



Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 18, 2025

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Held virtual via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87172188049>;

Call to Order:	Arquilla Ridgell, Chair			Respectfully Submitted by: Meghan Pazmino, Secretary		
Date/Time:	September 18, 2025, 7:00 PM ET					
Attendees:	X	Arquilla Ridgell (Chair)	X	Serge Thomas (Vice Chair)		Gary Fellman (Parlimentarian)
	X	Meghan Pazmino (Secretary)		Phillip Ardanuy	X	Rob Fox
	X	Rick Gross	X	Carol Kosary	X	Debra Liverpool
	X	Joan McDermott	X	Irina Norrell		Lee Rubenstein
	X	Liza Smith	X	Jonathan Chambers		
Staff:	Luisa Cardona Talia Beaulieu-Hains					
Guests:	Crystal Ruiz - WUDAC Board Member Nina Koltnow - WUDAC Board Member Kit Wood - WUDAC Board Member Nestor Alvarenga					

Time	Topic	Notes
7:02	Call to Order & Welcome	The Chair called the meeting to order and reviewed meeting protocols.
7:04	Agenda Minutes	<p>The Chair called for a motion to approve the July minutes. Joan moved to approve the July minutes. Rick and Liza seconded. No abstentions or nays, July minutes are approved.</p> <p>The Chair called for a motion to approve the agenda. Carol moved to approve the agenda. Irina seconded the agenda. No abstentions or nays, September agenda is approved.</p>

7:06	Recognition of Elected Officials and Government in attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maryland State Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, District 18 ● Maryland State Delegate Emily Shetty, District 18 ● Maryland State Delegate Jared Solomon, District 18 ● Maryland State Delegate Aaron Kaufman, District 18 <p>County Officials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christopher Conklin, Maryland Department of Transportation ● Michael Paylor, Chief of Traffic, Montgomery County Department of Transportation ● Jose Thommana, MCDOT Parking ● Joseph Moges, MCDOT Division of Transportation Engineering Chief ● Commander David Smith, Montgomery County Police District Commander for District 4 ● Lt. Adam Currie, Montgomery County Police District 4 <p>Maryland State Highway Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Randall Scott, SHA District 3 Traffic Office ● CJ Hynson, Assistant District ENGINEER, Maintenance for Montgomery County <p>County Executive's Office and County Councilmember</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wade Holland, County Executive's Office, Manager Vision Zero ● Hazle and Jose - Councilmember Natali Fani-Gonzalez's Office ● Hannah Wilcove - Councilmember Evan Glass' Office ● Sierra Gray - Councilmember Laurie-Ann Sayles' Office
7:13	Presentations	<p>Maryland State Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, District 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We represent most of the communities here tonight, including most in the Wheaton area, but not all. We don't represent Olney. ● We are here to listen, first and foremost. Learning about concerns you have is a big part of our job. Our constituent services staff work hard on your behalf. We are here on your behalf, we are here to advocate for your safety, and we are here first and foremost to listen. <p>Maryland State Delegate Emily Shetty, District 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I am really excited to be here with MCCAB and WUDAC. ● We coordinate really well with our county partners, with county DOT and SHA with regular communication at least quarterly where we discuss ongoing challenges and get very frequent updates from both on what can be done on particularly challenging spots. ● Thank you to the police who run our red light and speed camera programs. They are increasingly popular programs to address our Vision Zero goals. Through that program I can see that speeding has gone down on some of these major state highways where we had previously been seeing a lot more fatal and near-fatal collisions. We are seeing almost none. It's remarkable what the introduction of this technology has done. ● We are here to listen, we are always available to you. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the community to help

make sure all of these corridors are safe for pedestrians, for bicycles, for walkers, for strollers, for wheelchairs, for everybody. Thank you for having us.

Maryland State Delegate Jared Solomon, District 18

- It's nice to be here with you all tonight, this is probably one of the largest attendance I've seen either in a WUDAC or an MCCAB meeting and I think that's reflective of the importance of this.
- Even though we've made a lot of progress, one fatality on a road is too many. One pedestrian death is too many. We've made great progress but we still have a long way to go. I want to thank you all for being really tireless advocates. We all need to work in concert with one another. It really does take a village and it takes a real team effort to make sure we are improving our communities. We are being the 8 ball because a lot of our roads were built at a time when our community looked very different. We want to encourage people to get out of their cars, we want to encourage people to use public transit to be able to walk and experience the wonderful parts of our community. We have to make sure our roads are adapting to those challenges.
- Wins and victories: Rock View Elementary meetings; Governor and SHA walks through the Wheaton Central Business District; Walk through Newport Mill and Veirs Mill; Pendleton/Veirs Mill signal; Price and Georgia Ave. signal; Lanes narrowed and restriping;
- These are victories and real improvements, they're not enough, but people have been advocating for years so we need to celebrate their success.
- Just within the last couple of weeks, the State Highway added signage on the Beltway at Georgia Avenue to let people know about the Wheaton Arts District.

Maryland State Delegate Aaron Kaufman, District 18

- We have the honor of representing Wheaton, Kensington, and a portion of Silver Spring. These are gems to our community. I'm a lifelong community member.

Councilmember Laurie-Ann Sayles' Office

- Our office is always a resource and just here to listen to concerns and updates to share with the Councilmember.

Hannah Wilcove, Councilmember Evan Glass' Office

- Councilmember Glass recently introduced a bill that would clarify the rules around cars parking in and obstructing bike lanes, making them safer to use.
- Transportation and Environment Committee which Councilmember Glass chairs will be holding a hearing on RideOn services to make sure there are options other than cars to get around the county.
- As always, we are here to help with cases because he's the chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee and safe streets is a really big priority for him. If there's anything we can follow up with we're always here to help.

		<p>Councilmember Fani-Gonzalez' Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Councilmember appreciates everyone and looks forward to hearing updates.
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7:3	Discussion and Structured Q&A	<p>Meghan Pazmino led the discussion and questioning:</p> <p>Over the past year, our community has endured at least four fatal crashes, three in just over a month this past spring. These are not just numbers, they are lives lost on roads we travel every day, they are moms and dads, siblings, children. This is why the MCCAB has invited everyone to join us tonight to provide updates on ongoing safety measures and to answer urgent questions from the community.</p> <p>We know there are long term projects like the Veirs Mill Road Rapid transit project that are going to be real improvements to the road, but that timeline stretches to 2029 and some of these solutions are years away and our community can't afford to wait while lives are being lost today. We need to understand what immediate actions are being taken to protect drivers, pedestrians and families now, not four years from now.</p> <p>We'd also to hear some updates from some of the community requests made over the years but not completed and we are asking for some clear commitments on what can be done immediately.</p> <p>Question: The Veirs Mill Road Flash Improves are long term. What can be done immediately to improve safety on this road?</p> <p>MCDOT Response: There are a number of short term improvements that are in the works and we relayed some of that to SHA after the last WUDAC meeting in July.</p> <p>Utility relocations are beginning in October, property acquisitions are already happening. Work is going to get started on that project relatively soon. Funding packages are all in at the Federal Transit Administration. We do need federal action to get the bulk of the construction moving.</p> <p>The desire and demand to get more safety improvements sooner, as we start to sequence that work and understand the pace of the work, we are looking to advance some of the bike and pedestrian safety projects as early phases so we won't have to wait until 2029 to have everything in place.</p> <p>Randall Scott, SHA District 3 Traffic Office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repainting crosswalks at Galt and Kensington are scheduled to be redone this fall, weather permitting. They will be done in the continental style. • Traffic signal at Pendleton Drive construction will begin as early as this fall and will be operational as early as 2026. • Extending the school zone at Norris Drive--There are several school zone signs at that area. The designation is usually reserved for when the school is along the highway itself. <p>Commander Smith, Montgomery County Police:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the District level, traffic enforcement is a priority for us. It's a layered approach, from the engineering standpoint, the speed camera program, the redlight program.
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- We have had some significant success in our problem-oriented policing, specifically with crime. We have quelled some of the issues, specifically with fentanyl distribution, we can pivot some resources to traffic enforcements. We're going to use some of the resources we have assigned to problem-oriented policing when we have overlapping shifts, we're going to dedicate specifically to some traffic enforcement in a team-oriented way.
- We're going to be evaluating locations throughout the district for targeted enforcement at various hours. It's going to an all hands approach involving day and evening patrol shifts, some specialized teams, central business district teams, community action teams, midnight shifts. Different times of day bring different traffic problems, so we'll have that coverage fairly consistently throughout the district.
- We have a central traffic division that uses a data driven approach to target enforcement. They assisted in Wheaton with a multi-agency traffic event issuing over 250 citations in one period.
- I'm encouraged on our progress on crime and by what we're going to do through the end of the year to get some high visibility patrols in areas having challenges such as Veirs Mill.

Question: There was a request for a speed camera at the Norris Drive and Veirs Mill. Can anyone share an update on where the request stands, whether it's with County Police or SHA.

Police: I'm not sure about that particular request, but I will follow up with the traffic division and see if I can get some further info on that on the police side.

Wade Holland: What usually happens is there is a request put into the State Highway to approve the site and then the camera is managed by MPD. But that request has to be made by the county to the SHA.

Delegate Solomon: Do you have a better sense of when we'll be seeing construction of sidewalks on Veirs Mill?

SHA Response: We went through an exercise a month ago to see what areas we could advance. The federal government's activities are a little bit unpredictable. We are developing contingency plans if that federal funding doesn't come through. But we are also looking at what packages we might be able to move forward faster. We started looking at the Newport Mill area where the sidewalks are missing on the south side of the road, and it's challenging. What we discovered with where we are, we would actually slow things down if we tried to do the sidewalks separately. We would need to seek additional permits and have to rescope grant arrangements. So for the next few months we are keeping all that work in the project and advance construction sooner. There are a lot of property acquisitions and utility relocations that are needed for the work and those are getting underway now but they take some time to actually get the utilities moved. It's the part that takes the longest, and takes about a year. Things like crosswalks and connections from sidewalks will be easier to

complete faster than linear projects.

Delegate Solomon:

We've talked about improving lighting on this stretch. Can you give us a status update on whether the lighting has been upgraded?

SHA: We will have to check on that and get back to you.

Delegate Solomon:

Let's go back to the School Zone piece. We could designate that stretch as a school zone. How would we go about doing that?

Response: We would have to do an analysis. We generally prefer when the school fronts the highway so we can do an evaluation and we can have that completed by the end of November.

Question: Going back to the speed camera at Norris. Who would be the person to follow up with to make sure that request gets submitted?

Response: Commander will check with his traffic division.

Commander Wade: We have new authority to place speed cameras. We try to package cameras, we have to publish them in the newspaper.

SHA: On the state side we are more cognizant to expedite and not be an impediment to cameras being installed.

Sen. Waldstreicher:

Cameras give the same fine whether you're going 13 mph above the speed limit or 130 miles above the speed limit. State Legislation last year created a tiered system for speed cameras. The tiered fine for work zone cameras was very effective. It will escalate as the danger of your driving escalates. The fines go up into the hundreds and hundreds of dollars. I hope the speed cameras already in place as well as new ones, that the tiered fines for really dangerous, excessive speeds will have an impact.

Question: Has there been any discussion on increasing the number of speed cameras available?

Response: There is no law that caps the amount of cameras that can be in place, what's really limiting is the number of cameras we can operate in a day. We have to calibrate them every day, move them, operate them, and change out batteries. The limitation is really about what can be managed.

Question: Are there any short or long term improvements planned for Connecticut Avenue in the area of Denfeld Avenue? It's a school zone and the only section of all of Connecticut Avenue that is 40 mph. A request was made for a crosswalk where kids and residents cross seven lanes to reach a bus stop and

SHA Response:

- Speed limit: The 40 mph speed limit is under review and results should be in around the end of October.
- Crosswalk Request: We studied the request but right now it doesn't meet the threshold and have enough pedestrian traffic to merit a pedestrian beacon.

Question: Have all the recommendations made by SHA in July 2023 to the Connecticut Ave and Denfeld Ave been completed? Specifically, the crosswalks need to be repainted.

Response: We can do a check in the next few weeks and issue a work order to get them refreshed. This will be a weather dependent project, so it may have to wait until springtime.

Question: How will we get follow ups on all of these studies?

Response: Next month we should be able to get updates on all of these.

Question: What are the updates from the July 2023 meeting?

Response: One of the things we haven't done is the Lead Pedestrian Indicator. That design has recently been completed and that will be put on the schedule.

Follow up: MCDOT got that updated and installed last summer.

Question: Can modifications be made to the traffic light timing at Connecticut and Denfeld to allow more time for pedestrian crossing.

Response: We can work with Montgomery County to update the timing. Submit it as a study to make sure it doesn't fall through the cracks. We will collaborate with the county. We also got requests to add left turns, and we did a study and it may cause significant operational problems to put left turns from Denfeld to Connecticut. We may be limited to what we can do at that intersection.

Question: Will the speed camera on that stretch be cycled back through?

Police Response: Cameras rotate through the sites, we prioritize the sites where there are the greatest number of violations. No date for when this one will be cycled back. It's a lengthy permitting process for sites on State roads, so that's why we have limited spots.

Question: Are there any improvements planned for the area of Georgia Avenue and Arcola? This is an area with a lot of pedestrian traffic to the library and a future arts center.

SHA Response: Lead pedestrian intervals (pedestrian head start) have been approved for that intersection, we will work with Montgomery County to get them installed.

MCDOT: We did get that information from SHA and we intended to activate them today, but we ran into some technical problems but intend to have them resolved by the end of the week.

Question: Can sidewalks be expanded in this area?

SHA Response: There's no property available in that area, there's very little right of way, but we are looking at improving that bus stop. It's clearly deficient for the demands. RideOn will begin an evaluation of that location.

Question: There's a lot of grass overgrowth onto the sidewalk. Who is responsible for sidewalk landscaping maintenance?

Response: We're trying to make a plan to clarify who is responsible. The

sidewalk itself is usually maintained by the county but not necessarily vegetation. You can do a county 311 request and they will forward it to the appropriate agency. You can also send a request to the SHA traffic team: https://mdotsha.my.salesforce-sites.com/customer-care/request_for_service (You can also google SHA Service Request.)

Question: Are there areas where pedestrian barriers can be installed to prevent people from crossing illegally?

Response: Yes, on a case by case basis. They used to have them on Veirs Mill Road and on Rt. 29. They are not automatic, they should be submitted as a request on the SHA website.

Question: What is the status of the noise abatement cameras and the planned locations for them?

Police Response: They are being discussed, but we don't have an update. It is something that officers will pull over and cite when those violations do occur as part of our normal traffic enforcement. We are working with Prince George's County police to identify which system works best--some only cover one lane so it wouldn't make sense to put on a 3-lane road.

Hannah Wilcove: Do you have any estimate of timeline for when these would be rolled out?

Response: We get many requests for locations, right now we really need to find the right system. We're trying to move as fast as we can but we want to make a good decision before we roll it out.

Question: The original law anticipated cameras being placed in early 2025 but that obviously hasn't happened. Is there plans to change the law to extend it?

Response: We would almost certainly extend it if it hasn't already.

Question: The pilot only allows a max of 3 cameras. Will that be changed after the pilot?

Response: No, it's a limit of 3. The law does have a sunset date and the number of cameras can be part of the discussion.

Question: When we have questions, how can people get answers and who do we contact when things remain unresolved?

Response: SHA does have community liaisons so they would be a good resource if there seems to be a lack of communication. There's also a Contact Us form on the county website. They all go to the director's office and we can direct it to the right agency so people don't have to figure it out.

Question: How do you schedule approved changes? Are you on schedule with planned improvements?

Response: Some projects are easy and some are hard, so the order can be adjusted based on how easily we can get it done. Also the ease of implementation and the severity of the issue that it addresses. And always budget is a component, whether we need a special budget allocation or it can be done in an existing budget. In terms of schedule and getting things

		<p>done, if it doesn't require land, utilities, and can be done within our budget, we can get things done easily.</p> <p>SHA Response: On the state side we like to leverage Federal funding or need federal approvals so we can make the best use of state resources. Some things can also be done in house and some need to be contracted out.</p>
8:30	Community Questions	<p>Question: We haven't talked at all about District 14. We don't have sidewalks or reliable public transportation. Where is the District 14 Delegation?</p> <p>MCCAB Response: This was a MCCAB and WUDAC decision to focus on this area. We can go back to the Executive Session and we can schedule a District 14 discussion.</p> <p>Question: We were promised continental crosswalks at Georgia and Arcola. Will those be coming?</p> <p>Response: Crosswalk markings have been installed on all four legs of Arcola.</p> <p>Question: On Veirs Mill and Connecticut, while we wait for speed cameras, can we get the speed limit flashers that give you feedback on how fast you are going?</p> <p>Police Response: We can coordinate and can rotate them between the two locations.</p> <p>Question: Are there any updates on the Amherst Avenue bike lane in Wheaton? It should have been completed about now.</p> <p>Response: Construction is anticipated to begin sometime next year.</p> <p>Question: Can you give an update on the McComas Avenue bike project?</p> <p>Response: We are working with Parks to get our permits. But it's in progress.</p> <p>Question: Can we bring back the PSA announcements? We have been asking for years for a crosswalk on Veirs Mill</p> <p>Question: How many citations are issued for dark tinted windows?</p> <p>Response: We can issue citations when we see tinted windows. We don't have specific data, but it is something we will stop and site for.</p> <p>Question: What resources do you think the Delegation should be requesting to increase speed enforcement and noise abatement?</p> <p>Police Response: Our legislators have been very helpful and involved, so we are good there. We allocate resources very strategically, but we are short staffed. A new program with the University of Maryland will hopefully increase recruitment.</p> <p>Delegate Solomon: We bring large chunks of money back to the county and then the County Executive will distribute the money. We are working to expand locations for speed cameras, adding up to 90 more locations in the most dangerous sections.</p>

		<p>Comment: The school zone at Norris Drive has a zone painted but there's no school zone painted as you are approaching. It probably just needs to be updated that Norris Drive is being used actively by students everyday.</p> <p>Delegate Solomon: A quick update, a bill passed earlier this year HB18, extended the sunset dates for the noise abatement for two more years.</p> <p>Question: Has the scramble design been considered for any of the busier intersections so everyone can walk at once?</p> <p>Response: Yes, it's traditionally called a Barnes Dance, but we look at pedestrian and vehicular volumes to see if it's safe to do that.</p>
8:50	Board Business	<p>A slide will be shared on the Mid County Citizens Advisory Board website with contact information for everyone here.</p> <p>The meeting is being recorded by Delegate Solomon, not the county, and he is the custodian of the recording.</p>
8:56	Adjourn	<p>The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meghan moved to adjourn the meeting. Serge seconded.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned. Meeting adjourned by Chair at 8:56 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEXT MCCAB MEETING: October 16, 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (members only): October 2, 2025</p>