

Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)

Agenda

Friday September 7, 2018

- I. **INTRODUCTIONS AND ORIENTATION FOR NEW IAC MEMBERS** (15 mins.)
- II. **PROGRESS ON BICYCLE LANE IMPLEMENTATION** (15 min.)
- III. **OVERVIEW OF DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES** (25 MINS.)
- IV. **NEW BUSINESS** (5 min.)
- V. **NEXT MEETING – Friday October 5, 2018**

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

Meeting Notes and Attendees:

I. Introductions and Brief Orientation for two new IAC members

- Jon Weintraub and Michael Fetchko were introduced as the two new resident members of the IAC as appointed by the Planning Board on September 6, 2018 to fill two resident vacancies that occurred in August. Jon and Michael were provided a copy of the 2017 Approved and Adopted Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan and the “Rules of Procedure” that govern the committee.
- Jon and Michael will serve three-year terms.
- The staff report outlining their appointment by the Planning Board may be viewed [here](#).

II. Progress on Bicycle Lane Implementation – John Thomas and Matt Johnson from MCDOT

- MCDOT is hosting a meeting for the public on October 9, 2018 at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School at 6:30pm to discuss...
- The FY19 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) added funds for the design of recommended bicycle lanes on Montgomery Avenue, Woodmont Avenue, Norfolk Avenue to Cheltenham Drive, and Pearl Street in the amount of \$4 million.
- The funds were made available in July 2018 to begin full design. Design is expected to be completed by FY19-20.
- Construction funds were added for 3 projects for the following year (July 2019). These types of bicycle lane projects typically take 2 months to complete from start to finish.



- The Capital Crescent Trail (CCT) tunnel is at approximately 35 percent design with a cost of around \$15-30 million.
- The project is estimated to go to construction by 2020 and take approximately 2 years to complete. There will be a meeting with the public later this fall to provide updated information.
- Residents had initially asked one year ago if a temporary trail crossing could be put in between Pearl and Elm Street Park (even with limited crossing hours) for trail users and high school students. With the construction of a retaining wall going in and the extents of the purple line construction itself, it was determined that this would not be feasible. MTA would be the entity to contact regarding an interim trail at this location. Mike Madden is the MTA Project Manager and comments can be sent to the following link: <https://www.purplelinemd.com/en/contact-us>
- The recommended bike lane on Montgomery Avenue next to the approved 7359 Wisconsin Avenue project (old police station site) will be implemented within the current R.O.W, keeping the curb and sidewalk where they exist today. There are three lanes along this stretch on Montgomery Avenue and to incorporate the separated bike lanes a lane of traffic will need to be removed.
- Currently the Parks Department is looking at 12 different options for improvements to the Little Falls trail crossing. The options include traffic calming and a grade separated, raised crossing. For more information please visit the project website located [here](#).
- MCDOT is working on improvements to the CCT along Bethesda Avenue with a new bicycle/pedestrian intersection improvement along Wisconsin Avenue and Bethesda Avenue, in front of the Artery Building and the Farm Women's Market at Willow Lane. MCDOT is working with JBG Smith the owner of the Artery Building where the bicycle lanes will traverse the Artery Plaza. JBG Smith is in the process of renovating/redesigning that plaza.
- The CCT along Bethesda Avenue will be on the north side of the street. The parking on the north side of Bethesda Avenue will be removed with parking spaces remaining on the south side.
- There are currently no plans to underground utilities on the corner of Willow Lane and Wisconsin Avenue.
- The CCT bicycle/pedestrian intersection improvement along Wisconsin Avenue and Bethesda Avenue will be reviewed by the planning department and other county agencies and will go to the Planning Board as a Mandatory Referral on October 25, 2018. Construction is expected to begin the summer of 2019. Comments can be sent to Matt Johnson at matt.johnson@montgomerycountymd.gov
- MCDOT is looking at improving the intersection at Woodmont Avenue and Bethesda Avenue with an all pedestrian movement phase like what is being used in downtown DC.

III. Overview of Draft Bethesda Downtown Plan Implementation Guidelines

- Planning staff gave an overview of the draft Bethesda Downtown Plan Implementation Guidelines.
- The guidelines provide direction and specific guidance for situations that are not specifically addressed in the Sector Plan and/or the Bethesda Overlay Zone (BOZ).
- The guidelines address the implementation process including the Design Advisory Panel submittal requirements, the use of BOZ Density and how buildings in Bethesda are approved, the Park Impact Payment (PIP), building height exceptions, affordable housing and Moderately



Priced Dwelling Units (MPDUs) provisions in the BOZ, development procedures and provides examples and adjusted formulas and calculations for the priority public benefits outlined in the BOZ.

- The IAC should provide comments on the draft implementation guidelines to planning staff no later than Wednesday September 12, 2018. Planning staff will review the comments and incorporate suggestions as appropriate.

IV. New Business

- Design Advisory Panel, September 26, 2018 - Projects being reviewed
 - 8280 Wisconsin Avenue
 - 7607 Old Georgetown Road
 - St. Elmo
- Upcoming Planning Board Hearings:
Thursday September 20, 2018 –
 - Edgemont at Bethesda II (Sketch Plan Amendment No. 32018003A, and Site Plan No. 820180170)
- October Agenda:
 - TBD

Meeting Attendees:

IAC Members and Staff:

Amanda Farber, Anna Fierst, Dedun Ingram, Naomi Spinrad, Jon Weintraub, Terry Long (sitting in for Steve), Emily Vaias, Jack Alexander, Jad Donohoe, Patrick O'Neil, Matt Gordon, Ramsey Meiser, Michael Fetchko, Leslye Howerton, Elza Hisel-McCoy, Rick Ammirato, Rachel Newhouse

Other attendees:

Cindy Gibson (Chief of Staff to Councilmember Roger Berliner), Brenda Sandberg (Parks Department), Michael Brown (Planning Department), Matt Johnson (MCDOT), John Thomas (MCDOT), Jeff Burton (BUP), Nelson Cooney (Cheval), Dick Staufenberg, Derrick Harrigan (Regional Services Center), Allan Glass, Kent Morgan

