

Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)

Agenda

Friday July 13, 2018

- I. **RECAP OF JUNE MEETING MINUTES** (5 mins.)
- II. **MONTGOMERY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – FY19 STRATEGIC PLAN** (25 MINS.)
- III. **DOWNTOWN BETHESDA CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS DISCUSSION WITH DOT AND DPS** (25 min.)
- IV. **NEW BUSINESS** (5 min.)
- V. **NEXT MEETING – Friday September 7, 2018** (no meeting in August)

<http://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/area-1/bethesda-downtown-plan/bethesda-downtown-implementation-advisory-committee/>

Meeting Notes and Attendees:

I. Brief Recap of May Meeting and Minutes:

- The committee agreed with the June meeting notes and they were approved to be posted to the IAC webpage. The IAC's comments have been sent to the applicant team for 7121 and 7126 Wisconsin Avenue.

II. Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation – FY 19 Strategic Plan presentation by Sarah Miller

- The MCEDC meets the 2nd Monday of each month
- Board meetings are open to the public
- MCEDC's website is <https://thinkmoco.com/>
- MCEDC's [Strategic Action Plan FY19](#)

IAC Comments and/or Questions:

- What is MCEDC and the County doing to help neighborhood and community development, such as neighborhood serving retail and restaurant businesses?



Response: Currently MCEDC's focus is on diversifying non-traditional business types, such as the tech and cyber industry and is not focused on retail and restaurants. The Bethesda Urban Partnership and Regional Services Center may have more of a role in this and can work with MCEDC at the local level to help fill the gaps.

- How does MCEDC address education in the county to make sure we have the workforce that companies want and need?

III. Downtown Bethesda Construction Impacts Website Discussion with DPS and DOT (Diane Jones, Atiq Panjshiri, Peggy Urban, Lee Hutcherson, Michael Paylor)

- In the process of developing a construction impacts website through close coordination with county agencies such as MCDOT, Park and Planning, and the State Highway Administration (SHA) to identify construction activity and permits associated with a site. Also meeting with civic/community groups and property owners/developers.
- DPS has started to identify a core working group, including DTS, that would help develop the tool.
- As part of the website activity, DPS is looking at also preparing a construction activity report to summarize the activities in an area.
- DPS has prepared two audits so far with Bethesda Urban Partnership (BUP) on what is happening in the Right of Ways (ROW). Diane Jones stated that DPS audits found ROWs (sidewalks/lanes) are being closed and impacted for long periods of time and they are going to work to shorten those allowed closures. The DPS audit included video and photos that showed where there were some problem areas occurring in downtown Bethesda.
- Diane Jones stated that by law, projects are supposed to be implementing an alternative sidewalk or covered walkway.
- Diane Jones stated that construction materials are not supposed to be stored in the ROW.
- Construction impacts to focus on commercial additions, new development projects, ROW permits and demolition permits, which are the most impactful to the area residents, businesses, and transportation.
- The website will include google maps and satellite views with detailed information related to permits on each site, colored coded by permit type.
- We are working with SHA so that we can include SHA permits on the website.
- DPS is hoping to have the website completed in December 2017.
- A construction implementation concern for DPS is that general contractors need to get involved earlier in the process to make sure site plans are implementable.
- Infill projects like those in downtown Bethesda are more impactful due to the smaller more compact sites which results in building right up to the property lines which forces utilities and other services into the ROWs.
- If you see any construction site issues that you want to report, there are many ways to let DPS and DOT know what is going on. Please call DPS by dialing 311, or call Ken Hartman with the Regional Services Center (240-777-8200), or call Bethesda Urban Partnership (301-215-6660).

IAC Comments and/or Questions:

- We would like the website to have more information on the construction activities for each site.



- There are a number of issues with where trucks park around the construction sites when they are waiting to enter the site. They are staging on other streets/roads in the area which causes a lot of traffic and access problems moving around the area. Also, when the large trucks leave the sites, they are taking circuitous routes to get north on Wisconsin Avenue by way of Willow Street and entering the Town of Chevy Chase because there is no left-hand turn onto Wisconsin Avenue.
- DPS should monitor the patterns of truck movements that leave construction sites.
- The current DPS website can be cumbersome and it is not easy to find the permits for individual sites.

Response: On the DPS website, you only need to enter the street address for the project and all the permits for that project show be listed. We can do a demonstration after the meeting.

- Fit-outs for the projects under construction cause traffic disruptions (unloading of appliances, etc.)
- DPS should require nanny-cams on construction sites to monitor their activity
- Coordination with the State Highway Administration (SHA) is bad. SHA does not respond or show up to any meetings. DPS should get State Representatives involved to get SHA to respond.
- Does DPS know what decisions SHA makes on their state roads in terms of closures, etc.?

IV. New Business

- Design Advisory Panel, July 25, 2018 - Projects being reviewed
 - The Claiborne - 10:30am
 - 4915 Auburn Avenue – 11:30am
- Upcoming Planning Board Hearings:

Thursday July 19, 2018 –

 - 4 Bethesda Metro Sketch Plan no. 320180110 (Item 4)
 - 7607 Old Georgetown Road Sketch Plan No. 320180160 (Item 5)
 - ZOM Bethesda Preliminary and Site Plan No. 820180120 (Item 7)

No Planning Board in August

- September Agenda (No IAC meeting in August):
 - TBD

V. Next Meeting – Friday September 7, 2018

Meeting Attendees:

IAC Members and Staff:

Amanda Farber, Anna Fierst, Dedun Ingram, Naomi Spinrad, Steve Groh, Steve Long, Emily Vaias, Jack Alexander, Jad Donohoe, Patrick O’Neil, Greg Rooney, Leslye Howerton, Elza Hisel-McCoy, Ken Hartman, Rachel Newhouse

Other attendees:

Allan Glass, Kent Morgan, Peggy Urban (MCDPS ROW), Lee Hutcherson (MCDPS ROW), Michael Paylor (MCDOT), Diane Jones (MCDPS), Atiq Panjshiri (MCDPS), Sarah Miller (MCEDC)

