

# **Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report**

## **Introduction to the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee**

### **Origin and Purpose**

In accordance with Montgomery [County Code, Section 49-81](#), the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee was established to advise the County Executive and the County Council on the implementation of the Pedestrian Safety Initiative.

The purpose of the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (PBTSAC) is to:

- Advise the County Executive and County Council on the status of the implementation of the Pedestrian Safety Initiatives such as Vision Zero Initiative and policies such as the newly adopted Montgomery County Safe Streets Act of 2023.  
Advise elected officials on the priorities and needs for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Identify issues relevant to pedestrian and bicycle safety that need to be addressed.

### **Membership**

The PBTSAC is comprised of citizens, elected officials, and government representatives focused on pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic safety in Montgomery County. There are 17 members of the PBTSAC appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council to serve three-year terms. Nine members are County citizens that fill Public-at-Large seats on the PBTSAC; representing various communities and viewpoints, including one bicycle advocate and an advocate for persons with special needs. The Public-at-large members that served in 2023 were:

- Christopher Arndt (Boyds Resident, Bicycle Advocate)
- Myles Davenport (Silver Spring, Resident)
- Issa Haddad (Damascus Resident)
- Sanjida Rangwala (Silver Spring Resident)
- Clay Tamburri (Silver Spring Resident)
- Tricia Umeh (North Bethesda Resident, Representing People with Disabilities)
- Sonia-Moore Williams (Silver Spring Resident)
- Fabiola Yurcisin (Bethesda Resident)
- Vacant

Eight members of the PBTSAC include representatives from several County and State agencies listed below (the 2023 representatives are shown in parentheses):

- Montgomery County Police Department (Captain Warren Jensen)
- Montgomery County Department of Transportation (Christopher Conklin)
- Montgomery County Public Schools (Vacant)
- Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (Stephen Aldrich)
- Montgomery County Regional Service Centers (Vacant)
- Montgomery Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League (Vacant)
- Maryland State Highway Administration (Joe Moges)
- Montgomery County Council (Councilmember Natali Fani-González)

Additionally, a staff person from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) was assigned to facilitate and coordinate the PBTSAC. Nima Upadhyay, Capital Projects Manager, has served in this role since February 2023.

## **Meetings in 2023**

The Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee typically meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, bi-monthly, at 7:00 PM. Additional meetings are added if needed and members of the community are encouraged to attend. The PBTSAC met four times in 2023, on the following dates:

- February 23
- April 27
- June 8
- October 26

## **Special Topics and Items discussed in 2023**

### **Vacancy and Hiring Process**

At the beginning of 2023, the PBTSAC had seven public member vacancies including one member representing advocates of bicycling, and one member representing people with disabilities. The vacancy announcement for new applicants was posted in early March and the interview and candidate selection took place in summer.

### **Council Appointment**

The seven new public members were appointed by the County Council on October 10, 2023.

### **New Chair and Co-chair**

The board is in the process of electing a new chair and co-chair. The term for the outgoing chair, Kristy Daphnis, expired last year.

## **Member Handbook**

A handbook with information on the role and responsibilities of all committee members was under development at the end of 2023. In October, a draft copy was shared with the board members, and members were providing comments to and finalizing the handbook.

## **Vision Zero Implementation Updates**

- In April, Wade Holland, County's Vision Zero Coordinator, provided members with an update on creation of the Vision Zero FY 24-25 Work Plan and current crash trends.
- In June, Wade Holland, Vision Zero Coordinator from the Office of the Montgomery County Executive, provided the committee with the final version and summary for the FY 24-25 Vision Zero Work Plan.

## **Legislative Updates**

In February and April 2023, Sara Morningstar, Office of Intergovernmental Relations provided legislative updates and the County Council position on all active legislations.

## **Montgomery Planning and the Pedestrian Master Plan**

In February 2023, the PBTSAC was briefed on the Pedestrian Master Plan by M-NCPPC planner Eli Glazier.

## **Plans for 2024**

With many new members joining at the end of 2023, plans were developed to reinvigorate the PBTSAC with a new member handbook outlining member and committee responsibilities, electing a new chair and vice chair, and continuing to advise the County Executive and County Council on budget and policy priorities to advance pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic safety in Montgomery County.