

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board Meeting
April 26th, 2021
Minutes

STAFF

Reemberto Rodriguez
Shawn Morris

SSCAB

Kenneth Lemberg
Ed Levy
John Seelke
Lysette House
Michelle Foster
Lene Tsegaye
Don Slater
Jay Elvove
Patricia Germann
Janice Marquez
Melanie Fonder Kaye
Debra Wylie
Harriet Quinn (SSTMD)
Sofia Bushen
Vanessa Pinto
Daniel Moijueh

GUESTS

Wade Holland, Vision Zero Coordinator

County Council Staff

Sean Emerson (obo Councilmember Evan Glass)
Joseph Eyong

PUBLIC

Joseph House
Jonathan Bernstein
Ryan Hardy
Jean Cavanaugh

Agenda:

1. Introductions
 - a. Lysette opened meeting

- b. Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) members introduced themselves and the evening's speakers
 - c. Attendees introduced themselves in the chat
2. Minutes from previous meeting
 - a. Minutes from the SSCAB meeting in March were approved.
3. Public Safety Report: we did not have a representative from MC police department

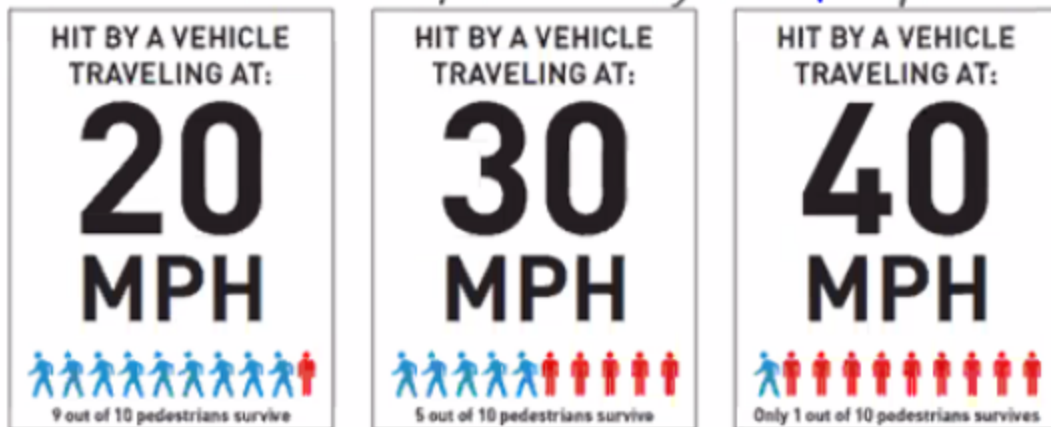
Conversation with Vision Zero Coordinator Wade Holland.

Overview of vision program

Vision Zero principles

1. Transportation death and severe injuries are preventable and unacceptable: Holistic look at traffic safety.
 - a. Vision zero focuses on speed mph, speed of the vehicle and speed impact.

Pedestrian Chance of Survival by Vehicle Speed



Graphic courtesy of: [Vision Zero Network](#)

2. Human life takes priority over mobility
3. Human Error is inevitable
4. People are inherently vulnerable, and speed is a fundamental predictor of crash
5. Safe human behaviors, education and enforcement are important elements to a safe system

- The county's Vision Zero goal is to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries by 2030.
- Vision Zero involves municipals, county, and state agencies to achieve its goals
- Public information, planning, fire and rescue service, management and budget, police, transportation, and Ped/Bike/Traffic Safety Advisory Committee receive the most funding and are essential to Vision Zero's.

Vision Zero works with different departments and partners with municipalities, county, state and federal agencies.

How Vision Zero meets its goal?

1. Creating complete streets

- a. Shared-Use Path
- b. Planting Strip/ Median
- c. Level Pedestrian/Bicycle Crossing of Driveway
- d. Bus Lane
- e. Pedestrian scramble
- f. Protected bike lane
- g. Planned Future BRT Station (serves as a local bus stop at some locations)
- h. Pedestrian scramble
- i. Protected bike lane
- j. Pedestrian beacon lane
- k. Pedestrian hybrid beacon (Hawk Beacon)
- l. Signal timing
- m. Lightening

2. Increasing visibility enforcement

- a. MCPD utilizes the Maryland Highway Safety Office's high visibility enforcement (HVE) calendar to perform regular stepped up enforcement all year round.
- b. Enforcement is linked with education to inform residents of the dangerous behaviors (i.e. texting and driving, seatbelt use, speeding etc..), methods to

nudge behaviors, and clarify why high visibility enforcement is beneficial for the public.

In 2020, the pandemic decreased the number of vehicles on the road. As a result, the overall number of crashes in 2020 dropped by 32%. However, collisions between motor vehicles and people on bikes have shown a slight increase (by 8%). Risky behaviors such as speeding, impaired drivers, driving aggressively, and unbuckled drivers also increased fatalities by 34%. (i.e. These data do not include the entire Montgomery county. They include US-29, municipalities and local county roads.)

Vision Zero Efforts

1. Traffic signals and Pedestrian Beacons scheduled for installation for 2021.

- Veirs Mill Rd & Norris Dr.
- Pedestrian Beacons: Spring St. and First Ave (will be activated end of June)
- Muddy Branch Rd and Muddy Branch Square Shopping Center
- Snouffer School Road and Sweet Autumn Dr.
- 6705 Rockledge Dr.
- Layhill Rd and Greenery Ln
- Veirs Mill Rd. and Andrew St.

2. Bikeway Projects that are currently under design for summer 2021

- Fenton street from Cameron to King street
- Amherst Ave. from
- Arcola Ave to Windham Lane
- Cheltenham Drive from Woodmont Ave to Pearl St.
- Metropolitan Branch Trail.

“20 is Plenty” pilot: MCDOT and the Planning Department set a target speed of 20 MPH for downtown and neighborhood streets to pilot. The 20 MPH speed limit pilot program is designed to experiment what treatments and messaging are effective in getting drivers to travel at 20mph. The Phase 1 Pilot will cover streets in Germantown, Woodglen and Long Branch from

January-June. Depending on the outcome of the “20 is plenty” pilot, the project is expected to expand to other areas in the county.

Study will also be conducted to assess traveling in urban areas and transit accessibility for visually impaired pedestrians. The study will evaluate existing conditions, stakeholders’ input and leading practices to make recommendations on cultivating the pedestrian environment.

Listening sessions with the advisory board to collect feedback from stakeholders.

April 28- BCC

May 5- Silver Spring

May 13- Up County

May 19- Mid County

May 26- East County.

For details and reservation information visit Vision Zero 2030 Plan website at

[Vision Zero | Montgomery County, MD \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/VisionZero/Pages/VisionZero2030Plan.aspx)

Q&A Session

Jay

1. Can automated traffic enforcements be installed and implemented to reduce traffic speeding?

Wade: There are two hurdles. These are logistic and legal hurdles.

Logistic hurdles: the police stated speed and science study is required. There are some places where automated enforcement may meet other criteria but physically the camera can’t get a line of sight for some reason. Thus, the camera cannot be placed on those locations.

Legal hurdles: cameras are only allowed in certain zones. Automated enforcement can be available in school and residential zones except commercial zones (e.g. downtown silver spring). In addition, cameras are allowed in a residential zone if the speed limit is 35mph.

2. MCDOT is working on traffic lights at Colesville rd. and Silo Creek Parkway. How would I find out about what it is they are doing there?

Wade: not familiar with the project and will to get back to Jay with more information

Michelle

1. Is there any update on speed limit reduction on Georgia just outside of downtown Silver Spring inside the Beltway as there are many people walking there?
2. Has the Vision zero project come up with any plans considering the covid-19 pandemic as it impacted the traffic patterns? The pedestrian and biking patterns have changed so much. There are less cars on the road and more pedestrians and bikers.

Wade: It is difficult to determine what we should be doing with the current traffic patterns. This is because currently we are seeing a lot more activity in the middle of the day. In addition, as more people get vaccinated the current traffic pattern may change. Currently, we are just tracking data and information.

CED Committee

In March, the CED Committee had a conversation with Kelly Groff CEO and Director of Visit Montgomery. In April, the CED Committee will have a conversation with Elizabeth Gallauresi (Arts Consultant to the Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment District) and Eric Rasch (Operations Manager Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza) to discuss (a) how their efforts contribute to Montgomery County's economy, (b) how their mission has shifted during the pandemic, and (c) their plans for a post pandemic Silver Spring.

Neighborhood Committee

The April meeting is going to be the principals meeting. The principals of the Silver Spring school have been invited to talk about their return to schools in Montgomery County.

Tree Committee

In March, the Tree Committee went in depth to finalize the environmental final advice letter. In April, Tree will be following up on Vision Zero, safe street and more in-depth conversation with the community.

CRAG has no updates

Covid Vaccination Updates

- If you're 21 years old, you can find a place in the Eastern Shore or close to West Virginia and get vaccinated
- The latest anecdotal on covid vaccination has increased public hesitancy.
- By far the least likely group of population who wanted to get vaccinated in the United States are Evangelical white males

- In MC we do have a sizable number of evangelical Latinos and Ethiopian communities that are experiencing a similar situation.

Elected official Evan Glass Report

- Evan has put together a graphic on how to get to vaccination sites by transit. A lot of folks will be traveling there not using cars so we did a graphic together showing which bus routes get you directly to or close to each of those different current public vaccinations.
- Council members are currently in the council budget season. Next month council members will have committee work sections almost every day about different budget items for the fiscal 22 operating budget and we also have a lot of ongoing public hearings including.