

Mayor Tracey Furman

Council Member Darin Bartram
Council Member Nate Engle



Council Member Conor Crimmins
Council Member Bridget Hill-Zayat

Meeting Notes

Pedestrian and Bicycling Access and Safety Working Group
Thursday, October 15, 2020, 7:00-8:00 pm
Via Zoom Video Conference

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

Working Group Members Participating:

Alan Simon, Jamie Keller, David Romeo, Chris Zappi, Alison Durland

1. Feedback from Sept Council meeting and Walktober events
 - The group welcomed David Romeo, who was participating for the first time. **Nate will add David to the group email list.**
 - Nate debriefed the group on the September Council meeting discussion regarding the PBASWG. The Town will install a bike rack, which is capable of accommodating two bikes, in the next month or two. The Mayor requested the group to help with where to locate it. **If interested in physically going to Town Hall to advise where to place it, please contact Mayor Tracey (mayor.tracey@tok.md.gov).** The Council also discussed the issue of bringing a Capital Bike Share station to Kensington, and the perception that there is not interest from the Bike Share folks to place a station in Town. **Nate to follow up with Bridget and get more details on previous discussions she has had with them to see if there is something the PBASWG can do.**
 - Walktober events. Jamie attended the second 'Walkinar' on October 12th and Nate attended the first one on October 1st. Both were very good and had helpful presentations and resources relevant to the group's efforts. Jamie noted that he was surprised to learn that accidents between peds and cyclists have stayed the same with Covid-19. Presentations for these and the remaining two events are accessible here:
<https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurWork/walkinars-2020.aspx>
2. Walk audit training plan and checklist
 - Anne-Marie described the plan to begin conducting walkability audits, which are the first step in a process of assessing where improvements can be made by taking stock of what is there (or not). These will then feed into a discussion on what the community wants (prioritization process). We will be running an initial training, including to conduct a sample audit, on Oct 31st from 11am (lasting an hour or two), meeting at the Farmers Market and auditing Kensington Parkway (up to Cabin Park). All PBASWG participants are encouraged to participate. Idea is to have us all be trained, so we can lead subsequent audits with neighbors throughout November

and complete the initial auditing process by December. **Let Anne-Marie and Nate know if you can make it on Oct 31st from 11:00am-12:30pm.**

- While the main audience for this training is PBASWG members, **Nate will announce the training at the Oct 19th Town Council Meeting and ask Matt to put on the Town calendar** for transparency purposes, and in case others are interested in participating in the training.
- Developed a checklist to assist with the audit and discussed it with the group. **Anne-Marie requested suggestions and revisions to be sent to her via email by October 23rd.**
- Alan inquired about lighting, and the need to do the audits both during the day and evening. And possibly during off-hours and rush-hour. Also discussed whether there is a standardized walkability “scoring” system. **Anne-Marie offered to look into this so we can be consistent with how the County is scoring it.**
- Jamie asked if we would be collecting actual data (quantitative data – measurements, etc.). Anne-Marie confirmed that the Town, County, and State have much of the data (in terms of measurements, etc.), but we can bring a measuring wheel and do some traffic counts if it interests people. Main goal is to keep it simple to start and leave group members feeling comfortable with leading future walkability audit processes with interested neighbors.

3. Prioritization process template and next steps

- Alan walked the group through the prioritization process template he and Chris designed, which he emphasized was very much a work in progress.
- Anne-Marie questioned how we will use this to then engage with the Town. Nate indicated that we could present it for discussion at a future Town Council meeting once the initial process is completed.
- Alison inquired if we would focus each row in the template as a specific intersection. Alan clarified that the idea is for the walkability audits to be one thing that feeds into this for helping to identify potential priorities, but it should also come from the PBASWG members’ ideas (and not all of these need to be infrastructure or physical improvements – could be an education and awareness campaign).
- Nate proposed that if we complete the walkability audits in November, we can feed the results into the prioritization template, along with group members’ ideas, to present to Town Council in December.
- Alan reiterated though that the prioritization process should not be fully dependent on walkability audits.
- Nate suggested to add a grant column/potential for funding column.
- **Alan and Chris requested feedback over email on the template structure itself (particularly the evaluation criteria) by October 23rd.** After this, he and Chris will circulate the ‘final’ template via a shared folder (not Drop Box please!) for the **group to collectively populate rows prior to the November meeting for discussion during that meeting.**

4. All other issues and discussion

- **Nate will ask Matt if we can have an electronic folder provided by the Town for sharing documents, data, etc. and for helping to ensure transparency.**
- **Anne-Marie will send materials for Oct 31st walkability audit training this week.**
- **Next meeting Nov 12th 7pm (Zoom information to follow).**