



**MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
MINUTES December 3, 2019 7:00pm**

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**Members**

**Present:** Ron Hartman, Chair  
Larry Schoen, Vice Chair  
Ted Cochran  
David Zinner  
Alice Giles  
David Drasin  
Shariar Etemadi

**Staff:** Bruce Gartner, Executive Secretary  
Allison Calkins, Office of Transportation  
Rashidi Jackson, Office of Transportation  
Chris Eatough, Office of Transportation  
Jason Quan, Office of Transportation  
Kimberly Woods, Office of Transportation

**Members** N/A Currently 2  
**Excused:** Vacancies

**Members** Terri Hansen, Office of Aging  
**of the** Philip Dodge, DTC Partnership  
**Public:**

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**1. Approval of the October 22, 2019 Minutes (minute:01)**

Ted Cochran moved to approve the minutes, Ron Hartman seconded the motion.

**2. Public/Board Comments (minute:01)**

There were no public comments.

**3. Announcements/Updates (minute:01)**

**i. Complete Streets Update**

Bruce Gartner informed the MTB that Howard County received its score from the National Complete Streets Coalition on policy. Howard County received an overall score of 89/100 with perfect scores in five categories. Nationwide scores are expected to be released by Spring 2020. Bruce was asked about the timing of the rewrite for the design manual and zoning regulations. Bruce informed the MBT that the Office of Transportation was currently working on setting up a meeting for December 19th and

that contractors (WRA and JMT) are already onboard. Bruce announced that invites will be sent out on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

**ii. Comments on December 2<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Forum (minute:10)**

Bruce Gartner informed the group that at the recent Transportation Forum it was announced that there will be a free RTA transit promotion running from December 14<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> to boost ridership. Customers will be able to board all RTA buses for free during the ten-day promotional period. Advertisement is expected to roll out a week prior to the promotional event. Ron Hartman suggested that many people have slight knowledge about the RTA transit routes as reasoning for lack of ridership. Jason Quan informed the MTB group that promotional flyers will highlight key shopping destinations and routes to help new riders. Bruce and Jason informed the group that they were recently able to double on time bus performance and stabilize ridership. Bruce Gartner announced to the group that RTA real time bus tracking and mobile payment apps are expected to roll out around next Spring.

**iii. MTA Commuter Bus-Follow up to Route 201 Questions (minute:22)**

Bruce Gartner announced that the MTA responded to the idea of having the 201-bus stop in Howard County. The MTA relayed cost, contract restrictions, as well as schedule as reasons that prevent them from stopping in Howard County. Ron Hartman wanted to know what other actions can be taken regarding the issue, Bruce suggested writing a letter. Ron volunteered to compose a letter to the MTA Administrator.

**4. New Business/Ongoing Business**

**i. Transportation Demand Program Updates (minute:32)**

Allison Calkins and Philip Dodge of the Downtown Columbia Partnership presented on the “Transportation Demand Management Plan for Downtown Columbia”. Allison informed the group that the purpose of the TDM plan is to create the most efficient use of what we have walking, carpooling, biking, telecommuting, etc. The county TDM plan is changing the name from “Howard Commuter Solutions” to “Go Howard”. Allison informed the group that based on Good TDM there should be a 15% traffic reduction (walking, carpooling, public transportation). Allison mentioned that a web survey will be going live on Saturday as well as a pop-up event at the Mall in Columbia to gather information from the public. The purpose of the 5-minute survey is to figure out how traffic in Downtown Columbia might change based off the responses generated. The data collected from the survey will be added into the draft recommendation. Shariar Etemadi suggested that there should be a Transportation Management District established. Shariar further explained that the purpose of the TMD would be to make sure that the 15% traffic reduction goal is being achieved as well as enforcing the goal. Bruce informed the group that once they complete the survey if it sparks new questions or concerns to let him know.

**ii. Endorsement of Walk Howard Plan (minute:70)**

Chris Eatough discussed the Pedestrian Master Plan. Chris discussed some of the MTB’s recommendations, mainly from Larry Schoen and David Zinner and it was agreed that the recommendations would be worked on in between meetings. Chris mentioned that he has been working extensively on those recommendations with input from Larry and David. Edits were made to highlight fiscal and timeline recommendation options in the plan. The updated plan discusses outlook scenarios in three, five, and ten years. Chris announced that the Planning Board is currently in possession of the document and that they are holding a public meeting on Thursday. Chris informed the group that everything was on track for the pre-file submission on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Larry recommended that there should be a one-page fact sheet on the plan, Bruce assured him that additional information will be placed on the website. Chris also advised that there will be an interactive map on the website.

There was a brief discussion on ways for the government to obtain more funding for budgets (i.e. footway paving bills). The group briefly discussed the Dobbin Road walkthrough that was recently done with Chris Eatough. Bruce suggested a potential change in bylaws regarding MTB meetings. The group agreed on changing the next MTB meeting to January 13, 2020 to allow for an official endorsement of the plan prior to the Council hearing on a resolution.

**5. Adjournment (minute:99)**

Ted Cochran motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm.

**6. Next Meeting**

The next MTB meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2020.

*Bruce Gartner* 1/03/2020

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Bruce Gartner Date

Executive Secretary

*Kimberly Woods* 01/03/2020

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Kimberly Woods Date

Office of Transportation