

Mayor Tracey Furman

Council Member Darin Bartram
Council Member Nate Engle



Council Member Conor Crimmins
Council Member Bridget Hill-Zayat

Working Group Meeting Notes
Pedestrian and Bicycling Access and Safety Working Group
Thursday, December 10, 2020, 7:00 pm
Via Zoom Video Conference

Working Group Chair: Nate Engle, Chair; Anne-Marie Turner, Co-Chair

Working Group Members Participating: Al, Chris, Alan, David

1. Walkability audit update – remaining sections to complete, general feedback
 - Generally good feedback on the experience everyone has been having conducting the audits.
 - Everyone is identifying recommendations and beginning to add to the prioritization list where relevant.
 - Discussed some of the peculiarities that everyone identified and affirmed the value of the audit process.
 - Next steps are for **everyone to complete their audit sections by December 15, and link key recommendations (higher-level, wide-sweeping, very critical needs) to the prioritization excel sheet**. Other detailed recommendations that are site-specific, and not necessarily critical for the prioritization sheet, can be pulled out of the audit tracking sheet when needed. These can also be included in the WG's report to Town Council in February.
 - Anne Marie showed a map of the University/Connecticut area, where she had identified priority upgrades and changes. **Anne-Marie offered to help reflect similar walk audit and prioritization sheet recommendations in a similar manner to accompany the WG report (i.e., key infrastructure changes).**

2. Prioritization process tracking – discuss content filled in to-date
 - Alan walked through sheet. Still need to agree on how to do the prioritization. Agreed that the goal is to begin to prioritize options and report at an upcoming ToK Council Meeting. WG agreed that drafting of the report should begin, and should be structured in three main sections: 1) Overarching recommendations on process/resources to pursue that will bring more attention and support to the pedestrian and bicycling agenda in the Town; 2) Highlight key themes, Town-wide recommendations, and significant infrastructure changes emerging from the prioritization process; 3) share database of site-specific items that need improvement, including the map indicating these areas. **Nate will hold the pen on a first draft, to be shared with WG prior to and for discussion at the January WG meeting.** Goal is to present the report to Town Council in February meeting. **Everyone should please finalize**

their contributions to the prioritization sheet by December 19th, after which Nate will start drafting the report.

- Issue of street lighting came up – who owns the lights, poles, etc.? Al and Nate provided a brief update on the role of Pepco, and the WG discussed the potential usefulness of hiring a lighting consultant to help optimize lighting and navigating Pepco issues in a way that can benefit pedestrian and bicycling access and safety. Suggestion to talk with a lighting consultant about how to optimize the lighting. Agreement that a careful look at lighting needs should be a priority for the Town.

3. SHA ongoing/planned studies affecting ToK

- Al provided an update, based on his exchange with Derek Gunn from SHA. His notes on each of the four ongoing studies are included here as an annex.
- There are opportunities for the WG and the Town to piggyback off these reports/processes with our recommendations. **Nate to make sure that these linkages are noted in the abovementioned WG report.**
- Al also shared grant opportunities that were recently announced by the state, including:
 - o [Bikeways Network Program](#), for which LOIs are due April 2.
 - o Transportation Alternatives Program and the Recreational Trails Program, for which [grants were just announced](#).

4. County pedestrian questionnaire feedback

- Nobody was able to participate in time, so nothing to report here.

5. Capitol Bike Share update

- Nate reported that he'll be speaking with Sande Brecher from Montgomery County DoT to get an update on the country's current receptivity to adding capital bike share stations, and whether Kensington might be a candidate for this. This will be a conversation following up on a discussion Councilmember Hill-Zayat had with Sande in June 2019.
- Some discussion that new developments in the Town may be paying into the program, so we should be able to get some of the benefits back out of it. Also noted that when looking on an area map, Kensington is a 'hole' in the bikeshare and electronic bike network. Also, the State has previously chipped in for funding into the county program – most recently a bond bill roughly four years ago.
- Nate will keep these points in mind when discussing with Sande and invite her to a future WG meeting if it seems relevant. Also, **let Nate know if you want to join the meeting next week with Sande (date and time TBD).**

Next meeting, Thursday January 14th, 7pm (Zoom info to follow).

Annex: Report on SHA studies relevant to Kensington from Al Carr via Derek Gunn

Hello Delegate Carr:

Thank you for your email. We are currently reviewing traffic safety conditions along several corridors in Kensington.

MDOT SHA Office of Planning's comprehensive MD 185 (Connecticut Avenue) Corridor Needs Study from Chevy Chase Circle to MD 193 (University Boulevard) is currently in progress. The study was initiated in Spring 2020 to identify strategies to address pedestrian and bicycle network deficiencies along the corridor. The study is scheduled to be completed in Winter 2020-2021.

Our MDOT SHA District Three traffic office is currently evaluating pedestrian and bicycle safety and speed conditions along the MD 193 (University Boulevard) corridor. Review efforts are in progress at this time. All appropriate context-guided safety measures are being carefully considered as part of our efforts.

MDOT SHA District Three recently completed a review of the MD 547 corridor from Beach Drive to MD 185. The review included an inventory of existing roadway conditions, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, the Montgomery County Planning Bicycle Master Plan, and information on planned developments submitted to our Access Management office. Findings have been shared with local officials and community members.

Additionally, our MDOT SHA District 3 Engineering Systems Team and traffic engineering staff are reviewing roadway geometry conditions and available sight lines near the Kensington Library location for pedestrian safety. Review efforts are moving forward. Findings should be available in mid-December, if not sooner.

Sincerely,

Derek L. Gunn, P.E.
Acting Deputy District Engineer