

# AGE-FRIENDLY TRANSPORTATION WORKGROUP MINUTES



Date: 04/23/2020

Time: 03:00PM

Facilitator:

## In Attendance

Bruce Gartner

Marian Vessels

Tomiko Thomas

Nancy Riley

Brain Muldoon

Paul Verchinski

Terri Hansen

Brad Closs

Bruce Fulton

David Nitkin

Kim Sherman

Bruce Fulton

## Minutes Approved:

First: David Nitkin

Second: Paul Verchinski

Minutes are approved

## Announcements:

- David Nitkin is attending the workgroup for the first time. He was asked to introduce himself and share why he chose to be part of the Transportation workgroup. David currently works as the chief of staff of the Howard County General Hospital and previously worked in Howard County Government. Joining the transportation workgroup is a way to help give back to the community.
- Brad Closs asked the members if there were any comments regarding the list that was sent to the group.

Bruce Gartner gave presentations on Complete Streets, the Transportation Development Plan and WalkHoward. Copies of the presentation material were provided to the workgroup prior to the meeting.

## Questions during and after Presentation:

- Terri Hansen asked, given the exorbitant cost just to put in sidewalks and do what else is proposed for Walk Howard, is there a way to share those cost with businesses, or state grants?

- Bruce answered there has been discussion at the state level in relation to complete streets and a push for the Governor to appropriate around three million for these grants annually statewide, however the bill was vetoed. So, when you see our need the fact is, we may get one pedestrian or bike project occasionally. Bruce shared the need to be extremely competitive on these things. As far as the business connection goes, there absolutely is the ability to now point to a master plan in the development process and sidewalks are therefore required for some projects.
- David Nitkin stated, with all our knowledge of the impact of COVID-19 on the County and State Revenue, I believe that a lot of plans that looked achievable a short time ago are going to be scrutinized a lot more heavily and will take longer to execute within the next couple of years. He asked Bruce if he knows what will need to be done for the FY21 budget.
- Bruce answered that he would be shocked if that \$7.8 million - other than for projects that were about to begin - will be able to move forward.
- Marian Vessels asked if Bruce had any idea what the decision process will be going forward regarding expenditures and prioritizing. And will there be community input or administrative people?
- Bruce answered the Complete Streets implementation team has talked about the engagement process that is done for projects. They are coming up with a new approach to use that the Horizon Foundation has been heavily involved in. It will be more inclusive in terms of how we set priorities for projects. In Complete Streets we have a vulnerability index that will play into our priority exemption. That would mean looking at the census tracts and identifying the 20% of our census tract that have 5 or 6 different categories including seniors, individuals with disabilities, minority population, no access to vehicles, etc. Make sure we address where people may not advocate for improvements, but they are needed. That has been a big part of the policy discussion over the past year.

## New Business:

### Vision statement discussion:

- Terri thanked Brad for his work to pull together a purposeful vision statement based on information found in existing plans, and information gathered from our last meeting. Looking at the proposed vision statement, the group worked to make comments and changes so as to come up with a final vision statement for your workgroup that can be followed during the process.
- Paul Verchinski wondered where the e-scooters fit into the vision statement? One of the issues has been the last mile for the transit. Walking, biking if you put racks on transit. What are your thoughts on that?
- Bruce Fulton said he would like to hear more about the ease of access. How do you figure out the best way for users to utilize the system?
- Bruce G stated that the use of access and low cost is in there. Ease of navigation for Seniors. Those are going to be some of the key things that will need to be worked on. Do we need to put something in so that it can be more focused?
- A member asked about an app for the transit system, but has it been linked to google maps? And is that now part of the google echo system as well? Bruce G answered, it is part of it. All the files have been shared with them. Once the scooter systems is up and running, they will be added as well.

- There was a discussion about whether to address transportation for residents only or for everyone who works, lives and visits Howard County. It was determined that transportation issues are a matter for all individuals, of all ages.

The updated vision statement was read:

Howard County will have a varied, efficient, and sustainable multimodal transportation system. This system will:

- be safe and affordable for users of all ages and abilities
- be easy to understand, use and access
- connect people to jobs, goods, services, and activities
- facilitate active transportation such as walking, biking and use of scooters and similar devices

Terri asked what other presentations the group wants to learn about?

- Bruce Fulton will give a presentation at the next meeting about Neighbor Ride.
- Notes from last meeting had comments about the nonprofit sector that we can learn how their vehicles and fleets are being used.

### Homework Assignments:

Review the survey again. Are there elements to be discussed at the next meeting?

Bruce G will share the vulnerable population index and the map that Office of Transportation has. He will also follow up on the current usage of the RTA system if there is any data there.

### Next Meeting:

May 12, 2020 - 3:00 to 4:00 PM (a WebEx invitation will be sent before the meeting).