



MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
MINUTES August 25, 2020 7:00pm

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**Members**

**Present:** Ted Cochran  
David Drasin  
Monica Simon  
Shariar Etemadi  
Alice Giles

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

**Members Excused:** David Zinner  
Larry Schoen

**Members of the Public:** Joel Hurewitz  
Terri Hansen

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**1. Approval of Agenda for Meeting**

Ted Cochran approved the agenda for the meeting. The motion to approve the agenda carried.

**2. Review of unofficial minutes from July 28, 2020**

David Drasin motioned to approve the minutes with typo correction. Alice Giles seconded that motion.

**3. Public Comment**

Joel Hurewitz mentioned that there was a Board of Elections meeting the night before. There was brief discussion regarding the relocation of Polling Places and (RTA) public transportation to the them. Joel recommended that the RTA consider providing transportation to the Bain Center. Joel also mentioned that he recently spoke to Deb Jung and she agreed that the County should realign the intersection to Cedar Lane Park with the Mosque that’s across the street to improve left turns to both the park and the mosque. That way when the sidewalks are installed which is in the Complete Streets Plan there will be safe crossing to the Mosque. Regarding the Bike Lane Proposal Joel suggested putting the whole definition of Bike Lane in the code opposed to just a reference as well as better clarification.

Ted informed Joel that moving an intersection wasn't in MTB's charter. Regarding Joel's bus routes to the Polling Places recommendation Ted agrees that Joel's suggestion should be considered.

#### **4. Complete Streets Implementation Team Update: Public Engagement Plan**

Chris Eatough informed the group that the CSIT is currently working on a Public Engagement Plan, which is required under the Complete Streets Policy. CSIT has 12 months to get it drafted and submitted to the council. CSIT is also currently looking into improving how the County engages community members for Transportation Projects. The CSIT wants to have a broad reach in Howard County. They are currently looking at two types of stakeholders: people who are interested in Complete Streets improvements county-wide and people who are particularly interested in a specific project. CSIT is currently working to develop a list of email contacts and communication strategies for each group. Chris went over the Major Capital Project Process particularly the "Concept Design/Scoping" stage. This stage involves looking at areas for improvements and alternatives. During the scoping stage the budget is set, and changes are difficult, so the goal is to have community input before it makes it to the scoping process. Minor Project Process (sidewalk and/or bike lane installation etc.) is more simplified and provides opportunities for public input. CSIT is currently working on process on how to quantitatively compare projects (transportation prioritization process) to see which projects better benefit the community.

##### Community Engagement Plan Next Steps

- Collect feedback from Implementation Team and staff on plan and checklists
- Incorporate edits
- Format graphics and document
- Revise draft and make available for public review by September 16th
- Present Near Final draft at September MTB meeting
- Final draft ready for presentation to Council this fall

Ted Cochran suggested two additional types of stakeholders: Regional, and Different Types of Users. Ted then questioned the Design Manual, whether it's correct for the MTB presume that whoever is developing a project will be following the design manual. Chris answered by telling him yes, but it doesn't total dictate the design and there will be flexibility in the design. Ted then proceeded to question whether it will allow MTB to focus on major deviations that are requested for the design manual or different alternatives for implementing something based on the design manual, Chris answered with a yes.

#### **5. New Business/Ongoing Business**

##### **i. RTA Title VI Plan Update- Jason Quan**

Jason Quan went over the latest Title VI Plan Update which is good for the next three years (FY 2021-2023). Since transit services are funded with federal and public dollars the plan update is a federal requirement that prohibits discrimination of service based on color, race, and national origin. The plan ensures that the RTA is providing service

equitably across the service area. There are several sections of the plan to ensure that there is a notice to the public of holidays, the public's rights under the Title VI policy, and a process for filing complaints when consumers feel as though their rights have been violated. The plan also deals with the Public Participation Plan which looks at the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and identifies certain segments of the population that speaks very little English and identifies outreach efforts whenever there is a service change. The plan also identifies service standards, service policies, and how the OOT would go about monitoring Title VI complaints (on the service side). In addition, it includes requirements for public participation when there are fare and service changes that are enacted. Primarily fare and service changes that causes a 25% in reduction in services. The plan has been recently submitted to the MTA for approval. Jason mentioned that the OOT currently has three transit advisory boards: the MTB, Rider's Advisory Council, and RTA Commission. This plan identifies the makeup of those boards to ensure that there is equitable representation from a diverse group.

Monica Simon mentioned that the document is very detailed and was impressed with the Title VI plan update and how it hits all of the required areas. Ted Cochran agreed. Questions and comments regarding the Update can be sent to Bruce Gartner.

## **ii. Local Legislation to Prohibit Parking in Bike Lanes- Chris Eatough**

Chris Eatough informed the group that there is confusion regarding Prohibited Parking in Bike Lanes. The Office of Transportation is currently working with the Police Department to amend County Code. Both OOT and HoCo PD agree that it should be illegal to park in a bike lane and that the definition of Bike Lanes needs to be added to the County Code to make it illegal to park in a bike lane and propose a fine amount of \$35. The County wants to make sure that any tickets given to violators can be hold up in court. Enforcement would help keep the bike lanes clear and cyclists safe. The code change is expected to go through the Council legislative process starting in September.

Bruce suggested that the MTB compose a letter of support to the Council to which MTB members agreed.

## **6. Development Updates- David Cookson**

David Cookson provided an updated Development Project Report. Upcoming public meetings include:

- The Erickson at Limestone Valley project with the Zoning Board will be held on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The SDP-69-904 American Cities Building project with the Planning board will be held on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The ZR 193 Bluestream LLC project with the Planning Board will be held on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- THE BA 20-002C-Rock Reality, INC project with the Hearing Examiner will be held on September 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Office of Transportation will be hosting its annual public MDOT Tour Meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 5p.m.

Newly Submitted Development Plans				
Plan Name	Plan No	Units	Description	OOT Comments
Columbia EZ Storage	SDP-20-077	Storage Complex	This project will tear down an existing one-story building and with a 4 story self-storage unit.	Comments are in process, but we do not expect anything significant since the building is set back in the lot, ROW impact on Snowden River Project
Dorsey Center Apartments	SDP-20-033	210	This is for a 210-unit apartment with a center parking garage.	The project will include sidewalks, bike parking, there are bike lanes on Deerpath.

Plan Review Updates on Previous Plans		
Plan Name	Roads/Streets	Status/Update
Bethany Glen	MD 99, Bethany Lane, & Longview Dr.	Plan was submitted, applicant contesting frontage on MD 99.
Lakeview Retail	Broken Land Parkway near Cradle Rock Drive	Applicant is contesting comment related to sidewalk.
Dorseys Ridge Phase 1	Cooks Lane at Old Columbia Road	Information related to offsite improvements provided.
Talbott Springs ES	Whitacre Road	Waiting for resubmission
Rauscher Property	MD 103	Has asked for waiver
Keim Property	MD 99 at Toby Lane	DPW denying waiver, will provide frontage.

## 7. Regional Transportation Issues Update- David Cookson

David Cookson briefly went over the BRTB Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). The TIP is a fiscally constrained 4-year program for projects that are regional, extremely significant, and/or receives federal or state funding. These projects tend to be bigger and have some type of impact on the transportation network. TIP projects are modeled to ensure conformity with air quality standards. As of August 25<sup>th</sup>, the BRTB has voted to approve the TIP. There has been a little push back from a few transit advocacy groups. The Central MD Transportation Alliance is requesting that the BRTB amend this plan to reduce highway projects and increase the amount for Transit projects. This will not help achieve increased transit investment as projects might not be ready to enter the TIP and the concern, they have expressed about the 5 local highway projects is misplaced. Regardless of these concerns, the county is likely to move several projects out of the TIP acted upon Tuesday morning, as they will not be in operation within the time span of the TIP due to local funding limitations.

The chart below presents all the County Projects that either the County or the State Highway Administration are sponsoring.

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Type</b>
Howard County	Bridges-Variou	Preservation
Howard County	Dorsey Run Road: MD 175 to CSX Railroad Spur	Highway Capacity
Howard County	Guilford Road: US 1 to Dorsey Run Road	Highway Capacity
SHA	I-95: Active Traffic Management	Highway Capacity
Howard County	Marriottsville Road and I-70 Bridge Improvements	Highway Capacity
Howard County	MD 175 at Oakland Mills Road Interchange	Highway Capacity
SHA	MD 32: Linden Church Road to I-70, Capacity & Safety Improvements	Highway Capacity
SHA	MD 32: MD 108 to Linden Church Road	Highway Capacity
Howard County	Snowden River Parkway: Broken Land Parkway to Oakland Mills Road	Highway Capacity

Howard County	US 29/Broken Land Parkway Interchange and North South Connector Road	Highway Capacity
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**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next MTB meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2020.

/2020  
Date  
Bruce Gartner  
Executive Secretary

/2020  
Date  
Kimberly Woods  
Office of Transportation