



**MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD
MINUTES**

June 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Members

Present: Ron Hartman, Chair
Larry Schoen, Vice Chair
Rick Wilson
David Zinner
David Drasin
Alice Giles

Staff: Bruce Gartner, Executive Secretary
David Cookson, Office of Transportation
Rashidi Jackson, Office of Transportation

Members

Excused: Brian Dillard

**Members
of the**

Public: Andrew Johnson, RTA
Terri Hansen, Office of Aging
Jack Guarneri, Bicycle Advocates of Howard Count
Glenn Schneider, Horizon Foundation
Leah Kacanda, WRA
Jeff Riegner, WRA
Sam Sidh, Howard County Executive Chief of Staff

1. Approval of the May 28, 2019 Minutes (minute :01)

David Zinner moved to approve the minutes as amended, Alice Giles second and motion. The minutes for the May 20th meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Public Comments (minute :02)

The MTB and OOT received comments from Glenn Schneider who was representing The Horizon Foundation, and Jack Guarneri who was representing the Howard County Bike Advocates.

Glenn Schneider spoke about how the new Howard County Executive is committed to Multimodal Transportation, updates to the Complete Streets Policy, and thanks the implementation team. Mr. Schneider also spoke about three remaining issues with the

current Complete Street Draft Policy: the length of the implementation schedule, missing information and timelines are vague, and Howard County should build an ordinance rather than a resolution. David Zinner asked OOT if there is an available chart to show the implementation schedule.

Jack Guarneri of the Bicycle Advocates of Howard County provided public comments. Mr. Guarneri raised the following concerns: Howard County should produce “Inchstone Charts” to show each step of the plan to reach the outcome. With all the updates going on in Howard County (Plan Howard, Zoning & Subdivision Regulation) everything needs to be incorporated together, and with all the development occurring in the county OOT/MTB needs to be more proactive.

3. Announcements/Updates (minute :11)

i. Pilot- Student Transit Pass Program begins June 26, 2019

(minute :11)

Bruce Gartner talked spoke about the upcoming program where the Regional Transportation Agency (RTA) would partner with the Howard County Board of Education and purchase tickets for students to use over the summer. At the end of the summer program, the students will be required to take a survey.

ii. Application for MDOT State Innovation Grant (STIG) (minute :13)

OOT completed the grant application which will be submitted to MDOT on June 26, 2019. OOT is requesting \$400,000 for bus stop improvements at RTA and MTA bus stops and buying/installing an interactive message board at the Mall in Columbia. David Zinner asked what the status of STIG Application for FY19 is, and David Cookson said OOT is committed to the grant and will start working officially on July 1, 2019.

iii. Triadelphia Road Detour over MD 32 (minute :18)

Bruce Gartner stated that Howard County Office of Transportation has sent a letter Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration citing issues/concerns about closing Triadelphia Road Bridge in one direction for improvements. These improvements are tied with the MD 32 Dualization Project.

4. Old Business (minute :20)

i. Complete Streets Policy Update and Endorsement (minute :20)

Bruce Gartner stated the five issues (equity, community engagement, transparency reporting, performance measures, and education/training) where the most changes occurred since the last meeting. Mr. Gartner also explained that projects will be

prioritized based on quantitative measures that will be worked out while the design manual is being updated.

Mr. Gartner explained that the working group used the input from the public to create a variety of performance measures for the complete streets policy. For the equity measure, OOT used the model that the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) created and uses for the region. This measure would allow for projects to be prioritized for communities that are underserved based on several factors.

For the implementation section, David Zinner asked why OOT did not include requiring developers to attend training for complete streets. Mr Gartner replied that it is on the developer to get trained, and the policy did not leave out that option if needed in the future.

Staff and the MTB discussed how the development regulations would impact the complete streets policy. Jeff Rieger of Whitman, Requardt and Associates (WRA) discussed that once the regulation updates are completed, developers typically will comply with the regulations to get approval for their plans.

Sam Sidh, Chief of Staff for the County Executive's Office discussed the timeline for implementation of the policy. He stated that neighboring jurisdictions that he has communicated with stated that a 9-12-month timeline would be an update to an existing design manual, where Howard County is making more comprehensive changes to the design manual. Mr. Sidd also stated that the draft policy is now stronger, and we should not rush the implementation process.

Larry Schoen recommended two motions to the MTB:

(1) The Multimodal Transportation Board (MTB) endorse the Howard County Complete Streets Policy draft dated June 24, 2019 and presented to the MTB on June 25, 2019, and recommend its adoption by the County Council; and,

(2) That the MTB also recommend that updating the Howard County Design Manual and Development Regulations start immediately with a goal of completing these and incorporating them in the County Code more quickly than the timeframes stated in the draft Policy.

These two motions passed with a unanimous vote, 6-0.

5. **New Business** (minute :47)

i. **Bus Rapid Transit Studies** (minute :47)

David Cookson discussed the timeline for the BRT Study, that is, where the planning process started, where Howard County is now, and where Howard County could end up. Mr. Cookson provided details on the BRT system for Montgomery County and where the stations will be located.

One of the options would be to run a pilot from Howard County to Burtonsville Park and Ride in the peak and Briggs Chaney Park and Ride in the off peak, then transfer to the Montgomery County system. For this option, Howard County would only need additional buses, since this is would not be a full BRT.

Members of the board asked about the status of the Montgomery BRT. Mr. Cookson stated that they are planning on launching the BRT service in spring 2020. Ron Hartman asked about how the systems would link together. Mr. Cookson responded that Howard County is still working through the process. Members of the board also asked why the MTA would not be willing to pay for this pilot. Ron Hartman also added, Howard County should only provide service in the off-peak period, and let the MTA provide service in the peak period.

David also discussed various long-range options for BRT in Howard County along US 29 and some potential areas along US 1 based off the US 1 Master Plan. Howard County will be working with Anne Arundel County for potential BRT on MD-32.

ii. Columbia Transit Center (minute :69)

David Cookson gave a quick background of the Downton Columbia Transit Center Study that was done in 2017 to consolidate all the transportation options (RTA, MTA, BRT, Bikeshare) in Downtown Columbia to one location. The location of the transit center was not specific in the Downtown Columbia Plan, but the developer (Howard Hughes Corporation) is obligated to provide the location once square feet (3.2 million square feet of new development) obligations are met.

David presented two options where the transit center could be located, which is currently a parking garage. The transit center would be incorporated with a project that would be done with the Housing Commission. It is expected that the developer will surpass the square footage requirement within the next year. Once the developer surpasses the square footage requirements, it is expected that Howard Hughes will provide the land to Howard County for the Downtown Columbia Transit Center.

iii. Elect Chair and Vice Chairperson (minute :83)

The MTB reelected Ron Hartman and Larry Schoen as the chair and vice chair for the next year.

6. Adjournment (minute :86)

Ron Hartman adjourned the meeting at 8:57 pm. The next MTB meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2019.

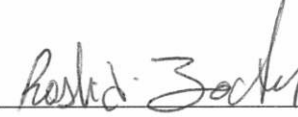


8/7/2019

Bruce Gartner

Date

Executive Secretary



9/4/2019

Rashidi Jackson

Date

Office of Transportation