



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

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TRANSIT AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP (TPAG) MINUTES

June 11, 2019 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Marlene Hendler, Chair
Astamay Curtis
Bob McLaughlin
David Ramsay
Paul Walsky
Sara Dorsey for Jeff Specht

Staff: Bruce Gartner, Office of Transportation
Chris Eatough, Office of Transportation
Rashidi Jackson, Office of Transportation
Lauren Frank, Office of Transportation

Non-Member Present:

Andrew Johnson, Regional Transportation Agency
Daniel Yi

1. **Approval of March 19, 2019 Minutes** (minute :01)

Before the approval of the minutes, Chris Eatough introduced Bruce Gartner, the new Office of Transportation Administrator. Bruce Gartner gave a brief introduction.

Bob McLaughlin moved to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2019 Transit and Pedestrian Advisory Group Meeting. Astamay Curtis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Public Comments** (minute :03)

There were no public comments.

3. **Transit Operations** (minute: 03)

- i. Update on Transit Development Plan – New Service on May 5th (minute :03)

Bruce Gartner gave a recap on the new service changes that went into effect Sunday, May 5th. The Regional Transportation Agency (RTA) and the Office of Transportation (OoT) participated in public outreach events to inform riders of the changes. Bruce stated that OoT is working on the next steps for the second phase of the Transit Development Plan. Andrew Johnson added that an additional 32 stops have been installed and 20 more proposed stops should be added by the end of

the month. As a result of public feedback, the 409 bus has been extended an hour. Astamay Curtis said that riders are becoming acquainted with the new service and the feedback of the changes has been positive.

- ii. Pilot Program – Free Transit for 100 Howard County Public Summer School Students (minute :11)

Bruce Gartner announced that the Multimodal Transportation Board recommended the Office of Transportation consider a pilot program to provide free transit to 100 students attending Howard County Public Summer School program. The Office of Transportation and Howard County Public School System have agreed to split the cost of the student passes.

4. **Transit Capital Improvements** (minute :12)

- i. RTA Vehicle Replacements (change in agenda) (minute :12)

Bruce Gartner announced that Howard County will be receiving two replacement buses out of a FY2020 grant. The county will also be purchasing four or five mobility vehicles. David Ramsay asked if OoT was eligible for the VW Settlement Grant. Bruce said the Office of Transportation applied but was unsure what, if anything, the office would receive.

- ii. Office of Transportation Bus Stop Improvement Program (minute :18)

Rashidi Jackson gave a brief overview of the bus stop improvements presented in a handout to the TPAG. An estimated 30-35 bus stops are scheduled to be improved this year.

- iii. Private Property Owner Improvements (Shopping Centers) (minute :19)

Chris Eatough said OoT is actively working on improving stops at two shopping centers. One of the bus stops located at Columbia Crossing has been moved closer to the sidewalk and two pairs of bus stops will be moved closer to a crosswalk. The route in Dobbin Center will be modified to one stop. Andrew Johnson added that the modified route will improve safety and route time.

- iv. Application for MDOT State Transit Innovation Grant (STIG) (minute :26)

Rashidi Jackson announced that OoT is applying for \$500,000 from the MDOT State Transit Innovation Grant. The funds will be used for RTA and MTA bus stop improvements throughout the county. The application is due June 26th, 2019. Marlene Hendler agreed to sign a letter of support to be included with the application.

5. **Complete Streets Policy Development Update** (minute :32)

Chris Eatough said the county must pass a Complete Streets Policy and update the Design Manual as a requirement of the Howard County Bicycle Plan. The 2016 and 2017 draft Complete Streets Policy is being updated to reflect current best practices nationwide. The

focus is on equity, project selection process, and performance measures. The goal is to have the draft policy to council by mid-late August.

6. **Regional Efforts** (minute :39)

i. Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan (minute :39)

Bruce Gartner said the Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan and Commission began in March and will continue until October 2020. Sam Sidh, Howard County Executive Chief of Staff, is Howard County's representative on the commission. The Regional Transit Plan will go to the general assembly and the Governor by October 2020.

ii. BMC Look Alive Pedestrian Safety Program (minute :44)

Chris Eatough presented Baltimore Metropolitan Council's (BMC) new safety campaign featuring "signal woman", a more fun and positive approach to pedestrian safety. A YouTube video was shown to members as an example of the campaign. The campaign will be featured in movie theaters, billboards, RTA buses, YouTube, radio and television ads, and handouts.

7. **Awards** (minute :49)

National Association of Counties Award – Columbia Pedestrian Bridge (minute :49)

Chris Eatough announced that OoT has received a National Association of Counties Award for the customer service and public outreach efforts related to the closure of the Columbia Pedestrian Bridge during improvements.

Marlene Hendler announced she will be receiving a Volunteer Service Award presented by the Maryland Association of Community Services on Thursday, June 20th.

8. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 17, 2019. This will be a joint meeting with the Bicycle Advisory Group.

9. **Adjournment** (minute 1:00)

Before adjournment, Chris Eatough introduced OoT's summer intern Daniel Yi.

Marlene Hendler adjourned the meeting at 4:06 pm.

Action items:

There were no action items.

Bruce Gartner

6/13/19

Bruce Gartner
Executive Secretary

Date

Lauren Frank

6/13/19

Lauren Frank

Date

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