



**MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
MINUTES February 25, 2020 7:00pm**

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**Members**

**Present:** Ron Hartman, Chair  
Ted Cochran  
David Zinner  
Monica Simon  
Alice Giles (via Phone)

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

**Members Excused:** Larry Schoen

**Members of the Public:**

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**1. Review of unofficial minutes from January 13, 2020**

Due to the lack of a quorum at the last meeting official business couldn't take place. Therefore, the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting was considered an unofficial meeting.

**2. Public/Board Comments**

There were no public comments.

**3. Announcements/Updates**

**i. Chairman's Remarks**

Ron Hartman announced that this would be his last board meeting and that he would be stepping down. Ron Hartman's term as Chairman is up this upcoming May.

**ii. Administrator Remarks (MTB Membership and OOT Staff Vacancies)**

Bruce Gartner announced that Rashidi Jackson and Albert Engel are no longer with the Office of Transportation. Albert is now working in the private sector while Rashidi is now with another local government agency. Bruce introduced Monica Simon as the newest MTB board member.

**iii. Walk Howard Resolution Approved**

Walk Howard was passed unanimously and was adopted by the County Council through Resolution 14-2020.

**iv. Complete Streets Implementation**

The latest Complete Streets Implementation Team Meeting took place on February 5<sup>th</sup>. During the last team meeting the team went over the design process and resources. CSIT also discussed current public outreach procedures.

**v. Bike Howard Open House**

The Annual Bike Howard Open House was held on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The Office of Transportation reported their biggest attendance thus far for the event. Over 65 people were in attendance.

**4. New Business/ Ongoing Business**

**i. Howard County Spending Affordability Update- Holly Sun, Office of Budget**

Holly Sun went over the FY 2021 Fiscal Update Handout. The County's revenue growth has slowed down to less than three percent per year for the last three years. The 2021 Fiscal Challenge is that while revenue growth is projected to be \$38.1 million dollars which is equivalent to 3.3%, the total expenditure growth request is \$111.9 million dollars (9.6. %) which means there is a \$73.8 million gap that the County needs to close. The request of funds from the government agencies and the actual revenue growth are out of sync. The needs are outpacing the County's Revenue which in return has triggered requested projects to be cut by more than 50% for the upcoming fiscal years. Listed below are some of the Financial Challenges for Howard County Government.

- Economic downturn/slow down
- Forgone revenue associated with APFO amendment
- Federal/State actions & legislation
- Deferred maintenance
- Population Growth
- Courthouse Payment

The County Administration is working on cost saving strategies/options nonstop to close the substantial gap in FY21 to provide the same level services.

## **ii. Roadway Maintenance Update- Kris Jagarapu, DPW**

Kris Jagarapu gave an overview of DPW's Roadway Maintenance responsibilities and challenges.

- DPW maintains all things related to roadways, signals, bike lanes and certain sidewalks with 140 people employed in the Bureau of Highways.
- There are 900 miles of sidewalk in the county.
- DPW needs between \$10-15 million a year for resurfacing but are only given \$5 million annually.
  - The aging roadways has increased the need for road repairs.
  - The bureau received over 11,000 requests and worked on over 8,400 thousand of those requests in 2019.
    - Last year there were over 800 pothole repairs made compared to 323 pothole repairs in 2016.
    - DPW has received over 300 concerns ranging from minor to major regarding sidewalks.
    - 153 of those sidewalk concerns have been addressed this fiscal year.
    - There are over 200 ponds in Howard County that are managed by the Bureau of Highways
- In addition to roadway, sidewalk repairs, the maintenance of ponds, DPW will be transitioning the street lights to LED. The Traffic Engineer Division plans on upgrading the street lights in Howard County to LED, the old street lights will be recycled.
- With respect to Roadway sweeping, we had some challenges with the vendor last year and they were not able to deliver the required amount of service, so some communities may have only seen a sweeper three times instead of four.

## **iii. E-Scooter Proposed Legislation and Amendments- Bruce Gartner**

Bruce Gartner discussed the E-Scooter CB3-2020 bill. The Office of Transportation has held meetings with a few of the council staff members to help address areas of concern regarding E-Scooters. There will be amendments considered that will do the following:

1. Definitions
  - Clarifying the renting and riding an E-Scooter is allowable non-transit use of County Right of Way.
2. Controls to the Size and Complexity of Program
  - Reducing the number of allowed scooter operators from 4 to 2.
3. Public Input and Involvement

