

**Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes - Meeting 22-09**  
**Thursday, September 15, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

This meeting was held virtually and recorded for public access. This recording, and prior meeting recordings are available on the City's [Agenda Center website](#).

1. Welcome, Meeting Recording, Introduction

- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

**MOTION by Eric Fulton to approve the July Minutes; SECONDED by Kathleen Kleinmann;**

**DISCUSSION: none; APPROVED: Unanimously.**

2. RPAC Chair and leadership succession

- Co-Chair Model - RPAC will shift to a new leadership model. Instead of a single chair, there will be two "Co-Chairs." The Co-Chair model can help leadership and better manage RPAC workload. When RPAC initially began, there was a chair, vice chair, and note taker.
- Next steps include seeking a co-chair to assist Marissa Valeri in the RPAC duties. Requests and information will be shared on the RPAC listserv and RPAC members are invited to reach out to their individual communities.
- A future agenda item will be recruitment models for RPAC. How to be maintain and expand membership.
- RPAC is also seeking a new note taker for meetings. A note taker is a valuable contributor to RPAC and huge help for the staff liaison. This will also be shared via the list serv.

3. City Updates

- Baltimore Road – the shared use path project is ongoing. Recently completed work includes:
  - Sidewalk, shared use path, and driveway aprons on the block between Woodburn Road and Edmonston Drive.
  - Partial completion of the permanent trench patching on the block between Woodburn Road and Edmonston Drive.

Upcoming work includes:

- Paving between First Street and Edmonston Drive.
- Signage between First Street and Edmonston Drive.
- Storm drain structure and pipe installation between Edmonston Drive and Avery Road.
- Shared use path on south side between the Rockville High School driveway and Twinbrook Parkway.

During the September RBAC meeting, there was substantial discussion regarding the constructed curb extensions along Baltimore Road between First Street and South Stonestreet Avenue. The curb extensions are in the on-street parking area. Further assessment of this segment is necessary to determine bike feasibility. There is limited right-of-way in the segment.

As a follow up to this project, lessons learned should be identified. Especially as they relate to outreach and ensuring all stakeholders are included. East Rockville Civic Association should be included. Debra Landou (sp?) can discuss.

- Twinbrook Pedestrian Bridge – This project had a kick-off meeting last month and the City met with the Twinbrook Community Association in early September. A recording of the meeting is available online.
- Town Center Road Diets – This project was re-bid and city staff are evaluating the new proposals for construction. In October, city staff will request the Mayor and Council to approve shifting \$195K from the Speed Camera fund to pay for the remainder of this project. The initial engineering estimate was low. Additional information regarding whether this project will stop other pedestrian safety project originally planned is needed.
- Pedestrian Master Plan – This project is also ongoing. The draft has been completed and is currently under internal review. Once it is ready, it will be shared with RPAC/RBAC/T&T Commission and posted online for the public in preparation for planning commission review.
- Traffic Cameras – The city has a new traffic camera contract. Staff has reached out to RCPD to learn where and how new cameras will be deployed. Information will be shared

with RPAC when it is available.

- FY24 Budget – Budget season is starting soon. Residents can submit Capital Improvement Project ideas online at: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/formcenter/city-manager-2/propose-a-project-298> . Project ideas can also be shared with the Mayor and Council.

More information about the budget can be found online:

<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/951/Budget-Financials>.

The Capital Improvement Program budget is for larger, one-time projects. The operating budget is for ongoing work done by the city. For example, building a bridge is a Capital Project; once the bridge is built and lights are replaced every year, the lights are part of the operating budget.

RPAC should meet and share CIP ideas and other budget items. Marissa will share her initial review of the budget. RPAC should also seek additional coordination with RBAC for budget items and have a shared letter.

It will be beneficial to map out where all of the CIP projects in the City are. RPAC should also consider the Engage Rockville Pedestrian Master Plan community map for project ideas.

- Planning Commission Report – Eric Fulton of the City’s Planning Commission provided a brief report of the recent Planning Commission meeting.

City Staff discussed the Comprehensive Traffic Review (CTR) that is used for development application. RPAC members noted that while development applicants primarily use this for evaluating congestion, there are many items in the CTR that include pedestrian and bicycle concerns and these should be addressed in development applications.

The Pedestrian Master Plan will influence the CTR. Further, the Planning Commission does not know about synthesis of pedestrian policies.

**MOTION by Kathleen Kleinmann for RPAC to initiate a joint RPAC/RBAC/T&T/Planning Commission summit; SECONDED by David Stinchcomb; Discussion: Marissa Valeri amended the**

**motion to include a focus of the summit to address state roads. APPROVED as amended, unanimously.**

The first motion by Commissioner Fulton as to approve an application by the City to obtain right-of-way along W Gude Dr for the construction of a sidewalk between MD 355 and Watkins Pond Blvd.

- Twinbrook Metro – parking lot video is not full. Chair Valeri shared a video created by a Twinbrook resident of the parking lots at the Twinbrook Metrorail Station which were empty during peak travel hours.

There are assumptions about what will happen with development, especially related to increased automobile use. However, these assumptions are not verified and the outcomes of new development do not necessarily meet the ‘accepted’ expectations.

#### 4. Incident Report

- There were three pedestrian and bicycle crashes in the month of August; 2 bike crashes, 1 pedestrian crash. Monthly crash report is attached.
- The pedestrian crash included a child who was deemed ‘at fault.’ Determination of ‘at fault’ in this instance is based on the child’s presence in the roadway, not at a crosswalk, the pedestrian’s age was not a factor in the determination.
- There are instances when both parties of a crash can be designated as not ‘at fault.’ Additionally, being ‘at fault’ does not always result in a citation.

#### 5. Walktober Events

- Bingo Card – link in Rockville report w/article in Rockville Report. This bingo card should also be shared with the Mayor and Council and mentioned at the 10/3 Community Forum.

City staff will print a small stack of bingo cards should residents be interested in picking them up may do so. Residents who complete the bingo card can receive an “I Walk Rockville” button.

- Memorial – a memorial for traffic victims will be held at the end of October. Either 10/20 or 10/27. Marissa will reach out to families of traffic victims so they are aware of the event. The may or may not choose to participate. RBAC and T&T representative will also

be invited.

- Walk with Mayor & Council – RPAC will host a ‘Walking Meeting’ with interested Mayor and Council members. This short walk will highlight many of the challenges that Rockville pedestrian face regularly. The walk will include city and state roads. The route will likely be from City Hall to St. Mary’s Church to Richard Montgomery High School and back to City Hall. It will take place at around 5:00pm

City staff will help identify availability of Mayor and Council. Chair Valeri will send a formal invitation once schedules can be confirmed.

#### 6. RBAC Coordination

- David Stinchomb provided a short summary of the recent RBAC meeting. RBAC discussed the curb extensions along Baltimore Road. Also, they discussed the 1818 Chapman Development and subsequently submitted comments during the community forum to advocate for a wider bicycle lane and future enhance bicycle parking requirements. Lastly, RBAC plans to finalized a letter discussing contributory negligence that can be shared with RPAC and sent to the M&C so that the city can get the proposal in front of state delegates.

#### 7. Open Discussion

- Bryan Barnett-Woods has been with the City for just over one year. It’s been a good experience and he looks forward to continuing to work with RPAC and the City.

#### 8. Adjourn

- Next meeting - Thursday, October 13, 2022

#### **Resources**

[RPAC Home Page](#)

[Pedestrian Master Plan Home Page](#)

[Vision Zero Home page](#)