

Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee
2024 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 (PBTSAC) was established to advise the County Executive and County Council on the implementation of the County's Pedestrian Safety Initiative.

The purpose of PBTSAC is to:

- Advise the County Executive and County Council on the status of pedestrian safety initiatives, including the Vision Zero Initiative and policies such as the Montgomery County Safe Streets Act of 2023.
- Provide recommendations to elected officials on priorities and needs related to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and safety.
- Identify and elevate issues that impact pedestrian and bicycle safety and require attention or action.

Membership

The Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (PBTSAC) is composed of citizens, elected officials, and government representatives who are dedicated to improving pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic safety in Montgomery County. The committee consists of 17 members, all appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council, each serving a three-year term.

Of these 17 members, nine are public-at-large members—Montgomery County residents who represent a range of communities and perspectives. These include a bicycle advocate and an advocate for individuals with special needs.

The public-at-large members who served in 2024 were:

- Christopher Arndt (Boyds Resident, Bicycle Advocate)
- Issa Haddad (Damascus Resident)
- Sanjida Rangwala (Silver Spring Resident)
- Tricia Umeh (North Bethesda Resident, Representing People with Disabilities)
- Sonia-Moore Williams (Silver Spring Resident)
- Vacant (Public Member)
- Vacant (Public Member)
- Vacant (Public Member)
- Vacant (Public Member)

In addition to its public-at-large members, the PBTSAC includes eight representatives from County and State agencies, as outlined below. The individuals who served in these roles in 2023 are noted in parentheses:

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

Additionally, a staff member from MCDOT is assigned to facilitate and coordinate the committee's activities. Nima Upadhyay, Capital Projects Manager, has served in this role since February 2023.

Meetings in 2024

The Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee typically meet 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 seven times in 2024, on the following dates:

- January 11
- January 18
- March 28
- May 16
- July 17
- September 26
- November 21

Special Topics and Items discussed in 2024

Committee Operations

The year began with a focus on leadership transitions. In January, the committee voted to postpone chair and vice-chair nominations until March to allow members time to consider the roles. During the March meeting, Issa Haddad was unanimously elected as Chair, and Chris Arndt was elected as Vice Chair. Later in September, the committee announced four public member vacancies, and Nima Upadhyay was tasked with coordinating the vacancy announcement process.

Little Falls Parkway

The Committee met *twice* to discuss the Little Falls Parkway project and debated whether to write a letter to support *the findings of the Planning Board* and one of the design alternatives. Members were given presentation materials before the meeting to acquaint themselves with the project. *After the second meeting the Committee voted not to take any action regarding the Planning Board findings.*

Vision Zero

The Vision Zero Initiative was another major area of focus. In March and May, Wade Holland presented on the Safe System Approach and encouraged members to review related legislation. In November, he also provided an overview of the Vision Zero budget development process, which is available online for public review.

State Legislation & Policy Recommendations

In terms of legislative engagement, the committee reviewed the outcomes of the 2024 Maryland General Assembly session during the May meeting and discussed potential recommendations for the Montgomery County Delegation. By September, PBTSAC had finalized a letter to the County Executive and Council President urging prioritization of state legislative issues for the 2025 session.

2024 Technical Update to the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways

The committee also received updates on the 2024 Technical Update to the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways during the March and May meetings.

Capital Project Development Lifecycle

Capital project planning was highlighted in September, when Matt Johnson presented the Fenton Village Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects, including design and timeline details.

Speed and Red-Light Camera Enforcement

In November, the committee received a presentation from Christopher Tippary of the Montgomery County Police Department on the County's Automated Traffic Enforcement Program, including speed and red-light cameras

Boards, Commissions, and Committees (BCC) Questionnaire

PBTSAC submitted a report to the Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB) on October 30, 2024, as part of the County's process to assess the function, structure, and effectiveness of advisory committees.

Plans for 2025

With several vacancies currently on the Committee, we look forward to welcoming new members throughout the year. PBTSAC will continue to invite presentations to stay informed on a range of safety issues and topics relevant to Montgomery County. We will closely monitor state legislation passed during the 2025 session and track the development of the County's FY 2026 budget proposal. Additionally, we remain committed to identifying opportunities to advise the County Executive and County Council on budget and policy priorities that advance pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic safety across the County.