

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
WALTER REED BRAC INTEGRATION COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY – June 18, 2013**

- Ilaya Hopkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Ilaya noted that this meeting would be truncated to accommodate a 7:30 Public Meeting hosted by the Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation on the Maryland 355 (Rockville Pike) Multimodal Crossing Project at the Medical Center Metro Station.
- Updates from Phil Alperson, Montgomery County BRAC Coordinator:
 - Phil noted that every item discussed at the BIC meetings has loads of 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
 - Phil said that at every BIC meeting he reminds everyone that the “Get Involved” Page’s chronological report of BIC meetings includes the following resource materials:
 - **Printable Timeline: Anticipated Construction-Related Traffic Disruptions in Bethesda:**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/resources/files/brac_projects_timeline.pdf
 - **Summary of BRAC Transportation Projects and Commuting Options:**
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 reported that the County’s BRAC web site has been visually enhanced with improved graphics and fonts. While the content remains the same, the site is easier to use and read: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/>
 - Phil noted that the MCDOT presentation on the Crossing Project to be presented shortly follows up on recent presentations to those in the business community interested in the project’s procurement opportunities.

- 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>
- **Maryland Transit Administration proposal to eliminate three Commuter Bus Routes on the ICC.**
 - Phil reported that in May, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) announced it would hold public hearings on a proposal to eliminate three commuter bus routes that utilize the InterCounty Connector (ICC) and provide service to Bethesda. Route 202 runs from Gaithersburg to Fort Meade, Route 203 runs from Columbia to Bethesda, and Route 205 runs from College Park to the Germantown Transit Center. Each is a two-way route connecting to Metro and MARC stations and Kiss & Ride lots, so they all serve Bethesda. The lines have been in service for about a year. MTA needs to reallocate its resources and that these three lines are under utilized. These buses are an integral part of the comprehensive plan to mitigate BRAC-related traffic in Bethesda, and many who live or work here rely on them.
 - Phil reported that he testified at a June 6 public hearing in Gaithersburg on behalf of County Executive Leggett, that Ilaya Hopkins testified on behalf of the BIC. And that BIC member Karen Kuker-Kihl; also testified. In addition, State Senator Jennie Forehand testified and several elected officials submitted written testimony.
 - Phil noted that the hearing was well attended and many convincing arguments in support of the bus routes were presented. One NSAB employee noted that a recent commuter fair at the campus garnered 13 new commuter bus subscribers. BIC members commended Captain Kass for NSAB efforts to encourage alternative modes of transportation.
 - Phil reported that he spoke with several MTA officials afterward, and was optimistic that they understood the County’s need for these bus routes and that it may be possible for MTA to postpone canceling them and instead launch a greater rider education and recruitment effort. Gerry Cichy of MTA concurred that MTA is reviewing its options and noted that MTA will continue to accept written testimony through July 8.
 - **MTA Hearing Announcement:** <http://mta.maryland.gov/public-hearings-icc-commuter-bus-changes>

- MD 185 (Connecticut Ave)/Jones Bridge Road: Construction of Phases 1 & 2 on Connecticut Avenue between the Beltway and Manor Road should be complete by the end of July, weather permitting. Design of Phase 3 along Jones Bridge Road is ongoing.
 - MD 187 (Old Georgetown Road)/West Cedar Lane: ROW acquisition is ongoing preceding utility relocation and construction.
 - MD 355 (Rockville Pike)/Jones Bridge Road: Utilities relocation is ongoing, and will include “dynamic signaling” changes to provide an additional PM peak hour turn lane onto westbound JBR from southbound Rockville Pike. Christopher said he would provide more details on projected completion of the signaling.
- **Ilaya Hopkins solicited Neighborhood Updates and Public Comments:**
 - Richard Hoyer complained about the condition of the portion of the Bethesda Trolley Trail that runs along the side south of the NIH campus. Debbie Michaels said she is a frequent user of that portion of the Trail and did not agree with Richard’s assessment.
 - Phil Neuberger of NIH said he was unaware of complaints about the Trail but did encourage everyone to participate in an NIH blood drive.
 - Nancy Abeles of Bethesda Crest noted that her community has been working with SHA to mitigate elevated noise levels discerned by recent SHA testing at the west side of the intersection of Rockville Pike and Cedar Lane, and hopes that the neighborhoods can maintain an open dialogue with SHA.
 - Richard Levine of Locust Hill reported that SHA has decided to continue design and engineering of Phase 4 along northbound Rockville Pike north of Cedar Lane, but would postpone environmental testing or construction activities until construction of Phases 1 through 3 are complete. Then, testing for traffic, air, and noise will be conducted and the decision whether to proceed with Phase 4 will be made after these tests more accurately determine the effectiveness of Phases 1 through 3 on congestion mitigation and whether Phase 4 would be cost-effective.
 - Paul Seder stressed his opposition to BRT along Rockville Pike, especially because it would provide little benefit in the off-peak hours.
 - Fred Mitchem formally introduced herself as the new Chevy Chase Valley community representative replacing Ken Strickland. She noted that as a C Connecticut Avenue resident she has endured much during BRAC-related road construction.

- Ken Hartman announced there would be a Public Meeting at the BCC Regional Services Center on Monday evening, June 24, regarding proposed BikeShare stations in Bethesda:
 - **Meeting Notice:**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/bikeshare/Resources/Files/PublicMtgflyer-Bethesda%20.pdf>
 - **BikeShare Station Map:**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/bikeshare/Resources/Files/BethesdaAreaBikeshareMap.pdf>

- **Captain Kass announced that he will be retiring from the Navy in the very near future and that today is his final BIC meeting as NSAB Commander. He introduced his relief, Captain David Bitonti, who has held numerous senior positions at NSAB for about ten years. Hearty kudos from extended from the Committee to Captain Kass for his collegial work with the community.**

- **Ilaya adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2013, 7:00 p.m. (NOTE this is the new regular starting time), at the BCC Regional Services Center.**

- **At 7:30 pm, the Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation hosted a Public Meeting on the MD 355 (Rockville Pike) Multimodal Crossing Project at the Medical Center Metro Station.**
 - **MCDOT Presentation (15 pp):**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/Resources/Files/MMX-MCDOT-PublicPresentation-061813.pdf>
 - **MCDOT Project Web Site:**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/355Underpass/index.html>
 - **BRAC Project Page:**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/projects/metro_mc.html

BRAC Committee members in attendance, June 18, 2013:

Nancy Abeles, Bethesda Crest Home Owners Association
 Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator
 Christopher Bishop, State Highway Administration
 Lulu Gonella, Chevy Chase View
 Janet Maalouf for Neil Greene, Maplewood Citizens Association

Ken Hartman, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
Ilaya Hopkins, Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board, East Bethesda Citizens Association, and Chair, Walter Reed BRAC Integration Committee
Ed Krauze, Bethesda Parkview Citizens Association
Karen Kuker-Kihl, The Promenade
Richard Levine, Locust Hill Citizens Association
Marilyn Mazuzan, Town of Oakmont
Debbie Michaels, Glenbrook Village Homeowners Association
Freda Mitchem, Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Association
Sara Morningstar, Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations
Phil Neuberg, National Institutes of Health

Ex-officio:

Ken Reichard (Senator Ben Cardin)
Joan Kleinman (Rep. Chris Van Hollen)
Cindy Gibson (Council Member Roger Berliner)
Capt. Fritz Kass, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda
Capt. David Bitonti, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda
Joseph Macri, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda

Other Attendees

Uzair Asadullah, MCDOT
Agnes Blum, The Gazette
Gerald Cichy, Maryland Transit Administration
Brian Copley, MCDOT
Ed Gitterman
Jim Guinther, WRA
Richard Hoye
Tracey Johnstone, Action Committee for Transit
Aaron Kraut, Bethesda Now.com
Steve Matty, URS
Tom Robertson, Bethesda Urban Partnership
Ben Ross, Action Committee for Transit
William Sadlon, NAVFAC Washington
Daniel Schebler, DOD Office of Economic Adjustment
Paul Seder
Holger Serrano, MCDOT
Laura Thornton, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Patch
Janie Tiedeman, URS
Melanie Wenger, Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations
Julie Woepke, MD Dept. of Bus. & Econ. Development, Office of Military & Federal Affairs