



MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD
MINUTES February 23, 2021 7:00pm

Members

Present: Larry Schoen
Alice Giles
Monica Simon
Shahriar Etemadi
David Drasin
David Zinner
Ted Cochran

Staff: Bruce Gartner, Executive Secretary
Chris Eatough, Office of Transportation
David Cookson, Office of Transportation
Kimberly Woods, Office of Transportation
Mary Kendall, Dept of Planning and Zoning
Terri Hansen, Office of Aging and Independence
Aphaia Harper, Howard County Econ. Devel.

**Members
Excused:**

**Members
of the
Public:** Marlene Hendler, Current TPAG Chair

1. Approval of Agenda for Meeting

The draft agenda for the meeting was approved by Ted Cochran without modification.

2. Review of unofficial minutes from January 26, 2021

Ted Cochran motioned to approve the minutes with spelling correction.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. New Business/Ongoing Business

- i. Presentation on HoCo by Design (Mary Kendall)

The general plan update will make recommendations for growth and development in the County for the next 20 years. The project schedule is a process that takes about two years from start to finish. Howard County is currently in the process of doing scenario modeling and testing.

- County consultants prepared a series of physical assessments. The assessments include baseline data and a summary of existing conditions in Howard County. The transportation assessment is available on www.hocobydesign.com). The assessments highlight key actions that occurred since the adoption of Plan Howard 2030 in 2012, the previous general plan update was completed in 2000.

- The assessment examines the journey to work for those commuting to and from Howard County. It explores the performance of the county’s transportation network, including looking at congestion safety and connectivity. It discusses major policies and programs that influence the state of Transportation in Howard County today. It also offers a synopsis of the county’s central transportation challenges.
- Graphs showing commuting travel times for Howard County residents, and transportation system performance can all be viewed in the assessment. 80% of the traffic volume in the county occurs on state roads, which the county has very little control of. However, the county’s primary tools to address traffic congestion are land use management, the prioritization of an advocacy for roadway improvements by the state and coordination with state and municipal agencies.
- The assessment also recognizes current planning efforts, such as BikeHoward, WalkHoward, and the new Complete Streets Policy. Part of the planning process is to consider how the county’s infrastructure such as transportation will be impacted by potential growth. However, with limited land supply in the county the undeveloped land is getting scarce. As of September 2019, it is estimated that out of a total 160,000 plus developable acres, only 2% remain undeveloped.
- There are a multitude of factors that are considered as the general plan is updated. The three main elements considered in the planning process are: Community Input, Best Practices, and Data Analysis. General themes were previously organized in silos. The issues and challenges that need to be addressed today don’t fit neatly into silos. The County decided to look at the challenges within the siloed policies and how they will conflict with one another. So, by taking a thematic approach to developing the general plan, HoCo hopes to make better policy recommendations within the next update.
- The new General Plan will also adopt a different format for presenting information in the document, which recognizes that the challenges and opportunities facing Howard County do not fit neatly into individual silos (chapters) found in more traditional General Plan documents. HoCo is developing the general framework for four different growth scenarios.
- County in Motion-Fostering Modern Mobility Choices-emphasizes the importance of moving people not just cars throughout the County. It also recognizes the changing nature of transportation needs and trends among diverse users, as well as the tremendous impacts transportation investments, accessibility, and decision-making may have on community character, home choices, economic development, and healthy lifestyles.
- There will be a “Growth Choices Workshop” which will be occurring over a two-week period in March. By June/July HoCo hopes to start writing the document and then the draft will be presented to the Community for additional feedback. It is expected to be filed for a County adoption at the end of 2021. To stay informed please go to www.hocobydesign.com and register.

- David Zinner questioned whether the significant transportation reductions due to COVID would be permanent after it's under control. Mary Kendall replied that the transportation assessment will have some discussion about what they anticipate being long term impacts but unfortunately, it's still unknown.
- Shahriar Etemadi asked for further clarification regarding the 2% undeveloped land in the county. Marky Kendall informed Shahriar that the 2% of undeveloped land is out of a total of 160,000 plus acres in Howard County. While there's only 2% of uncommitted land in the County, there are also redevelopment opportunities for higher density uses that wasn't included in the assessment.

ii. Complete Streets Implementation Updates (Chris Eatough)

- The current main focus of OOT work with the Complete Streets Implementation Team is updating the County design manual. The design manual update will include technical details of what Howard County roads will look like going forward.
- The group was shown to two updated potential schedule options for the Complete Streets Implementation Team. CSIT is expected to review the two schedule options at their next monthly meeting.
- The first schedule option would have a draft manual completed by July 7th for public review and comments.
- The second schedule option is a little more accelerated and include additional meeting being held by both the CSIT and core teams so that the draft would be completed by June 2nd.
- CSIT is currently working on new cross sections for roadways in Howard County and different types of roadways. Roadways are moving in a multimodal direction that are friendly and safe for pedestrians, bikes, and cars.
- David Zinner questioned whether the design manual included anything about maintenance. The design manual includes maintenance in a couple of ways, one being the maintenance of traffic as well as the guidance on how maintenance on Howard County roadways should be done.

5. Development Updates- Dave Cookson

Upcoming Public Meetings

Project	Date	Meeting Type	Notes
ZB-1119M HRVC Ltd. Partnership, c/o Kimco Realty Corp.	February 24	Zoning Board	Redevelopment of Hickory Ridge Village Center to amend the Preliminary Development Plan (6430-6470 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD)
Paddock Pointe Phase 4, Laurel MD	February 24	Design Advisory Panel	DAP review of the commercial phase of Paddock Pointe (Laurel Park) Link to DAP Page: https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Planning-and-Zoning/Boards-and-Commissions/Design-Advisory-Panel
BA 20-002C Rock Realty, Inc. c/o H&H Rock Companies	March 4	Board of Appeals	Conditional Use for 58 age-restricted adult housing units consisting of semi-detached dwelling units. (12170 Lime Kiln Road, Fulton, MD)
Cascade Ridge	March 4	Planning Board	Planning Board approval of a preliminary equivalent sketch plan for residential development adjacent to a scenic road. This request is for an application to subdivide 9.085 acres of R-ED zoned land into 16 residential single-family detached lots and 3 open space lots. Link to planning board You Tube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYdQ7j11OZw&feature=youtu.be
ZB 1118M Erickson at Limestone Valley	March 10	Zoning Board	Continuation of CASE

Newly Submitted Development Plans					
Plan Name	Plan Number	Units	Description	OOT Comments	Next Steps
Willington Farms Phase 1 Section 1 Address/Link: Project 10400-10472 Graeoch Rd, Laurel, MD	F-21-025	45 units, mix of detached and attached	The is the road plan for a section of phase 1 of the 395 single family attached and detached development.	No comments as of now, under review	N/A
United Way Daycare 7125 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia	SDP-21-023	10,000 Sq Ft	Applicant is proposing a daycare	OOT, DPW, DPZ and the applicant have developed a solution for the applicant install three ADA complaint ramps, new ped crossing paint, a new bus stop pad to ensure and enhance pedestrian access to Columbia Gateway Drive. The plan will also include a note related to coordinating with the county as the Robert Fulton Pathway project advances.	Resubmit

Dave Briefly went over a few plan review updates that were previously presented to the MTB.

- Lakeview Retail (Broken Land Pkwy near Cradle Rock Dr)
 - OOT requested that the applicant provides sidewalk/pathway along the frontage to Cradle Rock Dr and connect to existing bus stop.
 - Project went to HC planning board, it was denied.
 - **Update-** Applicant is considering appeal of the ruling
- Columbia EZ Storage (Berger Road/Snowden River Pkwy)
 - OOT requested frontage improvements on Berger Road since the project scope includes all five parcels
 - **Update-** Applicant has submitted update to plan with sidewalks on frontage on Berger Road.
- Bethany Glen ARAH (9844-9898 Longview Dr.)

- OOT requested the sidewalk segment extend to the firehouse to Postwick Road, sidewalk on internal roads as well as bike lanes on MD 99.
- **Update-** Applicant pushed back on the rest to provide sidewalks on both sides of the road network in the development citing the zoning case presented to the public which showed sidewalks on one side only. Approval would require a design waiver. The request for bike lanes on MD 99 could be partially fulfilled however, it is a state road, state policy doesn't support mandating a full bike lane if other improvements are not being made.

6. Office of Transportation Updates

i. Feedback from MTB members on State Priority Letter (Dave Cookson)

- The Priority Letter public meeting was held virtually on February 17th.
- OOT received input regarding keeping sound barriers in the letter.
- OOT received questions about the Rivers Edge community.
- There was a discussion regarding funding and whether to change the priorities to highlight smaller projects in the request to MDOT.
- Ted Cochran mentioned that he emailed a note to several members regarding the barrier that exists across major highways for pedestrians and bicyclists. Ted suggested incorporating language about enhancing mobility on the following projects: One Way Columbia Gateway Drive Project, I95 to Columbia Gateway Project, and the Marriottsville Road at I70 Project.
- Please send comments, suggestions, and questions to Dave Cookson by March 3rd.

ii. Active Transportation Open House (Chris Eatough)

- The Virtual Open House began on February 19th and will be running until the 26th.
- The Open House website can be found on the Office of Transportation Website.
- The Open House website provides a summary of the current statuses for projects (walking, biking, and complete streets ability).
- The website provides a lot of opportunities for input through the six surveys posted on the website. OOT have received 150 survey responses so far.
- There will be four WebEx meetings to connect and have open discussions with anyone interested in attending.

iii. Budget Development Updates (Bruce Gartner)

- March 9th County Executive's Second Residents Budget Hearing
 - It's an opportunity for residents to comment on priorities and for FY22.
 - The County Executive will present Capital and Operating Budgets to the Council in April

