



## Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 21, 2024

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Held virtual via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89827743604>

**Members:** Rob Fox, Serge Thomas, Debra Liverpool, Liza Smith, Arquilla Ridgell, Gary Fellman, Philip Ardanuy,

**Montgomery County staff:** Luisa Cardona,

**Guests:** Mark Terry, Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)- Chief Traffic studies, Wade Holland, MC DOT-Vision Zero Coordinator, Joseph Moges, Maryland DOT -Senior Safety Officer, Stephen E. Aldrich, Montgomery County Planning Department- PE, Planner IV-Transportation, Anam, Montgomery County Department of Transportation

**Elected Officials:** Hannah Wilcove (Representative Councilmember Glass), Joseph (Representative Councilmember Sayles )

**Attendees:** Douglas Taylor, Rick Gross, Sue Lou, Franz, Will Cotter

Time	Topic	Notes
7:00 p.m.	<p><b>Call to Order &amp; Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Meeting Protocols</b></p> <p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair called meeting to order 7:08 p.m.</li> <li>Chair reviewed meeting protocols and recognized guest speakers.</li> </ul>
7:08 p.m.	<p><b>Agenda Minutes</b></p>	<p>Motion made to accept Agenda, and Agenda accepted.</p> <p>Motion made to accept February 2024 minutes, and Minutes accepted</p>
7:15 p.m.	<p><b>Board Business</b></p>	<p>Vacancy selection committee selected 7 candidates from 25 candidates interviewed. One Board vacancy will be held open for Service Member (USERRA). Board retreat tentatively scheduled May 2, 2024 pending new member confirmations. Location will still be at MC Regional Services Center on Reddie Drive.</p> <p>Board unanimously voted to approve MC Department of Transportation budget Letter.</p>
7:25 p.m.	<p><b>Mid County Director's Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Luisa Cardona, Mid-County Regional Services Center Director discussed:</li> <li>County Executive released recommended 7.4 billion Operating budget for FY 2025. No tax increase while maintaining level of service.</li> <li>Wheaton Urban District funding request were approved.</li> <li>Recommended \$169 million for affordable housing.</li> <li>Public will be able to attend hearings and provide testimony on budget.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County Executive is on economic development trip to Tawain looking for opportunities for business partners.</li> <li>• Thanked Serge for attending University Blvd. Ribbon cutting ceremony for bus lanes pilot program as joint venture with Maryland Department of Transportation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Please do community outreach on project. County is looking for feedback from community on bus lanes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• County Executive looking for members to serve on Boards and Commissions Review Board (CCRB) to ensure Boards are equitably accessible. One year commitment. Luisa will check to see if members can also serve on another Board in addition to the CCRB. Need representation from all areas.</li> <li>• Also looking for Commissioners for Arts and Entertainment (501c3) Board for Wheaton entertainment district to help interview initial Board members.</li> </ul> <p><i>Question:</i> Liza asked if any applicants for CCRB from Upcounty. Luisa responded currently 8 applicants from Bethesda and 1 from Upcounty.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Arquilla asked can current Board members serve simultaneously on CCRB. Luisa responded that she would check with BCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MC County police was awarded \$499k federal grant to address the opioid epidemic.</li> <li>• Opioid Abatement funds to create a pilot program being led by organization called “Identity” for Wheaton and Glenmont communities. Program for youth intervention and treatment.</li> <li>• Governor Moore visited MC County. County Executive Elrich, Governor Moore and Governor’s Cabinet participated in multiple bus tours (Public Safety, Environmental Protection and Health). Governor commented that tour was the best and productive. Looking to replicate same or similar safety ideas throughout the state.</li> </ul> <p><i>Question:</i> Arquilla asked when County Executive would be returning from trip. Luisa responded early part of the next week.</p>
<p><b>7:35 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Elected Officials Joseph</b></p>	<p>Joseph: (Councilmember Sayles Office). Regarding operating budget Councilmember Sayles strongly advocated for adding \$600K in funding youth harm reduction to prevent violence among increasing youth crime.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Phil asked if there was a correlation between COVID and homeschooling and current youth conditions. Is there a way to remediate the current situation with youth? To clarify refocus youth to look towards their future instead of other mal formed behaviors.</p> <p>Joseph responded their office is making efforts to support and fund education, mental health initiatives. He would also like to see Restorative Justice Counselors</p>

<p><b>7:48 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Hannah Wilcove</b></p>	<p>which was previously funded though federal funds and no longer exists. He will follow-up with Councilmember Sayles.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Phil commented that County could in future maybe focus on role modeling type programs.</p> <p><i>Luisa commented:</i> that the County Executive and County Health Department (Keisha Davis) convened a youth intervention work group which includes representatives from public schools, county officials and non-profit entities. County has identified gaps in mental health. Group will focus on connecting gaps to resources and replicating and expanding successful programs such as “Train - the-Trainer” model. These initiatives are attached to budget requests.</p> <p>Joseph stated that Councilmember Sayles has been advocating for increase funding for school health nurses with a focus on technology for telehealth. Focus on improving health for youth and families.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Phil commented that organization called Maryland Space Business Roundtable where Maryland contactors involved in space may be willing to help.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Serge asked if funds would target areas that have a significant need? Some county area have a greater need because of truancy and other issues. Joseph responded that he could not speak on how program would be implemented, but Councilmember Sayles is taking lead on disparities and equity in health and education.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Phil commented that he supports Serge’s comment and thinks there should be a focus on areas of need.</p> <p>Hannah Wilcove: (Councilmember Glass’s Office)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councilmember Glass’s office reviewing transportation projects in the CIP Budget and recommended funding to install security cameras in county parking garages (Silver Spring, Bethesda). Recommended county security camera reimbursement program eligibility be expanded to more areas. Private security camera reimbursement of \$250 for individual residents.</li> <li>• Councilmember Glass lead sponsor on Bill, which was unanimously approved under Joint Economic Development Safety Committee, to unify hours of late-night businesses. Bill will pass to full Council on April 2 for vote.</li> <li>• Councilmember Glass focused on mitigating Metro closures affecting Glenmont, Wheaton, Forest Glen, Takoma Park, and Silver Spring by joining Councilmember Fani-Gonzalez and other Councilmembers to advocate for increase shuttle service ,Marc service, alternative services to redline and fare reduction.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>8:05 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Community Concerns</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Franz resident of Clarksburg made announcement on behalf of Fire and Rescue. The week of March 10 partnered with Mid County Regional Services Center to provide hands on CPR training to 1500 members of the Wheaton community with about 45% of members being limited in language proficiency. Will continue training efforts throughout County.</li> </ol> <p><i>Question:</i> Phil thanked Franz and commented that training saves lives. Luisa informed Board that Wheaton/Glenmont/Aspen Hill areas have higher rate of cardiac arrest which is reason focus is on specific areas.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Phil commented that he would like to see 85% of all residents in the County trained on CPR.</p> <p>Luisa responded that Fire/Rescue welcomes the opportunity to attend any county event to provide CPR training. Please consider inviting them to events and let Luisa know so she can connect us to the Fire/Rescue training.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Arquilla commented that it also provides an opportunity to build confidence in your ability to use the training to update your skills.</p> <p>Luisa commented that the CPR training did not require certification and was hands free CPR.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Liza asked if there was training on AED machine?</p> <p>Luisa responded training was focused om hands free CPR.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Gary Board member raised a concern about maintenance of streets that border two jurisdictions ( District of Columbia and Takoma Park). Who represents County residents’ interest when streets are maintained by District of Columbia.</li> </ol> <p>Luisa responded that region is handled by the Silver Spring Regional Director, Jacob.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Phil Board member raised a concern regarding bicycling at ICC trail which goes along Emory Lane to Georgia Avenue. At Batchelor Forest Rd., there is a blind intersection with a chain link fence obscured by Ivy and automobiles that don’t stop at stop sign.</li> </ol>

		<p>-Luis responded requesting that Phil email traffic OPS and copy her so a ticket is created.</p> <p>-Mark responded recommending that a photo be included for clarification.</p> <p>-Hannah responded recommending an email also be sent to Councilmember glass who is interested in traffic safety and wants to ensure it gets resolved.</p>
<p><b>8:15 p.m</b></p>	<p><b>Mark Terry, Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)- Chief Traffic studies</b></p>	<p>Provided Updates on Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keith unable to attend because of his surprise 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.</li> <li>• The bus/bike lanes project was joint effort of with Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) and WMATA regarding bike lanes.</li> <li>• Pilot bike lane studies conducted. 35% congestion reduced travel time. Now more consistent travel time for buses.</li> <li>• Bike/Bus lanes run from Amherst Ave. to Dennis Ave. dedicated bus lanes to allow buses to travel independently along roadways with traffic.</li> <li>• Lanes can be used by buses, bikes or any vehicle turning right and can accommodate travel for various speeds. Cyclists can pass buses only when buses stopped.</li> <li>• C2 and C4 buses rank as the highest ridership along the corridor with passenger use of 8,067 passengers daily and 35% variance in time travel due to congestion. Hopefully in time performance will be improved on this route.</li> <li>• University and Arcola contentious intersection. Rumble strips added working well. (Referred to map of area).</li> <li>• Drivers turning right can enter bus/bike lanes 100 feet prior or at any previous time.</li> <li>• Next steps: Will be evaluating crash data, speed, bus service, public input to determine feasibility for long term plans for lanes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Question:</i> Serge asked If dedicated bike lanes will be extended into Langley Park -University and Piney Branch Rd?</p> <p>Terry responded that County plans include extending bike lanes throughout entire County. Bus lanes will be extended to Wheaton- Viersmill Rd. There is a website that shows routes planned.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Debra asked In District of Columbia lights are timed so buses lead first. Will County have similar controls ?</p> <p>Terry responded control is called “Que Jump” and plan to consider when bus lanes are installed on Georgia Avenue.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Liza asked If drivers will be ticketed for driving in bus lanes?</p> <p>Terry responded Currently there is a shortage of police, but the County will be monitoring for violations of certain areas to see if enforcement is needed.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Since some members of community live far from bus routes, Gary</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Gary asked since some parts of community (Kemp Mill) are far from What can be done to improve transportation?</p>

		<p>Terry responded MC311 and put it in as a suggestion expressing need for transportation in that area.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Rob commented that he applauds the project</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Joseph, as Olney resident, asked how expansion of the project will affect bus transit times on Georgia Ave from 16th Street through Olney will. Terry responded that currently funding is an issue, but hopefully funding will be available later in the year or next year.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Arquilla commented that bus lanes can prevent future accidents that are caused by cars failing to recognize that bus stopped. Terry responded that hopefully it will remove distracted drivers from the bus lanes.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Rick commented that he noticed most citizens in community are following bus lane rules. His sister-in-law received ticket for driving in bus lanes. Lanes at Northwood High school is chaotic and difficult with bus lanes. More signage may be needed.</p> <p>Terry responded that they are enforcing. County will monitor area. Please check out website for videos and information.</p>
<p><b>8:45 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Wade Holland, MC DOT-Vision Zero Coordinator</b></p>	<p>Housed in County Executive’s Office. Works on Vision Zero projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multimillion dollar projects focused on safety initiatives in County.</li> <li>• Hosted Street-Smart Program which included entire DMV region.</li> <li>• Focused on high visibility pedestrian safety with police handing out warnings to drivers.</li> <li>• Vision Zero is County’s goal to eliminate serious and fatal crashed by year 2030. Model of various layers for safety.</li> <li>• Layers include speed, vehicles, users. According to model one layer of failure can be mitigated by other layers = safer roads and safer decision.</li> <li>• Began in 2016 and adopted across U.S. Rockville was first to adopt, Gaithersburg 2<sup>nd</sup>.</li> <li>• Statewide Vision Zero plan and National Roadway Safety plan which is action plan for zero deaths on roadways.</li> <li>• Can see plans on Vision Zero website going back to FY 2002.</li> <li>• Safety Projects in area and Various devices installed to help control pedestrian safety. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rectangular Rapid flashing Beacon provides increased visibility at crosswalks. Usually activated 16 seconds after pedestrian pushes it.</li> <li>○ Added 3 hazard beacons on Belpre Rd at high school and shopping. Added near church on Georgia, Norbeck Rd.</li> <li>○ Speed limits lowered in Wheaton down to 25 mph, Rt.355 , Aspen Hill now 35 mph and new cameras in certain areas. Connecticut Ave also lowered, and some areas have in person enforcement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<p><i>Question:</i> Gary asked about timing of traffic beacon at Belpre Rd. Is there a way to regulate time before time expires or holds long when no one crossing. Would lidar help?</p> <p>Wade responded there is a standard timing used to accommodate and allow different demographics to cross safely. In D.C. may be different by beginning with a alternating flash phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighborhood greenways and bikeways funded Wheaton-Amherst Bikeway FY 2025, Bowie Mill Rd Bikeway FY 2027. McComas Ave. Greenways are treatments that slow traffic</li> <li>• Sidewalks on Viersmill Rd to begin late FY 2025 with some phases into FY 2026. Will include moving intersections, bike paths, lights, installing new beacons.</li> </ul> <p><i>Question:</i> Gary asked about vision of connecting plans?</p> <p>Wade responded Yes. There is a masterplan of highway transit. Idea is to include metro stations, central routes, feeder routes and neighborhoods. (such as raised crosswalks).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collecting feedback on Belpre Rd. project. Online survey to get information from public on roadway design to help priorities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9:05 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Joseph Moges, Maryland DOT -Senior Safety Officer</b></p>	<p>Due to time: Question and Answer Session</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Arquilla asked about Viersmill Rd. and safety for pedestrian. Joseph responded that he submitted funding request for sidewalk about 16 months ago, and he will check on the status of sidewalk request.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Phil asked about ways of controlling speeds on ICC 200 and increasing enforcement.</p> <p>Joseph responded MDTA installed devices and increased enforcement in last few months.</p> <p><i>Question:</i> Rob commented that State and County could explore technological controls for safety and speed control. Are there any updates on Georgia Ave., Forest Glen, 16<sup>th</sup> street rebuilding, bike infrastructure and safety.</p> <p>Joseph responded that it was part of the Montgomery Hills project and a separate SHA project which extends to Spring Street. This project also crosses through Purple Line. Pedestrian safety will be improved through signals. Project projected to take 2 to 8 years or more because it is a large scale project.</p> <p>Luisa commented that the County Executive did defer this project in the CIP Budget.</p> <p>Joseph commented that they are not holding off but positioning the project for building and funding.</p>
<p><b>9:15 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Stephen E. Aldrich, Montgomery County Planning Department- PE, Planner IV-Transportation</b></p>	<p>Actively working on an update to the Masterplan for Highways and Transit ways <a href="https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation">https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical analysis was done last Fall with Technical Advisory Group which included DOT and Montgomery Planning staff to draft recommendations which are on website for public feedback.</li> </ul>

- Functional Masterplan used for improvements. Small area plans are amended to Highways and Transit ways masterplan. This includes right of way widths, number of thru lanes, dedicated lanes, target speeds, planned interchanges, alignments.
- Reasoning is that Council approved two bills (24-22 & -34-22) that change the way we view roadways from streets and highways to new street classification system.
- Complete streets differs because there is both a land use context and street function because context matters.
- Classifications developed in Complete Street design guide which classifies our streets.
- Videos show process and street types.
- Pedestrian Masterplan approved last year modifies ways we classify areas in the County. Before plan classes included urban, suburban, and country. Pedestrian Masterplan added industrial areas, modified boundaries of suburban areas. Some areas change from suburban to country. Streets function differently depending on if the road is a suburban road versus a country road.
- Changes made to areas included in masterplan.
- Focusing on putting together draft of recommendations. Then draft of Masterplan to be presented to Planning Board in late June and hold public hearing in July 2024. Public comments will be welcome.
- Recommendations looked at street type, target speeds, street design on growth corridors, reviewed transit stations.
- Recommendations (912) include changing road segments, classification, target speeds.
  - Target speeds assigned by Complete streets classification can be viewed on website. Can view your neighborhood street. <https://motgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities>
  - Includes transit stations adding or removing.
- Demonstrated map tools on website.
- Can comment on form or on website.

*Question: Rob asked If update to Uniform Traffic Control Devices has been integrated into the planning?*

Stephen responded No. When Federal manuals come out different states have different approaches and may not adopt federal. Maryland creates their own version, so it does not apply to the masterplan.

- Public comment period is between now and April 15, 2024. Comments will be used to modify recommendations of working draft.
- Less than 50% of Montgomery County masterplans have target speeds. Recommendation proposes to address this issue. Higher speeds may be unsafe for some roads.



		<p><i>Question: Doug</i> asked how community in Knolls Ave. goes about getting raised crosswalk.</p> <p>Stephen responded you can make comment on web app. Indicate that your neighborhood would like to have lower speeds and traffic calming such as raised crosswalk.</p> <p><a href="mailto:TrafficOps@montgomerycountymd.gov">TrafficOps@montgomerycountymd.gov</a> or 240-777-2190.</p> <p><i>Question: Louisa</i> asked how are language proficient and digital proficient individuals being reached?</p> <p>Stephen responded they have accessible spread sheets that lists recommendation. Vision impaired could use screen reader, but they are open to suggestions because there could be more outreach to these individuals.</p>
<p><b>9:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>	<p>Chair adjourned meeting.</p>