



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

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TRANSIT AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP (TPAG) MINUTES

September 17, 2019 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Marlene Hendler, Chair Karina Fisher (for Liz Walsh) Phil Dulany Jackie Eng Paul Walsky Astamay Curtis Jay Weber (for Jeff Specht)	Staff: Bruce Gartner, Office of Transportation Chris Eatough, Office of Transportation Rashidi Jackson, Office of Transportation
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1. Approval of June 11, 2019 Minutes

Phil Dulany moved to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2019 Transit and Pedestrian Advisory Group Meeting. Paul Walsky seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Transit Operations

i. Free Summer School Transit Pass Pilot Program

125 students participated in a 6-week long program. 30% response rate on survey. Approximately 30% of the students used the service 4 to 5 days per week. It was a good exposure to the bus system and useful feedback. The paper bus pass system needs to be updated.

Test pilot area was at Atholton, Oakland Mills, Wilde Lake, and Hammond High Schools.

OOT (Office of Transportation) is looking into options for expanding the scope for next year.

ii. Law Enforcement Vehicles Blocking Stop at Harpers Choice Village Center

Officer Jeff Specht has notified patrol officers to not park in front of the bus stop.

iii. 2 Scheduled Service Changes a Year – November and March

Bruce Gartner explained that this schedule helps both the operator and the passengers.

iv. Phase 2 of TDP (Transit Development Plan) Service Improvements

Bruce Gartner summarized potential changes for the next phase for the Transit Development Plan. Options include:

- Expansion of Route 410 Columbia Mall to Elkridge Community Shopping Center
- Columbia Mall to Clarkesville including the Board of Education Building
- US 40 to Catonsville
- Route 413, Columbia to Turf Valley and Waverly Woods
- Columbia Town Center to Maple Lawn

Would require approximately \$1.5 million per year more funding.

Board of Education and connection to BWI would be considered high priority.

v. Mobile Fare Payment

Rashidi Jackson explained that the OOT received a grant and is researching the best options for mobile phone payment that works with other local transit services.

Vendors do not need to be paid up front. They take a cut from each transaction. Grant can be used for training and marketing of the new service.

Cash option would remain for people without a smart phone.

4. **Transit Capital Improvements**

i. New Paratransit Vehicles

Bruce Gartner explained there are five new vans are going into service next week. More service for paratransit.

MTA is using the same vans on their contract.

Smaller than the cutaway vehicles but work well for wheelchairs.

ii. Status of STIG Grant for Bus Stop Improvements

Rashidi Jackson provided the details of an approved \$400,000 for bus stop improvements, which will be used for some bus stops that are combined MTA and RTA. Funds available in July 2020.

Jackie Eng suggested some promotion regarding the improvements that will be funded by the grant.

Grant will also fund interactive rider user board at Columbia Mall bus stop.

- iii. Bus Stop Improvements
Trash Maintenance – Some trash cans are overflowing. OOT is looking for vendors to help with this.

Lotte Plaza in Ellicott City bus stop improvements are completed – ADA landing pad, sidewalk access, and curb ramp.

Columbia Medical Plan Shelter refurbish is completed.

Dorsey Hall Drive improvements being made at this time – Shelter, seating, ADA Pad

Dobbin Center shelter is removed. Bus stops will be consolidated to one location in November, including removal of the old shelter. There is an overhang that will provide shelter at the new location.

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

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.

- v. Pedestrian Master Plan Map (WalkHoward)

Chris Eatough showed the new online map for the Pedestrian Master Plan (WalkHoward). The link was sent to TPAG members and will be posted to www.WalkHoward.com in a couple of weeks. The plan will be submitted to the County Council for adoption in December.

Projects are funded through the annual capital budget mostly through budget area K5061. Jackie Eng suggested adding information for when projects are funded.

5. Regional Efforts

- i. Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan – Next meeting is 9/20/19 at 9:00am at the Miller Branch, Howard County Library. 9421 Frederick Rd. Ellicott City, MD 21042

Information can be found here: <https://rtp.mta.maryland.gov/>

They will be looking at corridors next. Howard County has a number of corridors on the map for consideration, along Routes 29, 1, 32, 40 and 216.

- ii. Marlene Hendler asked about the crossing of Route 40 at Chatham Road. There is not enough space to press the pedestrian crossing button and then turn a wheelchair around to cross. State Highway Administration is currently making these updates as part of a larger project for the signals along Route 40, to be completed later this year.

6. Scheduling of Future Meetings

Jackie Eng asked for an update on the paratransit work group and requested more advisory tasks for the group. Bruce Gartner responded that the next set up route updates will be an advisory role.

Phil Dulany suggested improved markings or placards and driver identification on the buses at the Columbia Mall bus stops. Bruce Gartner explained this is coming soon.

Astamay Curtis said some buses remain idling when stopped for a long time.

Marlene Hendler and Phil Dulany stated that riders are very confused by the A and B on the 402 Route.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

Next meeting is 1/21/20 at 3pm.

Bruce Gartner
Executive Secretary

Date