

## Minutes for RBAC Meeting: February 2, 2022

7:00 – 9:00 pm, virtual Webex meeting

*In attendance online:* Bryan Barnett-Woods, Olivia Bobrowsky, Nancy Breen, Sophie Chan-Wood, Robert Dalgarno, Lynda Honberg, Jake Jakubek, Bill Michie, Carl Petersen, Mark Pierzchala, Jonathan Solomon, Dave Stinchcomb and Tracy Threefoot.

Nancy started the meeting at 7:05 pm. Bryan requested approval of the January meeting minutes. Carl requested his agenda item of 2022 Rides to be tabled to next month, which was granted.

(1) As part of the **City Update**, Bryan said the support letter for MWCOG Transportation Land Use Connections (TLC) Technical Assistance application for Fleet and Monroe Streets connection looks good (see attached). MWCOG will pay contractor for road diet to extend to Richard Montgomery High School.

The second allocation project will be on **Beall Ave** between 355 and N Washington Street since this transit-accessible, multi-modal and is an equity area for Vision Zero. [This has since been tabled to the next round of applications.]

Bryan will review the National Roadway Safety Strategy from the U.S. Department of Transportation. ([https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-01/USDOT\\_National\\_Roadway\\_Safety\\_Strategy\\_0.pdf](https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-01/USDOT_National_Roadway_Safety_Strategy_0.pdf)). This strategy follows the “safe system” approach, which is similar to Vision Zero. See page 8 for national bicycle fatalities by race/ethnicity and page 9 for national bicycle fatalities 2010-2020.

He also updated that **N Washington/Middle** road diet is underway. The **Maryland Avenue** bike lanes are complete and traffic has calmed in the past month with less accidents. The **Baltimore Road** project is on schedule for spring completion.

(2) Nancy and Bill attended the **MCBAG** (Montgomery County Bicycle Advisory Group) meeting and heard that the design plan for BRT (bus rapid transit) has been funded. Montgomery County will also implement a 20 mph speed limit on certain streets.

(3) Mark provided the **Council Update** and said the budget process will be released at the end of February with budget hearings in March. As he has stated in the past, Mark suggested to show up early and often and say what you want verbally, not only written in email. This would be the most impactful.

There will be a work session with Mayor & City Council on February 7 regarding **RedGate Park**. Pages 26 to 44 of the meeting agenda has lots of images for the development proposals (<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/02072022-6495>). This was declared to remain a park about 18 months ago but looking for active uses such as

sport fields, an amphitheater with increase in parking spots. The City facility at 6 Taft Court could provide an adjacent parking area. A community center would need to be built and need financial support.

Mark received a letter from the West End Civic Association regarding **Beall Ave** and the road diets around Town Center. He will forward to Nancy and Bryan.

The West End had no complaints with **Maryland Ave** going from 3 lanes to 2 as traffic is not the same as pre-pandemic times. New Mark Commons residents requested this road diet due to the noisy traffic.

The Sierra Club wrote a letter regarding the environmental impact of the **I-270 expansion**. Mark took 6 hours to read this 100+ page document and it provided good points and suggestions.

(4) Bryan thanked everyone for their input on **bike infrastructure priorities**. He provided a table which summarizes everyone's comments. This list will be used by the City to identify priorities and make assessments as projects come up.

(5) Nancy, Bill and Bryan scoped out the 150-acre **RedGate Park** in advance of reviewing the development concepts and to assess possible connections to adjacent facilities (Lakes Frank and Needwood, and the Rock Creek Trail). The City's project team provided diagrams which offered two entrances to the park from Avery Road and Taft Court. Bryan says there will be community outreach after the February 7 proposals are presented. He also recommended RBAC draft a letter to Mayor and City Council to support biking facilities. We will have further discussions next month.

(6) Jonathan provide the **Tour de Cookie** update and gave kudos to Jake, Nancy, Sophie and Wendy for helping to develop two routes: a 12-miler and 30-miler which will eliminate part of the Carl Henn Millennium Trail along E Gude. Duwan from Safe Routes to Schools will be helping the Tree House with a bike rodeo on the day of the event. The website will be ready and open for registrations by next week.

(7) Jake drafted a letter to Mayor and City Council regarding the **contributory negligence law** in Maryland. The Rockville Pedestrian Advocate Committee (RPAC) may also want to support this with their own letter. Edits will need to made to correlate to a state bill before M&CC forwards to the state legislators. Other jurisdictions may want to support this letter. Mark will ask the City's state liaison to provide background on related legislation.

(8) Dave reported that the **RPAC** is working on a sidewalk priorities list and a Pedestrian Master Pan. Everyone is encouraged to take their survey:

<https://engagerockville.com/pedestrian-master-plan>

Tabled to March meeting:

- Bike racks (Wendy)
- 2020 rides (Carl)

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sophie Chan-Wood

John Swanson, Program Manager  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002

RE: Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program, City of Rockville Application Support

Dear Mr. Swanson,

On behalf of the Rockville Bicycle Advisory and Pedestrian Advocacy Committees (RBAC and RPAC), we are pleased to provide you this letter supporting the City's TLC application, "Fleet and Monroe Streets Multimodal Road Diet Feasibility Study," submitted by the City of Rockville. This project will continue the City's momentum building Complete Streets that better and more equitably provide facilities for people to safely walk, bike, and take transit.

Fleet and Monroe Streets are in one of the most active parts of Rockville and provide connections to City Hall, County Executive and Council buildings, retail and offices, parks, single and multifamily neighborhoods, an older adult community, a residential community for people with disabilities, Richard Montgomery High School, and a Metrorail and MARC transit station.

A road diet and Complete Street along these roads will not only improve conditions people walking, bicycling, using transit, and driving, but also improve everyone's ability to do so safely, consistent with the City of Rockville's Vision Zero Action Plan. This project will connect with the nearby and recently completed Maryland Avenue road diet and bikes lanes, creating a fuller bicycle and pedestrian network in the Rockville Town Center.

This project will also help implement recommendations from the City's adopted Bikeway Master Plan which recommends bicycle facilities on Fleet and Monroe Streets, and is consistent with the ongoing Pedestrian Master Plan project, which envisions the city as supporting all residents and visitors the ability to travel safely, comfortably, and directly for recreational, economic, and social purposes. These roads currently do not have any bicycle facilities and minimal sidewalks. A feasibility study to help advance multimodal transportation and access to transit in this area is well-needed and will have a positive impact in the area.

If this project is approved for the FY 23 MWCOG TLC program, RBAC and RPAC will work to support the study, provide comments to design plans, and participate in any public meetings as key stakeholders. We support the City's effort to submit this project as a TLC application and their continued work towards a more equitable transportation system in Rockville.

Should you have any questions about this project, please do not hesitate to speak with Bryan Barnett-Woods, Principal Transportation Planner, at [bbwoods@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:bbwoods@rockvillemd.gov).

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy Breen, Chair  
Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee

Mr. Eric Fulton, Chair  
Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee