



## MEETING MINUTES Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee

Meeting 23-01  
Thursday, January 12, 2023 – 7:00 PM

This meeting was held virtually and recorded for public access. The recording can be found online:

<https://rockvillemd.webex.com/webappng/sites/rockvillemd/recording/a5e331687503103bb433762eb5cd1531/playback>

### Minutes

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1. Welcome
    - a. Meeting Recording
    - b. Introductions
    - c. Approval of December 2023 Meeting Minutes

**MOTION: Ethan Goff motioned to approved the December 2023 Meeting Minutes; SECOND: Kathleen Kleinmann; DISCUSSION: The minutes were revised to correct one grammatic error; APPROVED: Unanimously.**

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2. City Updates
    - a. Town Center Road Diets – Construction will be construction in early 2023, likely next month and is scheduled to be complete in September 2023.
    - b. Beall Ave Intersections & Monroe & Fleet Complete Streets
      - i. Data collection effort is on going for Beall Avenue project. If RPAC has any recommendations for this project or experiences traveling on Beall Avenue, please share with Bryan Barnett-Woods.
      - ii. Monroe and Fleet Complete Streets project is also in data collection and initial designs phases. Alternatives will be shared with this group when they are complete.
    - c. Twinbrook Parkway & Chapman Avenue – a leading pedestrian interval was programmed into the signal phases

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to help people crossing Twinbrook Parkway on the east side. Additional signs will also be added soon.

- d. Edmonston Drive – staff visited the Edmonston Drive and Crawford Drive intersection and evaluated opportunities for adding a pedestrian refuge island.
- e. Sidewalk feasibility – the consultant has completed first draft of cost estimates and plans for sidewalk gaps. Staff will review and once refined, plans will be shared with communities.
- f. Pedestrian master plan – Plan drafting is ongoing and plan is to release the draft by end of January/early February.
- g. Ongoing Grants
  - i. MD Bikeways – the agreements for these projects will be shared with the M&C on January 23, 2023.
  - ii. TAP/SRTS – Draft grant agreement from MDOT is expected at the end of January.
  - iii. MDOT Maryland Highway Safety Office opportunity – There is an upcoming opportunity that the Police Department uses for enhanced traffic enforcement. It may be able to be used for state roadway sidewalk projects. It is not clear if this is the case.

Are there plans for work on Edmonston Drive and Lewis Avenue? Yes. This intersection is included in the Vision Zero intersections list and was in the first group for review by a consultant. The report will be ready in February. An initial draft recommended pavement markings are curb extensions for this intersection.

Is there a map for where Leading Pedestrian Intervals are placed in the City? Is there a criteria for where these are placed? NO map by City staff. Most are in the Town Center area.

RPAC members who are near Beall Avenue should provide input to Bryan Barnett-Woods.

RPAC would like to raise questions related to the standards for time it takes to cross the street for pedestrians. RPAC would like to learn more about how these standards are applied equitably. Pedestrian crossing times are generally applied city wide, if additional time is required, the best approach is for residents to submit a concern to request more time.

Concerns can be submitted online:

<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/Report-a-Concern-14/Report-a-Concern-261>

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RPAC members have sent in countless concerns. Sometimes acknowledgments are received, but not frequently. RPAC would like to raise this issue with other City staff about how to improve engagement with the Community.

A formal presentation from DPW staff to discuss practical implications for maintenance and improvements and addressing reported concerns.

M&C has added in priority letter to District 17 to better implement Vision Zero at the state level, and contributory negligence. Also new sidewalk to F. Scott Fitzgerald theatre was completed and well used.

Vision Zero quarterly report will be ready February 1, 2023.

The budget priority survey is available online:

<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/951/Budget-Financials>

The first budget public hearing is March 6, 2023.

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### 3. December Crash Report

- a. Lt. Crawford, RCPD
- b. There were five pedestrian collisions in December
  - a. The 12/1/23 crash on MD 355 at Talbott is unknown fault because CRU is going to complete the crash report. When CRU handles a collision, there is no patrol report.
  - c. Criminal charges are generally handled at the traffic level. If a person is killed from a crash, criminal changes are considered by the CRU.

What is the trigger for substance abuse? At the crash there needs to be an indicator or impairment. Which then goes to field sobriety test.

There was a recent incident when a pedestrian tripped and a County police officer witnessed the incident, but did not respond. Rockville Police Officers are instructed to render aid when an incident occurs and they are present.

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### 4. RPAC 2023

- a. Internal Goal Setting
- b. Inter-Committee Summit

This item will be moved to next month.

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### 5. Walktober 2023

- a. Dates – M&C Calendar update
  - i. Focus the event should be the walk and roll and talk w/M&C
  - ii. Bryan will follow up with the City Clerk's office to add to the Mayor and Council calendar.

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- b. Activities brainstorm
    - i. Bingo / scavenger hunt
    - ii. Neighborhood walks

If any RPAC members have any ideas for RPAC Walktober events, please share those ideas with Marissa Valeri and Bryan Barnett-Woods.

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- 6. Rockville Metrorail Station Concept Visioning
  - a. Mayor & Council 12/5/2022 meeting:  
[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4628](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4628)
  - b. Agenda item:  
<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/12052022-6758>
  - c. The favored alternative by staff was an updated version of the status quo. Pedestrian bridge, elevator dependence, etc.
  - d. What would be more ideal:
    - i. Outreach meetings included recommendations that were not included – early meetings exciting, product was less so.
    - ii. Are funds from the state or another source available to implement the visions?
    - iii. This project should be beyond what is “safe” but what should be convenient/easy. Unless the bridge goes to where one travels, it will not be used.
    - iv. The existing bridge needs better lighting and can be a creepy walk at night. It does not feel comfortable. Reliance on elevators is not good.
    - v. A safe solution for the intersection needs to be addressed – no matter what.
    - vi. Sidewalk is not very good or wide on the west side.
    - vii. Signage on town center side needs to be improved
    - viii. Economic development – town center could be more transit-oriented if the metro was better connected
    - ix. Shortening the path across the street. How to make people feel welcome crossing town center.
    - x. Add a pedestrian median/refuge on MD 355
    - xi. Make the intersection safer. How to rethink these areas for long term walkability goals
  - e. High School students can’t get from metro to school.
  - f. The corner of town center in many people’s minds is E Middle Lane and Hungerford Drive, not at the bridge location. So getting to the bridge, never seems like the most direct path.

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- g. This could be an opportunity for RBAC to provide comments as well.

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7. Sidewalk maintenance for state roadways

Tabled to next meeting

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8. City Budget
    - a. <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/951/Budget-Financials>
    - b. RPAC recommendations

Tabled to next meeting

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9. Open Discussion

If you are interested to act as Co-Chair for RPAC, please contact Marissa Valeri or Bryan Barnett-Woods.

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10. Adjourn Meeting

- a. Next Meeting: February 9, 2023, 7:00 PM

#### Community Garden for Future Discussion

- Presentation related to practical Department of Public Works matter, e.g., when and how to best add pavement markings, process for changing signal timing, learning more about what Public Works Crews do.
- Zoning Ordinance Update

#### **Additional Resources**

[RPAC Home Page](#)

[Pedestrian Master Plan Home Page](#)

[Vision Zero Home page](#)