

Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)

Agenda

Friday, March 4, 2022 @8 am (Virtual Meeting)

Notes to be Taken by: Matt Gordon

1) Montgomery County Department of Transportation Update on Capital Improvement Projects – Corey Pitts, Matt Johnson and Tim Cupples, MCDOT

- Matt Johnson provided a summary of the Bethesda bike facility Loop projects currently under construction.
- CCT Surface Trail is currently under construction and Phase 1 will be completed soon.
- Woodmont Avenue Phase I is under construction and runs from Miller Avenue to Montgomery Lane. Phase II will extend to both the south and north.
- Montgomery Lane/Avenue has a two-way separated bikeway that will be built in several phases, some of which are under construction.
- CCT Tunnel is going through planning and design and being addressed in the CIP.
- T&E Committee will be looking at the CCT Tunnel.
- Cheltenham and Pearl Bikeway is still in being evaluated with various options for the alignment/design.
- Questions were raised about the bikeway conflicts with pick-up and drop-off on Willow Lane.
- A question was asked about the timing for constructing the bikeway on Cheltenham Drive relative to redevelopment of the Midas site. It is in the CIP for construction in 2024, but the developer is required to construct the bikeway along its frontage.
- A question was asked about whether the County will take counts of riders using the bike lanes. MCDOT advised they will be installing counters to track usage of the bikeways.
- Corey Pitts provided an update on MD 355 FLASH (Bus Rapid Transit).
- There is funding proposed for MD 355 Flash in the County Executive's recommended budget. 25% design development will be completed in April of 2022.
- MCDOT is studying the ability to re-purpose lanes to avoid impacts to property owners.
- MD 355 BRT Public Outreach and open houses in Late May of 2022.
- MCDOT will try to advance to 35% Design Milestone in late 2022.
- Purple Line is slated to open, including the new Bethesda South Metro Station for fall of 2026.
- Mobilization for construction could occur by late spring/early summer.
- Corey identified two facility planning projects: (1) Downtown Bethesda one-way to two-way conversion (started in late 2021); and (2) Norfolk Avenue shared street (coordinating with BUP to refine the scope of work to start later this year).

- A question was asked when Elm Street would reopen. Tim Cupples said the plan is 2026, but it could be earlier since MTA will have to commission and test the Purple Line.
- A question was asked about studying the Bradley and Wisconsin Avenue for pedestrian safety issues. Tim advised that he would report back on this question.

2) Construction & Occupancy Update on Marriott International Headquarters and Hotel – Greg Rooney (The Bernstein Companies)

- Greg Rooney reported both the hotel and office are complete.
- Marriott Headquarters turned to Marriott in December. Hotel was finished a few weeks ago and opened on Tuesday.
- Marriott employees will start coming in beginning in July and several different groups of employees will return from thereon.
- Marriott is finishing installation of the crosswalk from Garage 11 to the plaza.
- Marriott is working on finishing the Woodmont Avenue bikeway with MCDOT.
- A question was asked about status of Garage 11 and being setup for Marriott employees.

NEW BUSINESS

- Amanda Farber informed the Committee that she communicated with the Planning Director about a tree canopy study being performed since it has been 5 years from Sector Plan adoption.
- The 8000 Wisconsin Avenue is expected to begin construction and provided an initial traffic control plan. Jeff Burton provided an update on the construction activity work group's review of the 8000 Wisconsin Avenue proposal.
- Various committee members requested to have a discussion on stormwater runoff and traffic light controls by MCDOT at a future meeting.

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