

Mayor Tracey Furman

**Council Member Darin Bartram
Council Member Sean McMullen**



**Council Member Conor Crimmins
Council Member Duane Rollins**

**Traffic Committee Meeting Notes
Thursday, May 11th, 7:00 pm
2nd Floor Map Room**

Committee Members in Attendance: Council Member Darin Bartram, Sanford Daily (staff), Daniel Martin, John Doherty, Leslie Olson, Karen Sage, and Anne-Marie Turner.

Public Attendance: Robbie Speece; Peter Rickman; members of Boy Scout troop.

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

New Items

1. **Summit Avenue Extension Alternatives** – Discussed the proposed alternatives to the Summit Avenue Extension Project
 - No action was required on this item, but rather the purpose was to inform Committee members about the current views of County staff regarding the cost-benefit of the Summit Ave. Extension, and their proposal for alternative, short-term improvements. Committee members shared concern that the short-term improvements were focused on the Plyers Mill/Connecticut Ave. intersection and did not address congestion at the Knowles/Connecticut Ave. intersection.
2. **Bicycle Master Plan** – Discussed the proposed Bicycle Master Plan recommendation by Montgomery County.
 - No action was required, but the purpose was to inform Committee members of the County's Bicycle Master Plan and to keep it in mind as future development arises.
3. **Connecticut Avenue Pedestrian Safety**
 - The Committee discussed Mr. Lehman's emailed concerns about pedestrian safety in getting from Plyers Mill/Metropolitan down across Knowles Ave. The main discussion focused on the difficulties crossing Knowles to the east of Connecticut Ave., because (1) southbound Connecticut Ave. turning onto Knowles often proceeds quickly to get through three northbound lanes, (2) right-turning traffic from northbound Connecticut traffic proceeds quickly around the corner onto Knowles before confronting pedestrians in the crosswalk,

and right-turning traffic from Knowles is looking left towards oncoming traffic rather than to the right where pedestrians appear. Although Committee members did not have any suggestions for the State to improve any of these conditions, Mr. Martin suggested consideration of installation of a sidewalk on the north side of Knowles, to allow pedestrians to cross to the other side of Knowles further away from Connecticut Ave.

Old Business

1. *Petition – Request to Restrict Parking along the west side of the 10500 Block of Wheatley Street to Two (2) Hours, 7 am – 5 pm, Monday through Friday, Except by Permit.*

- The Committee discussed the petition, and also discussed alternative measures to address perceived pedestrian safety concerns on Wheatley. Residents expressed concern about walking in the street. Committee members noted concerns that restricting parking on one side of the street could lead to increased traffic speeds and that a sidewalk on the east side of Wheatley might be more effective at addressing pedestrian safety. In addition, Committee members discussed traffic calming measures and possible curb bump-outs to slow traffic. Although Committee members had reservations about the effectiveness of parking restrictions in addressing pedestrian safety, the consensus was to forward the petition to the Council for proposed approval, and to consider alternative improvements such as a sidewalk.

2. *Design Concept – Reviewed of the design concept for the proposed bump out at the intersection of Howard Avenue and Fawcett Street*

- The three alternatives for a bump-out at this intersection were discussed, which would increase sight-distance, shorten the crosswalk, slow traffic, and force vehicles to enter Howard from a greater radius.
- Committee members noted the continued impairment of sight-distance caused by large vehicles parked on Howard Ave. The consensus was to recommend Option 2, because it would preserve sight distance and would also allow parking of one vehicle on Fawcett St. that would otherwise not be allowed under Option 1.

3. *No Left Turn Restriction (Kensington Pkwy. at Kent St.)*

- After discussion, during which it was noted that the original reason for the sign could not be ascertained and its removal during the last six months revealed no adverse consequences, Committee recommended permanent removal of the sign.

4. *Parking improvements along Summit Ave. north of Knowles*

- Mr. Daily discussed the current parking issues along Summit Ave. and inquired whether the Committee would support requesting improvements from the County on this county-owned road. The Committee was generally supportive of such improvements, but felt that any improvements should be consistent with eventual implementation of the Summit Ave. Extension as well as Summit's designation for a Separated Bikeway under the County's Bicycle Master Plan.

Adjourn: 9:00 pm