



Jack Guarneri, BAG Chair  
Marlene Hendler, TPAG Chair

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FAX 410-313-1655

**JOINT MEETING OF THE BICYCLE ADVISORY GROUP (BAG)  
AND TRANSIT AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP (TPAG)**

September 17, 2019 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
The George Howard Building – Columbia-Ellicott Room  
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Astamay Curtis  
Marlene Hendler  
Marian Vessels  
Bob McLaughlin  
David Ramsey  
Jeff Specht  
Philip Dulany  
Paul Walsky  
Bob McLaughlin  
Deb Jung  
Larry Schoen  
Jack Guarneri  
John Mayer for Peter Sotherland  
Jessica Bellah for Jane Dembner  
Jeff Specht

**Office of Transportation Staff:**

Chris Eatough  
David Cookson  
Jason Quan  
Rashidi Jackson  
Allison Calkins

**Members of the Public:**

Jackie Eng  
Chris Tsien  
Kevin McAliley  
Karina Fisher  
Derek Riley  
Christopher Ranken

Allysha Lorber  
Jen Nunn  
Jay Weber



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

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### **1. Approval of minutes from March 19,2019 joint BAG/TPAG meeting**

Jack Guarneri moved to approve the minutes from the previous joint meeting without any objections.

### **2. Project Updates and Announcements**

#### **i. Complete Streets Corridor Studies (3:35) (Columbia Road, Tamar Drive, and Oakland Mills Road)**

Albert Engel gave an overview of the Complete Streets Corridor Studies. The Office of Transportation is working on Complete Streets Concept Planning for: Columbia Road, Tamar Drive, and Oakland Mills Road. Proposals include: Bike lanes via shoulder conversions, additional sidewalks and bus stop improvements. Public meetings are scheduled to take place in the fall, Columbia Road on September 25<sup>th</sup>, Tamar Drive on October 17<sup>th</sup>, and Oakland Mills Road on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Final reports are anticipated to be completed by December 2019. The goal is to provide safer and complete streets for everyone. Additional information about these projects can be found on Howard County's Office of Transportation website.

#### **ii. Broken Land Parkway/MD 32 Park & Ride Access Study (8:40)**

Albert announced that the project is scheduled to start soon. The goal of the project is to design a concept design pathway extension from Patuxent Woods down to MD32 Park and Ride. Albert presented slides to the group providing them with images of the area.

#### **iii. Robert Fulton Drive Pathway (12:35)**

Albert briefly went over the Robert Fulton Drive Pathway plans. While transit service is provided in that area it is not a good bike route and access to the Gateway Business Park is very challenging. The Office of Transportation is working with JMT on a plan study to identify preliminary capability of pathway alignments that are identified in slide number 12 of the presentation. Albert announced that this project is considered a major capital type expense. It is a large-scale project that is in the preliminary stages that connects to other projects that the county is advancing. Albert then went on to answer a few questions regarding the Robert Fulton Drive Pathway proposed options map slide.

### **3. Safe Routes to School Grant Process (18:35)**

Chis Eatough announced that the Office of Transportation is currently coordinating with David Ramsay's office, Howard County Public Schools Transportation and DPW's transportation department to come up with evaluations of school walkways county wide.



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They are also looking for opportunities to expand those walk zones so that the county can adhere to the Transportation Policy and allow students that live within the specified distances to safely walk to school. Grant funding could support this effort. Albert Engel went over the Safe Routes to School grant. The SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) Program enables and encourages children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school safely. The program sets out to make walking and bicycling a more appealing transportation option for students in grades kindergarten through eighth, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age. The goal is to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. Eligible activities for the grant are:

- **Education:** educating students, parents and neighbors of safe practices. This includes being aware of each other (neighbor/student, parent/student and neighbor/parent) and adding simple techniques to ensure the safety of those involved.
- **Encouragement:** encouraging the students, neighbors and parents to embrace walking and biking to school. Provide incentives for students walking, rolling, or biking to school. Host events such as a walking school bus, walking Wednesdays, walking/wheeling Wednesday's bicycle rodeos and bicycle trains. Other encouragement opportunities include events hosted by after school clubs and organizations.
- **Enforcement:** monitoring the areas immediately around the schools by issuing tickets and warnings to those who act against the law. In addition, students, parents, community members and crossing guards learn to enforce safety. Law enforcement will monitor volunteers and the wider scope of the schools' premises.
- **Engineering:** making changes to floating and semi-permanent elements like signage, outdoor furniture, crossing areas, sidewalks, curbs and ramps. These changes slow down traffic, add a safe place for pedestrians and bikers to travel and provide more accessibility for students to get to school.
- **Evaluation:** Observing the area to note the existing conditions and tracking data such as the number of students walking and biking to school. Are the sidewalks in good shape? Are the crosswalks visible? Is there a bike lane? Paying attention to where drop-off/pick-up happens. Is it organized? Is it safe? What is the distance between the drop-off spot and the school's entrance? Watching where students



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travel. Are they biking, rolling, or walking? Is there a path for them to walk, roll, or bike? Monitoring traffic patterns. How much traffic is there? How fast are the drivers going? Are they driving safely? Are they stopping at Stop signs? Note these observations, whether they are positive or negative. What needs improvement? What is working well?

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program is a federal-funded, reimbursement program administered by the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA). Eligible sponsors may apply for funding to support infrastructure and non-infrastructure activities that encourage children to safely walk, bicycle or roll to school. Federal funds allocated to this program must benefit elementary and middle school children in grades K-8 and must have a 20% cash match contribution.

#### **4. Complete Streets Policy Implementation Update (37:47)**

Chris Eatough announced that there is currently a complete resolution in front of the County Council, Resolution #120. The policy has been endorsed by the Multimodal Transportation Board. The policy was introduced to the council and 3 out of the 5 have sponsored the bill. The public hearing for Resolution #120 was held last night with overall positive testimony. All approved adaptation of the policy and overall a huge interest in the Complete Streets Policy. The policy takes all road users into consideration and changes how transportation is done in Howard County. October 7<sup>th</sup> Howard County Council is expected to vote on the Complete Streets Policy.

#### **5. MD 108 Clarksville Pike Streetscape (43:28)**

Jack Guarneri questioned whether it was a timeline on the completion of MD 108 Clarksville Pike Streetscape. David Cookson answered by informing Jack that the Office of Transportation is closing the 30% design stage and plan on moving on to the next stage of 65% funding. A benefit of this approach would be bridge improvements over MD32 working with the State Highway Administration with the MD32 Bike Mitigation Project. Unfortunately, no timeline can be given regarding the completion of the project.

#### **6. Open discussion and transition (50:25)**

No open discussion occurred.



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## **7. Adjournment and Transition to TPAG Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m. and transitioned to the TPAG meeting.

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Bruce Gartner  
Executive Secretary

Date