



MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD
MINUTES August 24, 2021 7:00pm

Members

Present: Larry Schoen
Ted Cochran
David Drasin
Phillip Dodge
Shahriar Etemadi
Alice Giles
Marlene Hendler
Monica Simon

Staff: Bruce Gartner, Executive Secretary
Carrie Anderson-Watters, Office of Transportation
Allison Calkins, Office of Transportation
Chris Eatough, Office of Transportation
Molly Nur, Office of Transportation
Brooks Phelps, Office of Transportation

Members Excused: David Zinner

Members of the Public:

1. Approval of Agenda for Meeting

The draft agenda for the meeting was revised to include updates on upcoming workshops and MTB meeting dates in November and December. It was then approved and adopted with no objections.

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. Review of minutes from July 27, 2021

Monica Simon motioned to approve the minutes and David Drasin seconded. With no objections the minutes carried.

4. New Business/Ongoing Business

i. US 29 Flash Service connection and Bus Rapid Transit – Bruce Gartner

- Montgomery County did a mobility study along the US 29 corridor, primarily looking at travel time improvements but also bicycle and pedestrian safety access
- Connection to Flash service advanced in Federal bill by Maryland Representatives to fund buses in peak hours with limited headways to connect Downtown Columbia to Burtonsville to start the connection. Montgomery County asked for design and engineering funds for corridor improvements.

ii. Downtown Columbia Transit Center – Bruce Gartner

- Location was chosen after a consultant study in 2017-2018. Easiest way to orient the location is that the site is close to (behind) the site where Union Jack's is located.
- Location doesn't come to us until building permits of 3.2M square feet are issued, estimated in FY2025, and will be done in conjunction with affordable housing on site.
- TIF bonds will be used for the funding but state or federal grants might also be required for half of the cost of the improvements.

iii. State Transit Innovation Grant (STIG) Bus Stop Project – Bruce Gartner

- \$400K STIG for bus stop improvements; must be expended by September 2022
- Tried to address overlap between RTA and MTA stops
- Meeting materials include locations and status as of August 2021
- MTB members are welcome to share bus stop locations that could be improved with staff via email

5. Development Updates- Brooks Phelps

Brooks provided information on upcoming public meetings, newly submitted development plans, an overview of the other projects and responded to questions from the MTB members (available for review on audio). No follow up was requested.

- Former Howard County Circuit Courthouse will go to the Zoning Board on September 1, 2021
- Proposed medical office building in the Lakefront neighborhood in Downtown Columbia will go to the Design Advisory Panel on September 1, 2021
- Erickson at Limestone Valley and the Hickory Ridge Village Center will go to the Zoning Board on September 9, 2021
- CBI Homes is appealing the Hearing Examiner Decision regarding school facilities surcharge in excess of \$1.32 per sq. ft.
- New: Maple Lawn Farms office building – 38,000 sq. ft at Westside Boulevard and East Marketplace. We requested bike parking on either side of the building and the completion of a connecting sidewalk.
- New: Wellington Farms next phase currently being reviewed.
- Older: Maple Lawn West at Planning Board; Enclave at Hines Farm developer is looking at emergency access route via two streets not connected to new property; Paddock Point we are evaluating developer's response.

6. Office of Transportation Updates

- i. Complete Streets Design Manual Schedule – Chris Eatough
 - a. Complete Streets Implementation Team worked with consultants; we are working through the chapters to revise drafts and line up the chapters
 - b. Wrapping up final draft in late September
 - c. Draft to public in mid-October with two virtual workshops scheduled. First is for the general public and the second is more technical in nature. Everything will be recorded and available after the meetings. Meeting links will be sent to MTB via Constant Contact.
 - d. All public comments due by October 28, 2021
 - e. Looking to bring to the board at a November meeting for an endorsement. Materials will be provided in advance and will indicate the changes since the last draft was released. We don't usually have a meeting in November, but we would like to schedule one for November 23 and then forgo a December meeting.
 - f. Public Works Board will be asked for their approval by their December meeting.
 - g. Will pre-file with Council on or about December 15th.

- h. There has been a staffing change at the consultant level. OOT will closely monitor transition.

iii. Miscellaneous Updates – Bruce Gartner

- HCPSS Free Bus Passes for HCPSS Bus Pass Event Tomorrow
 - We have an MOU with HCPSS and RTA to offer free RTA bus passes for all HCPSS middle and high school students.
- Upcoming Bike, Ped and Complete Streets events
 - Will be included in posted meeting materials
- Scooter Sharing
 - Not looking at a rollout any time before October 1st.
- MDOT Tour Meeting will be on September 22, 2021 at 6pm.
- Upcoming meeting with Office of Law regarding MTB Bylaws as they pertain to meeting location(s).
- Open Meetings Act training available to all board members

7. Future Meeting Items

- i. Complete Streets Implementation Updates-Ongoing
- ii. Update MTA Service (Express Bus, MARC)

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

9. Next Meeting

The next MTB meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2021 at 7pm.



Bruce Gartner
Executive Secretary

September 28, 2021

Date