

City of Rockville
Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee (RPAC)
Minutes
Meeting No. 01-20
Thursday, February 13, 2020, 7:00-8:30 PM
Black-eyed Susan Conference Room, Rockville City Hall

1. Convene/Introductions

Eric Fulton called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Attendees

Eric Fulton, Chair; Marissa Valeri, notetaker, Twinbrook Community Association; Aaron Kraut; Ann Gaines, Town Center; Calvin Ho, Shady Grove Metro area; Cindy Dobbs, King Farm; Donald Masters; Emily Bailey, Town Center; Ethan Goffman; John Becker, Americana Center/Town Center; Jonathan Goldsmith, Twinbrook; Judy Rudolph, Town Center; Kari Keaton, Rose Hill; Carl Peterson RBAC; Paula Hubble, Victoria Condos/Town Center; Sylvia Jones

City official: Councilmember Monique Ashton

City Staff: Alyssa Roff, staff liaison; Emad Elshafei, Chief of Traffic and Transportation; Marylou Berg, PIO; Chief Victor Brito, RCPD; Jenny Kimball, Deputy City Manager

2. Committee Updates

- After leading the group in a moment of silence to note the deaths of two pedestrians killed on Rockville Pike since the last RPAC meeting, Eric reported on the Safe Streets Rally and memorials that took place on Saturday, February 8.
- Minutes and agendas for the RPAC minutes from June 2019 through January 2020 have been formatted and will be forwarded to staff for the RPAC page on the City website.
- It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the January 9, 2020 RPAC meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously.
- Eric noted that the Traffic and Transportation Commission's January meeting was cancelled, as will its February meeting.

3. City Updates

▪ **a. Engineering**

Emad reported on recent pedestrian safety Improvements:

▪ **Twinbrook update meeting 01/31//2020**

- Emad and Alyssa met with Marissa Valeri, Eric Fulton and Mike Stein.
- Planned projects and follow-up actions include:
 - Bump outs, crosswalk, concrete work - in spring, March, April
 - Twinbrook Shopping Center - path from bus stops to shopping center and residential areas

- List of Twinbrook needs – Twinbrook Community Association presented City staff with a list of additional pedestrian/safety improvements prior to the meeting
- **Meeting with State and County about 355 2/5/2020**
 - City Public Works staff met at the City's request with SHA and Montgomery County to discuss and coordinate efforts related to pedestrian safety/Vision Zero. Attendees included Wade Holland, Montgomery County Vision Zero Coordinator; Derek Gunn, Assistant District 3 Engineer for Traffic, Montgomery County; several other SHA staff members, and City staff Emad, Alyssa and Craig Simoneau. It was decided that the 355 corridor in Rockville should be examined in a holistic manner. City staff will provide input on other potential areas along 355 that might have similar issues with pedestrians crossing outside of crosswalks and do some observations. The County will work with Ride-On to conduct a review of bus stop locations along 355 with consideration to relocating some closer to marked crosswalks. The group will meet again in early May.
 - SHA officials studied and agreed to enhanced pedestrian safety on Twinbrook Parkway near the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. This could be a HAWK signal, but this requires additional study.
 - Alyssa added details about the County Pedestrian Master Plan; Comfort map (to which Rockville will be added when the rest of the County has is up and running). She has been in touch with MCDOT about school outreach and education and Walk to Work Day, and has met the County Vision Zero coordinator

- - Several RPAC members expressed concerns about SHA's idea of installing median fencing long Route 355.
 - RPAC is still seeking resolution and/or next steps from the group's 11/26/19 Town Center walk with city staff to address the issues of flashing pedestrian beacon usage and other issues related to accessibility and wealkability. This topic will be addressed during next meeting.
 - Additional topics raised to city staff included:
 - Functionality and timing of LPIs at all crosswalks in the City
 - Safety around Bayard Rustin ES
 - Flashing lights in medians that have RRFBs
 - Status of the road diet in Town Center (on M&C agenda in March)

b. Enforcement

Chief Brito reported that

- The RCPD has implemented its stepped-up plain clothes enforcement campaign
 - The PIO has produced a video to publicize the effort
 - It was suggested that there be a link to the video from the RPAC web page
 - Statistics for 12/31/2019-2/12/2020 provided (attached)
 - There was discussion of the criteria for warnings vs. citations, expanding the locations and time commitment to this effort, and the importance the information that the data from this effort will provide about patterns
 - It will likely be an ongoing, not temporary program
 - Addition questions related to
 - Jurisdiction - traffic enforcement on state highways
 - If there is data about residential or demographics of those encountered during the contacts (There is not, for legal reasons)
 - “Blocking the box” and SUVs blocking sight lines

c. Education

Mary Lou Berg reviewed RCPD and Engineering activities and earlier Mayor and Council discussion.

- More recent communication efforts include
 - Publicizing on the City website and/or Rockville Reports, Facebook, Nextdoor
 - *Report an Issue* portal on the City website (Marylou noted that usage of this feature is up more than 70% in the past month)
 - Sidewalk prioritization process
 - Undercover pedestrian enforcement
 - Eyes Up palm cards - dissemination in the community
 - Pedestrian education at after school programs
- The PIO staff will be testing other messaging
 - Vision Zero web presence
 - Kickoff event for Vision Zero - RPAC ideas?
- In response to a question about RPAC’s proposal for a major integrated City-wide initiative/campaign Marylou indicated that the current activities are a ramp up to larger campaign kick off

- RPAC attendees suggested the following ideas:
 - Supplement the enforcement video with an explanation of the current laws that the RCPD is enforcing
 - Create a *Pedestrian Bill of Rights*
 - Pop-up events to get pedestrian feedback throughout the City

4. Joint RPAC/RBAC Letter on 355

The group discussed the letter (*attached*) drafted by RBAC to be sent to City, County, and State officials. There was a motion that RPAC co-sign the letter. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Crosswalks

Alyssa gave a presentation on *Crosswalks in Rockville* (slides are attached) that discussed

- Process for getting a crosswalk
 - Guidelines and Recommendations
 - Crosswalk Warrant Considerations
 - Crosswalk Treatment Categories
- Crosswalk Markings
 - Crosswalk Art
 - 3D Crosswalk
 - Crosswalk Stamps
 - Montgomery County
- Going Forward

Questions/ideas/comments from the group included

- Concerns about accessibility for people with disabilities
- Responsibility for safe sidewalk passage during construction - Emad answered that it is a shared responsibility between the City and contractors. Recommendation was to email Alyssa directly as soon as an obstacle is seen (photos help) for swift resolution.