



**MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD
MINUTES DECEMBER 8, 2020 7:00pm**

Members

Present: Larry Schoen
Alice Giles
Monica Simon
Shariar Etemadi
David Drasin
David Zinner

Staff: Bruce Gartner, Executive Secretary
Jason Quan, Office of Transportation
Allison Calkins, Office of Transportation
Kimberly Woods, Office of Transportation
David Cookson, Office of Transportation
Molly Nur, Office of Transportation
Chris Eatough, Office of Transportation

Members Excused: Ted Cochran

Members of the Public: Caroline Rexford
Terri Hansen

1. Approval of Agenda for Meeting

The draft agenda for the meeting was approved by members without modification.

2. Review of unofficial minutes from September 29, 2020

Alice Giles motioned to approve the minutes with spelling correction, David Drasin seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes carried.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. New Business/Ongoing Business

i. Pedestrian Crossings in Howard County

Chris Eatough provided the group with an update regarding the cross-walk request chart. Since the last meeting DPW has provided OOT with the number of public requests (75) they have received regarding Crosswalk Markings.

Summary of Crosswalk Marking Requests	
Source	Quantity
School Walk Zone Expansion Project	9
Complete Streets/Road Diet Studies	11
Pathway or Bike Lane Design Studies	16
WalkHoward (Priority Score of 10-17)	16
WalkHoward (Priority Score of 7-9.9)	24
WalkHoward (Priority Score of 4-6.9)	21
Public Request to OOT	7
Public Request to DPW	75
Total	179

The next steps for OOT will be to review the requests and delete any duplicate requests. Then OOT will have DPW review the request from a feasibility standpoint because there's going to be some locations that aren't feasible for crosswalks because of bad sightline, high speed, or they're just not appropriate. OOT needs to do a little more weeding through the list so that OOT can have a smaller list that they can narrow down and prioritize requests.

Chris Eatough briefly went over the "Howard County Owned and Maintained Traffic Signals" inventory list that was provided by DPW. The list focused on existing signalized intersections in Howard County. There are 99 signalized intersections that the County maintains. The list provides some details of the signal set up for the 99 signalized intersections such as major and minor road phasing, marked crosswalks, etc. Chris E informed the group that most of the pedestrian crossings have no right on red because it does not have good sight line for traffic approaching from the left which is needed in order to be able to safely and successfully merge out into moving traffic. David Zinner questioned how to deal with the issue of cars that stop at the red, look to the left see no cars and make a right without noticing pedestrians. Chris E answered by telling David Z that it is an enforcement issue because it is an illegal and dangerous maneuver. David Drasin questioned whether it legally mattered whether there is a sign posted. Chris E answered by telling David D if a pedestrian isn't present then it doesn't, but you can't turn on red and hit a pedestrian. If the pedestrian has not yet stepped into the crosswalk it is not a legal violation, but if the pedestrian is in the crosswalk it is illegal even if it's a no right turn on red because the driver is disobeying the pedestrians right away. David Zinner suggested better signage at every crosswalk suggesting that drivers yield to pedestrians as a solution.

Any additional questions regarding traffic signals can be directed to DPW's Traffic and Engineering Department to obtain the best technical responses.

ii. FY22 Capital Improvement Plan Development

Bruce Gartner went over the Capital Budget for Howard County’s OOT. Bruce Gartner informed the group that he will be accepting questions afterwards via email regarding the budget.

Preliminary Draft Office of Transportation- County Capital Improvement Program basedn FY 2021 CIP Budgets			
Transportation Projects	Programmatic Information	Work to be Accomplished in FY 22 and/ or significant adjustments	Changes/Comments about Outyear
Transit Projects			
Bus Stop Improvements	Average annual spending of \$160k	State Grant of \$400k will be the focus for FY22. Typical annual County funding can be deferred while we focus on State grant.	Average cost of improvements per stop have been \$6,000 - \$8,000 without shelters. New Shelters cost \$10,000 - \$12,000
Transit Center (Columbia Mall)	Coordinating with Housing Authority. Timing of TIP funding tied into Library project and state application for tax credits	Nothing needed in FY 22. Land becomes available in FY 24 (3.2M SF)	Another \$8.1M would be needed between FY 28 and FY 30 for operation year 2030
Pedestrian Projects			
School Route Pathways or Sidewalks	In order to address the top 15 percent of needs identified in Ped Plan in 5-10 yrs. Target for Combined Ped Projects would be \$2.56M per year	Have confirmed spending on 5 projects to spend down prior balance and new \$400k	3 Projects identified to advance in FY 22 if we have concerns about first 5
Routine Sidewalk Walkway Extensions			Need to confirm details - cash flow from FY 21 CIP
Pedestrian Plan Projects		Have confirmed spending on 7 projects that will spend at least \$3.1m including new \$650k	Next batch of projects for design will come from 43 Structured projects with priority based on Transportation Improvement Process and VPI scores
State Roads Sidewalk Retrofit			TBD
Bike and Shared Use Projects			
Bike Master Plan	Bike Howard Express Committed \$2.75M in FY21. FY 22 was projected at \$1.5M last year	Previous CIP amt of \$1.5m for FY 22 \$675k needed in N3963 Includes \$300k needed for completion of US 1 @Patel Des	Requests through FY 25 is for \$5.3M in GO bonds to support 45% match equal to \$3.4 million for 3 projects. Failure to get one grant would require at least the another \$1.9M in county funds
Downtown Columbia_Pax Branch Trail Extension - South Entrance Trail	Cost Increase since last year	Current effort is to complete 100% design to submit grant application in May 23	Amt is 45% of cost. Grant funding of \$2.613M needed in FY24. \$1 million cost increase since last year
Patuxent Branch Trail Paving	Cost Increase since last year	Transferred from K5066. Needed to match May 21 grant application for paving	
Clarksville Streetscape Project	Cost Increase & delay since last yr	Project is being delayed due to coordination, funding and cost increases.	Construction date and budget being revised based on 30% design; needs to be coord with MDOT & Developer

Bruce Gartner briefly went over a chart that was presented at last month’s Transportation Town Hall. Out of the one chart, Bruce created three charts focusing first on FY21 projects that are funded by other prior year preparations. The first category of projects includes those that are funded and anticipated to go to the construction in the current fiscal year with completion in FY2022. The 2nd chart focused on FY22 projects that are

funded by FY2022 and prior year appropriations FY2022 projects are more dependent upon future funding. While part of the list can be accomplished with appropriation levels consistent with what was anticipated during the last budget, other projects will require state funding for Construction that has yet to be secured. Projects scheduled for FY2023 and beyond are more dependent on outyear funding approvals for County funding and State grants. FY2023 and Outyear projects completion is dependent on outyear appropriations and/or State Grant Awards to fund 55-80 percent of project.

Larry Schoen brought to the group's attention a recent email that he sent out regarding the Resolution for Testimony for the County Executive's Budget hearing on Thursday. Larry recently added bullet number four and wanted feedback from the board members.

"4) Despite the pandemic, many of our essential workers depend on it and expanding the local transit service will be an important part of the County's economic recovery and provide for our transit dependent population, and increased opportunities once a vaccine has been widely distributed— hopefully by the beginning of the next fiscal year. The Multimodal Transportation Board would like the County to refocus on implementing parts of the County's adopted Transit Development Plan (TDP) at some point in CY 2022 even if that means that services would need to be started on a pilot basis through innovative partnerships.

Rationale: Expansion to Howard County School System Campus on MD 108 was postponed last year due to the pandemic and provides an important link between Columbia and a major County facility. Furthermore, the MDOT-MTA Regional Transit Plan has identified both the US 29 Corridor and the US 40 Corridor as high priority corridors for improved transit service. Improved peak hour connections to the new Montgomery County Flash Service between Columbia and Burtonsville is one such transit expansion that should be explored with the State and Montgomery County. Improved local connections between Ellicott City and Catonsville is also important due to the suspension of the MTA Express Route 150 and uncertain timeline for reinstatement after the pandemic."

David Drasin motioned to approve the document as the MTB's testimony subject to minor editorial tweaking, David Zinner seconded the motion. The motion to approve the testimony carried.

iii. 2021 State Transportation Priority Letter Process

David Cookson gave the group an update on the Priority Letter Process. OOT has started and is currently preplanning for the project at this point. David provided the group with an outline of tasks.

Priority Letter Process			
January	February	March	April
*Project Planning	*Public Meeting	*Send Draft Letter to County Council and State Delegates for Feedback	*Finalize Letter
*Survey development	*Meet with Council Members	*Review Results	*Submit Letter to MDOT
*DPZ/DPW Meeting	*Meet with Delegates	*Ch. 30 Finalized	
*Survey	*Draft Priority Letter	*Finalize Draft Letter	
*Public Outreach Notice	*Ch. 30 Scoring Input		
*Work session with MTB	*Compile Comments		
	*Review Results		
	*Develop Draft Letter		

OOT plans on coming back to the MTB in January to present and discuss some of the draft changes that's being proposed for the letter. As well as get the MTB's feedback on priorities

5. Development Updates- Dave Cookson

Upcoming Public Meetings

Project	Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Notes
Kimmel's Enclave, Elkridge MD	December 14,2020	Design Advisory Group	The proposed development is age-restricted multi-plex homes. There will be 3 multi-plex units at 5,000 square feet net floor area per building, each with 4 condominium dwellings with one-car garages.
ZB-1119M Redevelopment of Hickory Ridge Village Center	January 6,2021	Zoning Board	Continuation of rezoning case.

Newly Submitted Development Plans

Plan Name	Plan Number	Units	Description	OOT Comments	Next Steps
Dorsey Overlook	SDP-20-074	82 unit apartment building	Site plan for 82 unit apartment.	OOT commented on coordinating with DWP on signal improvements at Columbia Road/Old Annapolis Road.	Resubmit
Emerson	SDP-21-017	Data Center	Fast track project for a data center.	OOT requested the project extend a sidewalk around the cul de sac to access the future park/rec. facility and also add bike parking for the admin portion of the building.	Approved

David Zinner requested that addresses be provided on the maps that are shown when going over Newly Submitted Development Plans. David Cookson agreed to provide a little more detail on the specific locations on single lot subdivisions.

Dave Briefly went over two plan review updates that were previously presented to the MTB.

- Rauscher Property (MD103)
 - OOT has asked for sidewalk and frontage improvements to connect to existing sidewalks on this road, DPZ has made the same request.
 - **Update**-The Applicant has requested that the fee be waived, OOT denied.
- Roberts Property (US 1 near Duckett's Lane)
 - Provide ped connections to Belmont station, confirm viability of sidewalk/pathway connection to the north and south, bus stop pad.
 - **Update**- Resubmit, OOT is working with applicant to extend extending he shared use path to Loudon Ave.

6. Office of Transportation Updates

Transportation Town Hall Questions and Answers

On November 18,2020 OOT hosted its annual Transportation Town Hall for Howard County residents. Howard County responded to approximately 28 questions during and after the Transportation Town Hall. The link to the responses can be found on Howard County's Office of Transportation website. Anyone interesting in viewing this information can click [here](#).

Larry Schoen informed the group that Maple Lawn Blvd is one of the case study locations that is currently being used as an example to look at rewrites of the design manual for roads in Howard County to make Multimodal.

David Zinner wanted to know if the MTB could ask the state to provide an inventory of bridges in Howard County and their plans for upgrading them. Including areas that lead up to them that are under state jurisdiction something similar to the "Howard County Owned and Maintain Traffic Signals" inventory list. Bruce Gartner suggested that it might be helpful to ask the state. Bruce encouraged David Z to put the request in writing so that OOT is making the right request.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

8. Next Meeting

The next MTB meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2021.

Bruce Gartner /2020
Executive Secretary Date

Kimberly Woods /2020
Office of Transportation Date