

**Age-Friendly Transportation Implementation Group**  
**Web-Ex**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2023**

**Meeting Recording:**

<https://howardcountymd.webex.com/recording/service/sites/howardcountymd/recording/3638f9798dfe103baff500505681d9e2/playback>

**Attendees:** Bruce Gartner, Brad Closs, Judith Todes, Manuel Evangelista, Kim Sherman, Bruce Fulton, Evelyn Kwakye, Maury Zeitler, Sandra Price, Connor Jett, Terri Hansen, Morgan Spliedt

**Agenda:**

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Role Discussion/Appointment
- 3) Discuss Action Items/Prioritization/Strategy – follow-up from January meeting
- 4) Set Date and Location for Next Meeting
- 5) Calls to Action and Wrap Up

**Meeting Notes:**

- 1) Welcome & Introductions
- 2) Purpose of today's meeting
  - a. Review/Discuss Roles
    - i. Brad Closs is willing to hold leadership position – Community Leader
    - ii. Bruce Gartner is willing to hold leadership position – County Liaison
  - b. Review Action Items
  - c. Discussion
    - i. Bruce G. and Connor are populating a matrix for each action item and will share at the next meeting.
    - ii. Reviewed the Appendix for Transportation Domain
      1. T1
        - a. T1a: Uber and Lyft did some innovative services during the pandemic. The Office of Transportation (OOT) were communicating with these companies to learn more and discuss opportunities for partnership, but have since paused these efforts to pursue an alternative option.
          - i. OOT is considering on-demand transit options specifically in the US-1 corridor to implement needed options on a smaller-scale with the goal of expansion.
        - b. T1c: Bruce G. shared that the supplemental taxi/transportation service has gone through procurement phase. Columbia Cabs supports RTA, but there are some challenges with compliance and policies to fully implement optimized service.
        - c. Neighbor Ride Updates: Historically, Neighbor Ride uses volunteers to provide transportation to older adults and uses a subsidized model to operate. Volume of use has bounced back

since 2020 to 16-17,000 rides per year. They expect natural growth over time with the growing aging population

- i. Neighbor Ride has pursued a lot of community partnerships in order to bring things/services to people (rather than people to things/services), including meals, durable medication equipment, and books – will continue these services and add more partnerships to help make transportation more accessible.
- ii. The next focus is to help disseminate information and expand awareness about the transportation services available across the county.

2. T2

- a. There's a lot happening in the private sector on this action item, so implementation efforts may be focused on the education piece – to help people hear about and understand where they can access these goods and services.
  - i. Acknowledging what's going on and available in the community and consolidating this information to help advertise these organizations/services.
  - ii. Can work with the Communication & Information work group to help disseminate information.
- b. It is also a technology training issue too. So not only letting people know the information, but also how to use technology to access the information (or ways to overcome technology barriers).

3. T3

- a. In September, OOT received \$500k grant to implement a pilot program in the U.S.-1 corridor (mentioned previously in T1) which will contract with an outside organization to operate vans, and \$1mil annually to determine the most effective way to deliver the program and seek long-term cost efficiency. Operations projected to start in November 2023.
  - i. Regarding the Flash Service referenced in the Appendix: a federal earmark was received by OOT from the federal budget of \$3.3mil (and matching funds) for Montgomery County to purchase 4 buses. Buses will connect to Columbia during peak hours to start with. This service will not be rolled out until FY25.
    1. Concern about frequency and schedule of services prioritizing commuting. If mass transit wants to serve older adults, then opportunities need to be more frequent and offered during off-peak time. This feedback is needed to update the Transit Development Plan in 2023.

- ii. RTA service will ultimately extend up into Catonsville to match up with MTA service that is expected to happen in June 2023. OOT continues to identify areas across county borders. The Transit Development Plan is being updated this year – and OOT invites participants of this meeting to comment on. See Calls to Action below.

4. T4

- a. Alternative modes of transportation: Pedestrian-friendly efforts, Bike Lanes, optimizing the path system in Columbia
  - i. The Complete Streets Manual has been completed and is currently being implemented and is working to put projects in place, such as WalkHoward, BikeHoward.
  - ii. OOT does not have direct responsibilities for the path system but are working with the Columbia Association to develop wayfinding materials (program signage, marketing) to expand utilization of pathways. Project should be completed by September 2023.

5.

3) Next Meeting

- a. Next Meeting will be at 2:30pm on Monday, March 13 via WebEx.

**Calls to Action**

- 1) Fill Out Transit Development Plan Survey – Bruce G. will send to everyone.
- 2) Build list of resources, organizations, services currently available in the community.
- 3) Review the Appendix linked in the Transportation Domain of the Action Plan.