Zero principles

K Daphnis: Very helpful thank you Sara. To the committee – we provide testimony on these bills as a lot of the fatalities occur on State Highways. I would propose that we take up a letter of support for this

J Brown: The one bill about putting the medians up in a four-lane highway with over a thousand school bus violations is being reworked – so not sure how we would support it as it is being reworked; that bill includes that we cannot put a speed camera on a road that has had the speed limit reduced. I do not think we would want to support that.

K Daphnis: I agree – we should only do a resolution for the bills that are a slam dunk in terms of what the committee supports. I would suggest writing letters of support for HB-19 (Safe Walk to Schools / Ped Safety Plan), HB-231 (ATEU), HB-254 (State Highway and Vision Zero Reporting Requirements)

Z Weinstein: Support these bills

J Hoobler: The original Bill 65 had a lot of requirements that did not make sense – including having the Board of Education perform the audits (not their expertise) and a one-year follow up to build all missing sidewalk segments, at the time estimated to be in the hundreds of millions for Montgomery County

S Morningstar: It has undergone extensive changes

F Yurcisin: Without having the bills beforehand, hard to have an opinion

J Brown: There are a lot of parts of these bills that do not make sense and people need to be better educated on it before we pass a vote

J Kellenberg: HB-254 infrastructure review reminds me of the incident reviews we do at the World Bank, but is that the same?

W Holland: There are some examples in the bill of what the State Highway Administration would look at as a follow up like crash history, and more

K Daphnis: The legislative session is short and we often do not see the bills in advance of their passing

K Daphnis: I will send the three bills as an attachment to the committee (HB 19, 231, and 254, and text of the Charkoudian / Waldstreicher bill if it is available)

K Daphnis: There will be a meeting on Monday night at 7 pm for voting on this item

K Daphnis: Budget update could be helpful

T Heyboer: The County Executive submits to the Council and typically ~90% gets approved, it is amicable

K Daphnis: Good to hear that some of the BRT recommendations are moving forward, including Veirs Mill BRT

T Heyboer: Exciting but lots of details to go through on financing side

L Keiser: Two public hearings on the Capital budget on 2.8.22 and one on 2.9.22

VISION ZERO PRELIMINARY 2021 CRASH DATA

W Holland: The whole slide deck is [available in PDF on the Vision Zero website](#)

W Holland: These numbers are preliminary, over the next couple of months we have a full close out process and some data updates. For example, final toxicology reports are some of the last data points we get for any given year and the points change over time and then we do validation as well. Typically done by April.

W Holland: COVID has changed VMT and we have not fully recovered to 2018/2019 levels but we are getting close. 2021 at the permanent counter locations was 8-9% below 2018/2019 levels.

W Holland: Some changes to our numbers. Year to date we have four fatal crashes for 2022, and another one on the beltway

W Holland: Increase in serious and fatal crashes from 2020 to 2021 is largely due to driver and passenger injuries and deaths, lower pedestrian and cyclist serious injuries and deaths. 2021 had 7 pedestrian and 0 cyclists for non-interstate roads, lowest we have seen since 2012.

W Holland: Our serious and fatal crashes for peds and bikes are down, but up for drivers and passengers as a category

W Holland: We had a low point for fatal crashes in 2018 and are unfortunately trending up for drivers and passengers; down for peds and cyclists in 2021

W Holland: 6 fatal crashes on New Hampshire Ave, 3 on Columbia Pike, and 3 on Georgia Ave. Last year we had quite a few motorcycle fatalities

Z Weinstein: Vision Zero is both fatals and serious injuries, some of the slides were just on fatals

W Holland: The target setting is at serious and fatal crashes, but people are typically more interested in seeing the fatals so the breakdown for that is also included

D Helms: Were motorcycle crashes and fatalities way up as part of the total fatalities?

W Holland: Yes. Usually CRU investigates 3-4, this year it was 7-8 total.

J Brown: Every one of the motorcycle crashes involved speeding, including triple digits. There are so many people out there now driving motorcycles as if the laws do not apply to them. Pursuit laws make enforcement difficult. There were seven last year and every one dealt with either unregistered motorcycles, fake tags, no Class M (motorcycle) license, and / or speed

J Kellenberg: What is the distinction between State roads and County roads?

J Hoobler: State roads are numbered routes such as 355 (Wisconsin Ave/Rockville Pike), 187 (Old Georgetown Road), 97 (Georgia Ave). The County covers almost all other roads, except in municipalities like Takoma Park, Rockville, and Gaithersburg where the cities handle the local roads.

F Yurcisin: Re: the distinction and typology of roads, how are those roads addressed?

J Hoobler: County is very diverse and must take a case by case approach to roads

W Holland: Budget is out with lots of Vision Zero funding

T Heyboer: Will flag for the committee when the Transportation and Environment (T&E) committee will be reviewing the transportation items in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget.

J Hoobler: MCDOT was awarded several grants for various safety projects

W Holland: Project updates on Vision Zero work including on-going pedestrian and bicycle facilities being installed.

W Holland: Education and outreach for Vision Zero. November and December had a heavy focus on anti-impaired driving. The Holiday Alcohol Task Force had over 260 DUI arrests and the outreach team worked with a few bars and restaurants to place coasters with safety messages on them.

D Helms: The Needwood Road & Beach Drive trail crossing needs to be looked at.

W Holland: Big outreach push for MCDOT's Heads Up/Phones Down video contest for high school students, which will start accepting entries on February 1.

W Holland: Other updates are on the Vision Zero website homepage

VISION ZERO FY22 ACTION ITEM UPDATE

K Daphnis: Short on time so will move to close out

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

K Daphnis: 2.12.22 at 10 am there is a Vision Zero event being scheduled by Councilmember Evan Glass at Randolph & Veirs Mill Roads.

K Daphnis: There have been a couple of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities so two ghost shoe memorials are planned for Sunday at 1 pm in Gaithersburg and another one in the coming weeks

K Daphnis: The Action Committee for Transit Facebook page has information

Z Weinstein: At this meeting we discussed what State laws our group should support, have we discussed Thrive 2050 and whether we support it?

K Daphnis: Open to putting it on the agenda. Need to look closely at some of the transportation recommendations. Steve Aldrich works for planning and is usually here and he can provide more info.

K Daphnis: One of the odd things about our committee is we do not technically advise the Planning Board but it is now with the Council so we can bring it up

T Heyboer: Regional Service Centers public outreach coming in February. Deliberations are coming up so should comment on it before April.

K Daphnis: Our next full meeting is in March so we can consider it for next time.

K Daphnis: Thanks everyone and thanks to our visitors, we will follow up on everything and see you Monday for the committee. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.