

**Mayor Tracey Furman**

**Council Member Darin Bartram  
Council Member Nate Engle**



**Council Member Conor Crimmins  
Council Member Bridget Hill-Zayat**

## **Notes**

### **Pedestrian and Bicycling Access and Safety Working Group**

**Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7:30 pm**

**Via Zoom Video Conference**

Meeting Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/4RScU4mn5etZhutFfwTBDahWGAYiGZqee-WG8HrbOE3hJ3h1gBXdQIiTAIaxBvYUFMBgooNdTkNk7Gs.Yf4ZZR5EpPC86dWF?continueMode=true>

Passcode: 7v?wKjtL

**Working Group Chairs:** Nate Engle and Chris Zappi

**Working Group Participants:** Al Carr, David Romeo, Jonathan Rogers, Jamie Keller, Art Witczak, Alison Durland, Carole O'Toole, Michael Lehmann, Alan Simon

#### **Agenda:**

1. Announcements and introductions
  - Thanked Chris Zappi for agreeing to serve as co-chair.
  - Welcomed new participants joining for the first time.
  
2. Connecticut Avenue safety
  - Updated on recent accidents and open discussion on what else can be done to support improvements (in addition to what is already in the works). Ideas included:
    - o Eliminating the ability for cars to cross to the other side of Connecticut without a light.
    - o Temporarily removing the "sharrows" until safer bike infrastructure is installed.
    - o Reaching out to Uber and Waze for altering suggested routes (e.g., to not suggest cutting across traffic).
    - o Installing "driver feedback signs" that give drivers a very public sense of how fast they are going.
  
3. Kensington Parkway shoulder improvements
  - Updated that MCDOT has final designs and is working to finalize its MOU with WSSC to complete the work. Anticipated construction is for spring 2022.
  - Discussed when to begin the process to provide similar improvements in the Town of Kensington's stretch.

- Agreed it would be good to initiate preliminary analysis with the Town Engineer and have some options ready (mock-ups, trade-offs, cross-sections, etc.) to discuss with the WG in the coming months. This would inform the public input and more detailed analysis processes once MCDOT/WSSC completes the work later in 2022. **Nate to suggest the Town initiate the preliminary analysis at the next Town Council meeting.**
4. TLC grant update – public engagement and field visit
    - Updated on ongoing process, recent field visit, and composition of Steering Group. **Melissa to update the WG on the public engagement process over email.**
    - **Working Group to feed questions and ideas to Nate for the Consultants and Steering Group as they arise.**
  5. BPPA designation update
    - Updated that the process will kick-off in the coming weeks/month.
  6. Other
    - Congratulated Chris Zappi for his appointment to the Washington Suburban Transit Commission.
    - Discussed Ride on Route 4 proposed service expansion, which will not only connect the MARC station to Wheaton, it may also pave the way for needed improvements at the Howard Ave./Connecticut Ave. intersection and help eliminate the need for buses to idle on Armory as a holding spot. **Nate to share draft letter of support with the WG for feedback, which will express support for the expansion from the Town of Kensington and submit as public comments.**
    - Updated on University Boulevard “road diet” letter the Town recently sent to SHA.
    - Discussed the need for the WG to revisit lighting issues and a possible analysis for streetlight improvements. Suggested for WG members to note obvious areas for improvements that they see and put in the prioritization sheet. **Alan to share prioritization sheet with the WG so new participants have access to it.**

**Next meeting January 25<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm**

#### **Notes from the Chat**

19:48:05 From Jamie Keller to Everyone:

Speed cameras have their issues - see <https://www.bjcl.org/blog/speeding-into-the-future-the-pitfalls-of-automated-traffic-enforcement>

19:55:58 From Jamie Keller to Everyone:

A sharrow is not a bike lane <https://www.bicycling.com/news/a20044419/what-are-sharrows-used-for/>

19:58:51 From Jonathan Rogers to Everyone:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-02-05/study-sharrows-might-be-more-dangerous-to-cyclists-than-having-no-bike-infrastructure>

20:17:30 From Al Carr to Everyone:

Thought the project in Middlebury Vermont to lower the railroad tracks thru town was fascinating <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/projects/middlebury/about>

20:21:37 From Al Carr to Everyone:

Agree on the need for SHA to trim median shrubs south of TOK to improve visibility. A real issue for Washington St turning onto Conn Ave

20:26:21 From Jamie Keller to Everyone:

One example: traveling NB on Conn Ave, trying to turn left onto Dresden, visibility is obscured by foliage