



**MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD
MINUTES April 27, 2020 7:00pm**

Members

Present: Larry Scheon,
Ted Cochran
David Zinner
Monica Simon
Alice Giles
Shariar Etemadi
Terri Hansen
Aphaia Harper
Ron Hartman

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

Members

Excused:

Members of the Public: Phillip Dodge
Alan Schneider
Paul Verchinski
Will Burns
Joel Hurewitz

The meeting was held via Webex where the public was invited to join as participants while the members and staff joined as panelists.

1. Public Comment- General Topics

Alan Schneider wanted to address three issues regarding scooters. Larry Schoen advised Alan that it would be best to save his comments for the public comment session regarding scooters. Alan agreed to hold his comments and concerns. Larry then went on to clarify the role and responsibilities of the Multimodal Transportation Board. Joel Hurewitz was the second speaker who signed up for public comment. Joel briefly discussed the County's planning and timing for scooter permits. Joel questioned why the MTB was soliciting input before CB3 has gone into effect. Joel also addressed the Harpers Farm Road fatality that happened earlier this year. Joel suggested that there's a problem with the timing of the traffic light and something should be done to fix the issue like prohibiting left turns when pedestrians are crossing.

Bruce Gartner informed Joel permits would not be issued until CB3 takes effect and that the police results from the fatal Harper Farm Road accident are still pending. The Department of Public Works is currently looking into that traffic signal. DPW has hired a consulting firm to investigate the signal light at that intersection and others in the area so that things are looked at comprehensively. The group agreed that Pedestrian Safety will be an agenda item for a future MTB meeting.

2. Announcements/Updates

i. Complete Streets- Six Month Report to Council

The six-month report has been submitted to Council. The report discusses the progress that has been made on the Implementation of the new Complete Streets Policy in that time period. The OoT has addressed the comments that were made by the MTB regarding the 6-month report. Funding levels for each of the projects related to Bike, Pedestrian and other Complete Streets related improvements was added to the report.

ii. Howard County Priority Letter to MDOT

A finalized copy of the Howard County Priority Letter has been submitted to the Maryland Department of Transportation. Since then the MTB has voiced concerns regarding sound walls. The Office of Transportation will take sound walls in account in the deliberations for next year. Sound walls seem to be a very popular topic and many (including council members) believe that it should be included in State funding requests even though the likelihood of securing state funding in the near future is limited.

3. New Business/Ongoing Business

i. E-scooter Sharing System-Review and Comment on Draft Permit

1. Summary of Permit Provisions

Chris Eatough went over a 2-page summarized copy of the “Draft: Terms and Conditions for Permit to operate a publicly accessible electric scooter sharing system on Public Right of Way in Howard County” materials. The full 12-page document is available for viewing on the Office of Transportation website. The OoT goal is to have a clear well-defined terms and conditions for scooter operators and companies who are interested in operating in Howard County. In order for scooter companies to operate in the County they would have to adhere to all the terms and conditions listed in the permit.

Responsibilities of the Permit Holder are not limited to but includes the following:

- Permit holder shall ensure each Scooter is in working order, well maintained and clean.
- Permit holder must have the ability to restrict Scooter use and Scooter parking in unauthorized private areas through electronic geofencing.

- Permit holders are required to turn off access to their Scooters daily between the nighttime hours of midnight and 5am.
- Permit holder shall not provide access to Scooters for anyone under 18 years of age.
- Permit holder shall provide at minimum a toll-free telephone number, email, and website address on each Scooter stating how to report an incorrectly parked Scooter. This information shall also be provided in a format readable by the blind and visually impaired.
- Permit hold shall provide an affidavit that they have permission from the Columbia Association to operate on Columbia Association pathways as well as affidavits for any other permissions to operate on private property.

2. Public Comment Period

Name:	Comment/ Suggestions:
Alan Schneider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes that a lot of details are missing in the scooter permit draft that should be fixed. • Recommended mandatory helmet use and comprehensive insurance to cover all injuries and expenses.
Joel Hurewitz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested that there is confusion regarding the scooter zoning areas (Zone 1 & Zone 2). • Believes that actions should be taken under Executive Order 4 regarding the deadlines.
Sharon Maneki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested clarity and uniformity in enforcement. • Clearer language in the scooter permit (more specific) so that all people can complain regarding scooter safety issues.
Phillip Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is in support of scooters. • Believes that shared dock less scooters provides an affordable alternative form of transportation.
Will Burns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes that the rules made up by Howard County effectively regulates the industry. • Suggested that the minimum number of scooters allowed should be reduced from 100 to 50.

- **The group supported lowering the scooter minimum to 50, OoT agreed to move forward with change.**

The MTB members were encouraged to share any other concerns or recommended changes to staff in the next week so that the Office of Transportation could put together a comprehensive response and make changes, if necessary, to the permit before final review by the Howard County Office of Law.

4. Development Review Updates

David Cookson provided the board with a quick update regarding previous projects and informed the group that Howard County is currently working on two new projects:

- Lakeview Retail Plan
 - An office complex is being built on Broken Land Parkway near Cradle Rock Drive.
 - The Office of Transportation is requesting that the applicant provide sidewalk/pathway along the frontage to Cradle Rock Drive and connect to an existing bus stop.
- Dorsey's Ridge
 - Is a 57 residential unit project, with an expected build out of 55 townhouses and 2 apartment complexes.
 - The whole project will provide sidewalks from Cooks Lane to Old Columbia Road to connect to the existing sidewalk network as well as a shared use pathway along the utility corridor to connect to Veterans Elementary School.

5. MTB Leadership Changes

Ron Hartman officially stepped down as chair for the Multimodal Transportation Board and encouraged nominations from its current members. Alice Giles nominated Larry Schoen for Chair of the MTB, Shariar Etemadi seconded the motion. Alice Giles then nominated Ted Cochran for Vice-Chair of the MTB, Shariar Etemadi seconded the motion for Ted Cochran to become the Vice-Chair of the MTB. Larry Schoen is now the Chair and Ted Cochran is now the Vice-Chair of the Multimodal Transportation Board.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

7. Next Meeting

The next MTB meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2020.

Bruce Gartner	/2020
Executive Secretary	Date

Kimberly Woods	/2020
Office of Transportation	Date