

Mayor Tracey Furman

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



**Council Member Conor Crimmins
Council Member Ann Lichter**

Notes

**Mobility and Traffic Committee &
Pedestrian and Bicycling Access and Safety Working Group**

January 13th, 2025, 7:30 pm

Zoom

Recording –

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ScQLEX0UpuR_8nm8EmWglSkk5gvHUM1L/view?usp=mail

Participants: Darin, Matt, Alex, Alan, Nate, Michael, Anne-Marie, David, Leslie, Chris, Kevin, Peter, Marla, Tracey

Notes:

- 1. MTC Items:** *Traffic restrictions enforcement; Stop sign at Wheatly and Plyers Mill*
 - Matt provided an overview of the current situation and support from Montgomery County police through our secondary enforcement contract with them (i.e., what is in our contract, what the three officers can/will do and what they will not). The officers are no longer allowed to follow cars. Cannot enforce cut-through traffic in some areas like the pitchfork because it would require two officers.
 - An ask to MTC is to help with prioritizing locations for the officers to monitor [ongoing ask].
 - Discussed a camera/pylon system that can monitor cut-through traffic and do not enter restrictions, or even just place pylons strategically without the cameras to deter violations. Chevy Chase Village (CCV) has experience with this, which has reportedly worked. We cannot under MD state law issue citations by violating a do not enter sign. Can send a letter to the owner that we know they're doing it, and to please cease.
 - Further discussion included: suggestions around monitoring the problem to see how many are violating the restrictions; issue of not stopping at the stop signs; whether there is a potential issue with state law if we were to pursue this; and whether this would be manual or automated (it has been manual for CCV).
 - Could start with one location, monitor and take baseline data, and set up the pylons.
 - Next steps:
 - o Darin and Matt to discuss with CCV to get more information and updates on what they are currently doing; and put a cost proposal together.
 - o Matt to work with Joe Cutro to set up a general traffic study to gather baseline data and assess counts to see how many people are in violation.
 - o Discuss putting into next FY's budget and setting up a few pilot pylon camera locations next year.

- 2. Tactical Urbanism:** *Metropolitan Ave/Kensington Pkwy/Ferndale St design and art project*
 - Matt walked through the basic concept for the design and where the tactical urbanism project could take place.
 - Town has bond funding secured from Delegate Shetty's support to put towards a projects such as this.

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- Art can be a first phase, likely a temporary solution, to get people used to the new traffic pattern before a more permanent solution with sidewalks, plantings, etc. are added.
 - Agreed on adjusting the focus for the first step to be the Ferndale and Kensington Parkway intersection and not include Metropolitan.
 - Discussed considering a potential traffic circle at this intersection (Ferndale and Kensington Parkway), and possibly doing it from a tactical urbanism perspective.
 - Next steps:
 - o Matt to discuss the concept with Joe Cutro on what an updated design could look like – considering several options and then get MTC-PBAS input.
 - o MTC-PBAS to identify where exactly the tactical urbanism interventions would go, after which we would engage with the community (including residents directly affected by the project) and solicit proposals from artists.
- 3. Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant: *Timing and next steps***
- The Town was notified last Friday that we were awarded the grant. Matt will keep the group updated on next steps and timing, and how MTC-PBAS can help along the way.
- 4. Walkability audit: *Finalizing audits and next steps***
- Alan updated that we have roughly 50% of the segments completed and half of the auditors having finished their assignments. Will need to reallocate one person's who can no longer do it.
 - February 15th is the new deadline. Everyone agreed that this is doable.
 - All to please complete the audits and input them into the spreadsheet by February 15th.
 - Alan and Nate to discuss how to prioritize recommendations before the next meeting.
 - Members shared some of their advice on performing the audits and feedback on entering the information into the spreadsheet.
 - Audit workstream in the "off year" next year will look at how to simplify and streamline recording information (e.g., using an App).
 - A concern was raised about scooters and the dangers they're imposing for pedestrians.
- 5. AOB**
- Snow removal. Need for commercial properties to shovel their snow. Improve communications around this.
 - State Highway Administration – next meeting happening in January. Nate, Anne-Marie, and Alan to meet with Matt to prep for the meeting. Knowles and Detrick intersection amongst these issues on the rolling agenda, and will also add the intersection of Knowles and Summit.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 4th, 7:30pm at Town Hall