

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY / NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY BETHESDA  
BRAC INTEGRATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY – APRIL 22, 2014**

- **Ilaya Hopkins called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.**
  - Ilaya reminded the Committee that BIC meetings are designed for general discussion on matters of interest to the Committee, but are not the proper forum for resolving problems of a specific nature or relating to a particular neighborhood. Those matters should be directed separately to the relevant agencies or to the County’s Military Installations (BRAC) Coordinator.
  
- **Updates from Phil Alperson, Montgomery County Military Installations (BRAC) Coordinator:**
  - **Phil noted that matters discussed at the BIC meetings have chronological background material on the web site, listed under today’s meeting on the “Get Involved” Page:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/brac/get\\_involved.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/brac/get_involved.asp)
    - **Printable Timeline: Anticipated Construction-Related Traffic Disruptions in Bethesda:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/resources/files/brac\\_projects\\_timeline.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/resources/files/brac_projects_timeline.pdf)
    - **BRAC Transportation Projects and Commuting Options:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/projects\\_glance.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/projects_glance.asp)
    - **Phil reminded the Committee to get traffic and BRAC news and information first by following Montgomery County BRAC on Twitter @BracMoCoMD .**
  - **Phil reminded the Committee that May 23 is the deadline to submit public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Bethesda Campus Master Plan:**
    - **(NOTE this is 474 pages): Draft EIS:**  
[http://www.ncpc.gov/DocumentDepot/PublicNotices/MP02\\_NIH\\_Bethesda\\_Master\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.ncpc.gov/DocumentDepot/PublicNotices/MP02_NIH_Bethesda_Master_Plan.pdf)

- **(NOTE this is 24 pages): NIH PowerPoint Summary Presentation to the BRAC Integration Committee, June 19, 2012:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/resources/files/bic-nih\\_masterplanupdate-061912.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/resources/files/bic-nih_masterplanupdate-061912.pdf)
  
- **Briefer reading:**
  1. **3-21-14 Bethesda Now: NIH To Release Details On Master Plan:** <http://www.bethesdanow.com/2014/03/21/nih-to-release-details-on-master-plan/>
  
  2. **3-26-14 Bethesda Now: NIH Standing Firm On Parking Ratio:** <http://www.bethesdanow.com/2014/03/26/nih-standing-firm-on-parking-ratio/>
  
  3. **3-28-14 Gazette: Second phase of 600,000-square-foot NIH neuroscience center completed -- Massive rebuilding project continues to make room for 3,000 workers:**  
<http://www.gazette.net/article/20140328/NEWS/140329201/1033&source=RSS&template=gazette>
  
- **Update on the Platt Ridge Drive Extension Project.** On April 3, the Planning Board held a Mandatory Referral Hearing with the intent of casting a series of votes that would either approve the project or prevent it from moving forward. However, because the County Arborist had not been provided sufficient notice to prepare a report, the Board took testimony but deferred votes to a later date to be determined. Planning Board staff detailed their opposition to the project and engaged in dialogue with officials from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT). Testimony in favor of the project was provided by MCDOT, the County BRAC Coordinator, and several residents of the impacted Chevy Chase Valley community. One resident testified in opposition.
  - **Agenda for a subsequent Planning Board Mandatory Referral Hearing on the Platt Ridge Drive Extension Project:**  
[http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/meetings\\_archive](http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/meetings_archive)
  - **Project Background:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/projects/platt\\_ridge.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/projects/platt_ridge.html)
  
- **Update on the MD 355 Multimodal Crossing Project at Medical Center Metro Station:**
  - Phil reported that MCDOT continues working with the many project stakeholders and hopes to publish the RFP and transmit it to the two design-build contractor finalists in May, and to select a contractor late this

year. The teams that will be sent Request for Proposals (RFP) are Clark Construction Group, LLC and Corman-Bradshaw Joint Venture.

- More information on recent activities relating to the Crossing Project can be found on the “Get Involved” page and the Project Map. In addition, MCDOT has established a web site for the project at:  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dote/projects/355Underpass/index.html>
  
- **Update on the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) grant that has funded the position of Montgomery County BRAC Coordinator since 2007:** Phil reported that OEA has awarded the County an additional one-year grant, effective April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015. Phil noted that the position title is changed under the new grant, from “BRAC Coordinator” to “Military Installations Coordinator.” The new title reflects the broadened scope of the new grant with activities at other military facilities in the County, most notably the Intelligence Community Campus-Bethesda and the Fort Detrick/Forest Glen Annex in Silver Spring. In addition, in DOD’s view, BRAC was completed in 2011, notwithstanding the local community’s continued oversight of BRAC-related transportation projects near Naval Support Activity Bethesda.
  
- **Update on John Hopkins/Suburban Hospital expansion plans in Bethesda (“2020 Campus Enhancement Plan”).** <http://www.suburbanhospital2020.com/>
  - Leslie Weber had planned to give a presentation but a freshly broken ankle prevented her appearance. She provided the following statement, which Phil shared with the Committee:
    - "Since the resolution of all legal issues in January, we've been moving forward on several items including releasing a bid for construction management services which we expect to finalize in the late spring. The first area where neighbors will start to see work being done will be on the McKinley Street side of the campus where the street will be widened and we'll be creating a road to go around the back of the hospital to the loading dock. We anticipate starting that work in the late fall. I'll be happy to share more details at our next meeting."
  
- **Construction projects on the campus of the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart:**
  - **Rich Vogel introduced Eric Osberg, Director of Finance & Operations of the Stone Ridge School (located at the corner of Cedar Lane and Rockville Pike) who led a discussion about ongoing school improvement construction projects that should be completed this year and next. The main focus of discussion was the construction of a new driveway leading to a signalized four-**

way intersection at Cedar Lane and Elmhirst Parkway, and the installation of new turf playing fields. Stone Ridge has been considering various projects to meet the challenges of being located and remaining in a heavily congested area, which have been exacerbated by continued growth in Bethesda and the BRAC-related construction projects that have directly impacted the campus. Questions were raised relating to impacts of the new construction on the neighboring communities (especially Parkview and Locust Hill), such as traffic, noise, lighting, security, and impacts on trees and green space. Stone Ridge suggested that it could eventually make the turf fields available for community use.

- **Presentation:**

- <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/Resources/Files/BIC-StoneRidgeTurfPresentation-042214.pdf> (20 pp)

- **Background Info:**

- 1. <http://www.stoneridgeschool.org/page.cfm?p=4665>

- 2. <http://www.stoneridgeschool.org/page.cfm?p=7667>

- **Updates from Bill Meekins, Executive Director, Naval Support Activity Bethesda, representing Base Commander Captain Bitonti:**

- Bill reported that the project to demolish five small buildings in the medical center core and construct a “Building C,” which were included in the ROD that was signed last year, has been delayed for at least a year as DOD reassesses the project. Other ROD construction projects will move forward, including a new education and research building at USUHS and new parking structures.
- Bill discussed the formal name of the BIC, noting that “Walter Reed BIC” references just the medical center, which is just one (albeit the largest) tenant on the campus of Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB). He strongly suggested that “NSAB BIC” would be a more appropriate name and is in keeping with the base’s effort to educate the public on the new relationship between the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Naval Support Activity Bethesda at which the medical center is located. Henceforth the BRAC Integration Committee and the County’s Military Installations Coordinator will strive to associate itself more closely with NSAB.
- Bill mentioned that NSAB is in the process of bringing on a new Public Information Officer who should be announced shortly, but in the meantime people should contact [john.epperson@med.navy.mil](mailto:john.epperson@med.navy.mil) with any questions or concerns.
- Committee members inquired about the status of traffic relief at the NSAB Rockville Pike gates. Bill noted plans to maintain double lane entrances on weekends rather than the current single entrances. He said SHA plans to extend vehicle storage capacity to the southbound left turn lane into the North Wood gate would be constructed as part of the 355/Cedar Lane intersection project.

- **Updates on the SHA Intersections Projects.**

- **Rockville Pike/Jones Bridge Road Intersection:** SHA was not represented this evening, but Phil reported that SHA plans to meet with the Bethesda Urban Partnership next Monday to discuss plans for the intersection of southbound Wisconsin Avenue and Woodmont Avenue – part of the MD 355/Jones Bridge Road intersection project. There are concerns that traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures may impact the traffic island and the existing “Welcome to Bethesda” sign. The traffic island and the relevant portion of Woodmont Avenue are located on an easement controlled by NIH.
- **Old Georgetown Road/West Cedar Lane Intersection:** Phil reported that June 10 is the anticipated date that SHA plans to advertise the project with a goal of issuing a Notice to Proceed in late fall, weather and other variables permitting.
- **Rockville Pike/Cedar Lane Intersection – summer closure of Cedar Lane:** Phil reported that the Maryland Dept. of Education had approved Friday, June 13, as the official last day for Montgomery County Public Schools. He noted that Monday, August 25 will be the first day of the 2014-15 MCPS school year. SHA has not yet determined its closure or reopening dates for Cedar Lane but will do so in the near future, and says it will work with the adjacent neighborhoods to devise a Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) detour plan. The MOT is an SHA responsibility since it results from the SHA construction project; MCDOT would have a role in developing the MOT since it involves County roads.
  - Richard Levine of Locust Hill said that he and Ed Krauze (Parkview) had met with MCDOT officials to develop an MOT plan, since it will largely impact County roads in their neighborhoods. He said MCDOT has offered to work with SHA to implement this proposed MOT but there has been little communication from SHA to MCDOT or the community. Richard is concerned that a lack of coordination between SHA and MCDOT could negatively affect the neighborhoods that would be most impacted by detour and cut-through traffic. Ken Hartman said he would consult with MCDOT Director Art Holmes and his staff about possible next steps.

- **Other community updates and issues:**

- Debbie Michaels reported that in her discussions with SHA officials about the 355/Jones Bridge Road intersection, she believes SHA has made what she wonders are significant changes to the plans that had been approved by the Planning Board at Mandatory Referral hearings a few years ago. Ken Hartman and Phil Alperson said they would inquire with Planning Board staff about this.

- Karen Kuker-Kihl was not present at the meeting, but Ilaya Hopkins raised Karen’s written concerns about the lack of signage on the Beltway directing traffic bound for the NSAB/NIH medical center to the Connecticut Avenue exit as an alternative to Rockville Pike.
- Paul Seder raised concerns about proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) that would “repurpose” existing vehicular lanes to transit along Rockville Pike.
- **Ilaya asked when the Committee should meet again. It was decided that a meeting should be held prior to the summer closure of Cedar Lane. Because SHA’s attendance is essential, Phil will reach out to SHA to schedule meeting at SHA’s convenience in late May or early June. Phil will report back to the Committee when a date has been set.**
- **Ilaya adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm. The next Committee meeting will be a date TBD but likely 7:00 p.m. at the BCC Regional Services Center.**

**BRAC Committee members in attendance, April 22, 2014:**

Nancy Abeles, Bethesda Crest Home Owners Association  
 Phil Alperson, Montgomery County Military Installations (BRAC) Coordinator  
 Lulu Gonella, Chevy Chase View  
 Ken Hartman, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center  
 Ilaya Hopkins, East Bethesda Citizens Assn. and Chair of the BRAC Integration Committee  
 Ginanne Italiano, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce  
 Ed Krauze, Bethesda Parkview Citizens Association  
 Richard Levine, Locust Hill Citizens Association  
 Allen Myers for Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Association  
 Debbie Michaels, Glenbrook Village Homeowners Association  
 Sara Morningstar, Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations  
 Susan Petersen Roberts for Phil Neuberg, National Institutes of Health  
 Patrick O’Neil, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce  
 Rich Vogel, Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

**Ex-officio:**

Bill Meekins for Capt. David Bitonti, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda  
 Joan Kleinman, Office of Congressman Chris Van Hollen

**Other Attendees**

Dawn Chaikin, Locust Hill  
 Marc Korman  
 Aaron Kraut, Bethesda Now.com  
 Jeanette Musil, DOD Office of Economic Adjustment  
 Eric Osberg, Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart  
 Paul Seder