

**Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee Meeting Agenda**  
**Meeting 06-20**  
**Thursday, June 18, 2020**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Virtual - Webex**

**Attendees:**

Eric Fulton, Chair; Corinne Abramson, Vice-Chair; Marissa Valeri, notetaker, Twinbrook Community Association; Judy Rudolph, notetaker, Town Center; Ann Gaines, Town Center; Jonathan Goldsmith, Twinbrook; Carl Peterson, RBAC; Paula Hubble, Victoria Condos/Town Center; Calvin H, Ethan Goffman, John Becker, Americana Center, Kathleen Kleinman

City Officials: Mayor Bridget Newton, Councilmember Beryl Feinberg, Deputy Police Chief Laura Lanham  
City Staff: Alyssa Roff, staff liaison, Emad Elshafei, Traffic and Transportation

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

**City Updates - Alyssa Roff**

The work in Twinbrook over the past few weeks - photos and visuals - all the projects are completed. Slides were shared so that everyone present can see all the various projects.

Going to mayor and council on June 22 with the Vision Zero Action Plan revisions and being formally presented. Updated graphics and up on the website tomorrow. Made all the small edits to the plan and was sent to graphics for further cleanup. Metrics and deliverables delineated. Staff report included in agenda is very helpful.

Pedestrian bridge from Metro to Town Center is closed. Only giving two days notice and no guidelines on when it will reopen. How is City mitigating the danger of crossing 355? There isn't enough time to cross 355, can that time be extended? Emad to reach out to County.

MV will recirculate the pedestrian hot spot maps on the RPAC list serve  
Ethan - what is speed limit? Can it be lowered?

Emad - regular meetings with state and county traffic/vision zero folks, fences were discussed, agreeing to reduce it in other areas, next meeting is July, are LPIs implemented yet along 355? BRT lanes will help once it is built,

Mayor - undergrounding 355, traffic under and a plaza above for safe access, came from Town Center Action Group, would give a long term option. Main Street and Americana Centre would benefit, lack of speeding traffic is lovely

Carl - Undergrounding car traffic is not feasible right now

Jonathan - Great idea, lived in small towns, it's very hard to cross 355, a lot of traffic, if the state can't do something it will be a very dangerous problem

Mayor Newton - idea has to have traction and support to be a part of the conversation, RBAC and RPAC can be advocates, along with community associations, is it a bridge too far to put pedestrian and bike safety first?

Eric - what is next step on this big idea? Discussion on list serve. We will give Emad any and all resources we have to push the 355 safety issue at the July meeting.

John Becker - Information on the idea? Look into the Town Center Action Plan regarding Metro and 355/Monroe Place, thanks Beryl for advocacy to keep the crosswalk at 355 and Monroe Place, Main Street folks moving in later this year

Eric - Takeaways

Immediate need to take action at 355 & Metro

Dust off Town Center Action Committee plan

### **Action Items Tracking - Ann Gaines**

Eric - PDF in agenda is a screen shot

Ann - Idea she had of something for RPAC could do. Real-time tracking of pedestrian issues. A tangible way to gather pedestrian issues - safety and walkability. Global issues - more specific issues should go through Report a Concern. Walkability is a big concern. We need a system for the City and RPAC and residents to be able to develop a plan for addressing issues. Big gaps in safety - obstructed sidewalks, 3 inch drops, sidewalks that end abruptly. Reporting so that inspections can happen, plans can be made. Invite Mike Wilhelm to a meeting to have him present to us what the standards are for sidewalks. We can show examples. Come up with an understanding of what our concerns are and what the City can do.

Eric - Holistic, bigger approach to this is great. Can this tracking inform the Pedestrian Master Plan? Guiding principles.

Emad - Good idea. Lots of things in Vision Zero, once adopted we can create a project plan for the deliverables. Plan can be tweaked so we stay on task. Mike Wilhelm and or Craig Simoneau could come to a meeting in July or August.

Eric - Turning Vision Zero Action Plan into smaller action items and tasks. Document will help to do this. RPAC should look closer with a critical eye. Next month or two, how will this compliment Vision Zero. Tee up Mike for next meeting.

Ann - Mike: there is no regular inspection of sidewalks, no maintenance schedule, was surprised by this, she has been walking 2 hours a day, she covers 5 miles in 2 hours, City can do it, Ann has photo album of sidewalk and pedestrian issues. Send a proposal to have a sidewalk inspection program so that regular inspections occurs.

Jonathan - what should the schedule of inspections be? Lifespan of poured concrete?

Judy - it will help link to Vision Zero, we need to make sure budget for DPW prioritizes sidewalks

Marissa - Does the County do it? Other jurisdictions?

Emad - will let Mike update, good topic to talk about, October start talking about budget, public hearing early on - Beryl: in the fall - staff starts working on it in October, summer is when the work actually happens with concrete etc, winter would be a good time for inspections, Mike or Craig or others should come and talk about what City is doing

### **Open Streets in RTC - RPAC Discussion**

Eric - group discussion on this issue, City staff presented a plan to make a plaza, Gibbs Street is closed to vehicle traffic, in favor of these ideas, it's a great use of space, staff did a thorough review and did outreach, talking about what folks saw, didn't see any obstacles.

Judy - David Levy is the RTC liaison. Beyond FRIT, People without masks playing corn hole, people smoking,

Kathleen - Pedestrians don't understand and it is not clear that pedestrians can walk down the middle of the street. Everyone else on the sidewalk but me, signage is not clear. Table crowds clog the sidewalks and open street - short term thing? Duration of the summer? Permanent? Barriers that blocked street also blocked wheelchair access but better now.

Emad - no time limit on it yet. Staff added signs. Bette? Kathleen: still not clear.

Eric - What is feedback loop on closed streets? How can community provide feedback? Emad - a lot of folks on the team, will talk to Craig about it - Monique - David Levy is capturing feedback

Marissa - Our community coordinator did not share it, what can we learn from Bethesda? Councilmember Ashton - They were very communicative, permits should have the right info etc. Community coordinator needs to be implemented.

Eric - I would like to see this continue. Permanently. Let's tweak it, make it safe, community benefit, opportunity arising from adversity. Is this being considered in any other parts of the city?

Councilmember Feinberg - Other areas outside of TC have applied

Emad - Other permits throughout the city?

Councilmember Ashton - Restaurants applying for permits, shared link

Emad - I was just talking about taking up parking spaces, permitting for that alone,

Ethan - Closed to buses? Emad - No

from Monique Ashton to Everyone: 8:09 PM

FYI on the permit form that restaurants access for the permit for outdoor seating in the right of way:  
[https://cityofrockville.formstack.com/forms/temporary\\_outdoor\\_dining](https://cityofrockville.formstack.com/forms/temporary_outdoor_dining)

from Bridget Donnell Newton to Everyone: 8:09 PM

for whatever reason - busier than ever. Let's get this Plaza done! What a legacy for you!!!

## **Open Discussion**

Judy - Is City data in County data sets

Deput Chief Lanham - Open Data for Rockville - may be in County data sets (it is!)

Kathleen - Green space near closed street is very lumpy and hard to roll over

Monique - Pedestrian pathway is actually along the buildings, not the greenspace

Judy - Implicit bias and racial injustice panel - discussion of how it impacts pedestrian safety

Mayor Newton- Traffic and transportation, holding them accountable

Councilmember Ashton - Pervasive - education, housing, structural - Mayor and Council meeting on July 6 - racism

Deputy Chief Lanham - Always room to improve, on their minds, talked about education being cognizant of individual realities, approaching from all directions, re-evaluate doing things the right way

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

