

Minutes for RBAC Meeting: January 6, 2021

7:00 – 9:00 pm, virtual Zoom meeting

In attendance online: Wendy Aaronson, Connie Bertka, Nancy Breen, Sophie Chan-Wood, Monte Fisher, Mitch Gross, Jake Jakubek, Andrew Luetkemeier, Carl Petersen, Mark Pierzchala, Alyssa Roff, Shannon Brescher Shea, Jonathan Solomon and Tracy Threefoot.

Nancy started the meeting at 7:05 pm with introductions.
A Tree House update was added to the agenda by Jonathan.

(1) Our special guest, Andrew Luetkemeier, a principal transportation engineer for the City presented the **Baltimore Road project**. He has worked with the City of Rockville for about 12 years and concentrates on capital improvement projects and street light issues.

The Baltimore Road project involves an east-west connection from the City limits to the Rockville Town Center. The contractor on this project is Locust Lane Farms who is new to the City but has worked other states. Depending on the weather, construction is scheduled to start this winter. There will be curb bump-outs and enhanced crossings at Grandin Ave and S. Horners Lane. From Norbeck Road to the city limits (just pass Rockville High School), an 8-foot wide multi-use path will be installed on the south side of Baltimore Road, and then switched to the north side at Edmonston Ave (by the Civic Center).

The trees and brush along the shopping center on the north side of Baltimore Road will need to be maintained since there will be vehicular traffic coming in and out of the retail parking lot. There will be a continuous trail at the church property at Twinbrook Pkwy. Montgomery County owns the rest of the path that leads to the Rock Creek Trail. Perhaps MCBAG can let the County know what the City of Rockville will be doing and provide updates.

(2) In the City Update, Alyssa discussed the survey topics for the **Vision Zero survey** which will be open to the public starting in mid-January until May. (See survey questions attached). A Vision Zero update will be reported to the Mayor & City Council on February 1. Work has begun on most of the action items in the plan. However with schools being closed, the timeline will change with different outreach to this audience.

Alyssa also updated that **shared roadway** signage will be installed on Maryland Avenue between Beall Ave and S. Washington Street. There will be a bike lane and signage on N Farm Lane from Montrose Rd to Tower Oaks Blvd.

(3) Mark announced the **wayfinding report** was reviewed at Monday's Mayor & City Council meeting. Most signs radiate from the Rockville Town Center. The budget will impact how quickly signs will be installed.

January 11 is the next budget hearing. RBAC will continue to ask for bike parking racks and signage.

The I-270 expansion will be discussed at the January 25 Council meeting based on the received public feedback.

(4) Carl, Nancy, Shannon and Wendy attend the **Transportation & Traffic Commission** meeting on Tuesday, December 8 along with members of the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee. Eric Fulton, the chair of RPAC, presented what disparities are and the social justice solution: equity. Nancy presented RBAC's plans on equity outreach (see attached notes). After the meeting, the new TTC chair reached out for future discussion with RPAC and RBAC. Nancy also spoke with Hjarman Cordero about specific ideas for equity outreach in the future.

(5) At next month's meeting, Carl will present a **virtual ride for Black History Month** in February. Since not many riders may participate in the colder weather, the same ride could be announced for Juneteenth which is now a City holiday.

(6) Jonathan received an email update from the Tree House regarding **the 2021 Tour de Cookie**. Their idea is to have riders participate over a week or two and submit photos and/or video. They wanted to confirm in the routes are "certified" although they are still posted and present on their own website. The Tree House may provide t-shirts and bibs to be worn in photos.

RBAC would not be involved directly but would provide safety advice and would let the City and County know that the Carl Henn Millennium Trail will need maintenance for all the possible riders in May.

Tabled to February meeting:

- Update - New source of cycling data (Dave Stinchcomb)
- Report from TTC/Comprehensive Transportation Review 2018 update (Nancy)
- Updates from MCBAG, RBAC, Tour de Cookie, WABA, RBH, other

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sophie Chan-Wood

PROPOSED VISION ZERO SURVEY QUESTIONS:

1. What is your primary mode of travel in in the City of Rockville?

- Walking in my neighborhood
- Using a wheelchair in my neighborhood
- Using a scooter in my neighborhood
- Biking in my neighborhood
- Driving in my neighborhood
- Using public transit
- Walking in commercial areas (grocery store, retail, restaurants, etc.)
- Using a wheelchair in commercial areas (grocery store, retail, restaurants, etc.)
- Using a scooter in commercial areas (grocery store, retail, restaurants, etc.)
- Biking in commercial areas (grocery store, retail, restaurants, etc.)
- Driving in commercial areas (grocery store, retail, restaurants, etc.)

[Multiple choice answer response]

2. From the perspective of traffic and pedestrian safety, how safe do you feel doing the following in the City of Rockville?

- Walking in my neighborhood
- Using a wheelchair in my neighborhood
- Using a scooter in my neighborhood
- Biking in my neighborhood
- Driving in my neighborhood
- Transit riders
- Walking in commercial areas (grocery store, retail, restaurants, etc.)
- Using a wheelchair in commercial areas (grocery store, retail, restaurants, etc.)
- Using a scooter in commercial areas (grocery store, retail, restaurants, etc.)
- Biking in city in commercial areas (grocery store, retail, restaurants, etc.)
- Driving in city in commercial areas (grocery store, retail, restaurants, etc.)

[Single choice answer for each mode from the list of responses below]

- **Very Safe**
- **Somewhat safe**
- **Neutral**
- **Somewhat unsafe**
- **Very unsafe**
- **Not Applicable**

3. Have you, or someone you know, ever been involved in a traffic crash in the City of Rockville within the past 5 years? If so, how severe was the collision? Please select all that apply

- No
- Yes and those involved experienced no or mild injuries
- Yes and those involved were treated for injuries which they still suffer from

- Yes and there was a fatality involved in the crash

[Multiple answer response]

4. How much do you think the following factors contribute to traffic crashes in Rockville?

- Design of streets and intersections
- Motorists and non-motorist not following the law
- Lack of knowledge/education about traffic safety
- Use of excessive speeds
- Distraction/inattention caused by electronic devices
- Drug, alcohol, or other impairment
- Lack of traffic enforcement
- Poorly maintained infrastructure: potholes, cracked sidewalks, faded crosswalk markings, etc
- Unclear signage
- Impaired visibility due to poor lighting from streetlights
- Weather conditions impairing visibility or travel conditions (rain, fog, sunlight, darkness, snow, ice, etc.)
- Lack of non-motorist options for cyclists, wheelchair users, scooters, pedestrians, and transit riders
- Lack of access for people with disabilities
- Not enough time to cross the street

[Single answer for each mode from the list of responses below]

- **Very high contributor**
- **Somewhat high contributor**
- **Neutral**
- **Somewhat low contributor**
- **Very low contributor**
- **Not Applicable**

5. Where in the City do you feel the least safe from a transportation perspective? Please specify the location on the map below

[Map response, users designate 1 location]

6. Which mode do you fee the least safe at the above location for question 5? Please select all that apply

- Walking
- Using a wheelchair
- Using a scooter
- Biking
- Driving
- Using public transit

[Multiple answer response]

7. The City’s Vision Zero Action Plan breaks down transportation safety into four areas to focus efforts. From the options below, please rank the areas to focus efforts for making these locations around Rockville safer. Each area of focus shows some of the tasks listed in the City’s Vision Zero Action Plan.

- Enforcement:
 - Collaboration with the court system
 - Enhancing police driver training
 - Providing temporary traffic control devices
 - Providing a number of automated speed and red-light cameras where applicable
 - Enforcement of traffic laws
- Engineering:
 - Providing a network of safe bike lanes and sidewalks
 - Retrofit existing roads with safer roadway design
 - Maintenance of existing infrastructure
 - Adding traffic lights to unsignalized intersections and mid-block crossing locations
 - Providing accessible public transit options
- Policy:
 - Lower speed limits
 - Prohibit turn on Red at signalized intersections
 - Coordinate with the City’s partners at the County and State level
 - Change Policies, Regulations, and Laws
 - Being transparent about the City’s crash data
- Education:
 - Providing awareness on the City’s Vision Zero goals
 - Helping people better understand the rules of the road
 - Encouraging people to make safer decisions
 - Providing training in the community about Vision Zero
 - Joining the County on safe route to school activities and bike safety trainings

[Rank options for Enforcement, Engineering, Policy, Education]

8. What additional ideas and thoughts would you like to share about improving roadway safety in our City?
Please specify below

[Open-ended answer]

9. Please provide your zip code to ensure we are incorporating all voices from throughout the City.

[Open-ended answer]

10. Your age

- Under 18
- 18 to 24
- 25 to 44
- 45 to 64
- 65 or over

[Drop down response]

11. What is your race or ethnicity? Please select all that apply

- White
- Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish
- Black or African American
- Asian or Asian Indian
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Other

[Multiple answer response]

12. The City's Vision Zero Action Plan acknowledges some groups are more vulnerable concerning transportation safety. Do you identify with any of the following groups? Please select all that apply

- Under 18 years old
- 55+ Community
- Transit Riders
- Non-motorist (cyclist, pedestrian, wheelchair users, scooter users, etc.)
- People with disabilities
- Communities that experience racial, ethnic, and/or socioeconomic disparities

[Multiple answer response]

Presented at the Traffic & Transportation Commission Meeting on 12/8:

RBAC & RBH: Key Points to Promote Equity and Social Justice in Bicycling

1. Put education above enforcement
2. Give priority to Infrastructure in underserved communities
3. Access to affordable bicycles and affordable bike repair via permanent space for RBH
4. Expand RBAC efforts to encourage inclusion to highlight specific ethnic communities