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TO PRINT, USE PRINT VERSION

of note

Next MCCF Meeting #928

Monday, December 13, 2021, 7:30 p.m. *online via Zoom.* Topic: “Policing and Public Safety in Montgomery County.”

! **Join the Zoom Meeting Here**

[See further instructions on page 2. No password is required.]

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Meeting Minutes

November 8 Meeting #927 **P. 19**

Executive Committee Meeting

NOVEMBER

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Membership Application

Join or Renew Now:

JOIN ONLINE • MAIL-IN FORM

Federation Meeting #928

Monday, December 13, 2021

7:30 p.m.

Online Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes:
November General Meeting
P.19
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Announcements
6. December Program:
*Policing and Public Safety
in Montgomery County* **P.3**
7. Committee Reports
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

About MCCF Meetings

All monthly MCCF meetings are open to the public. They are held on the second Monday of each month, September through June. For online meetings, the start time will be at 7:30 p.m.

The December meeting will be held online via Zoom (see page 3 for program) at 7:30 p.m.:

■ To be part of the video conference, download the Zoom **Zoom Client for Meetings** [here](#).

■ Date and Time: Monday, December 13, 2021, 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

■ To **join the Zoom meeting from your browser, use this link**.

■ To participate by phone (audio only), call 301.715.8592. The meeting ID is **826 6124 8183**. No password is required.

We hope you will join us! ■



The **Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.**, is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Monthly MCCF meetings are open to the public (agenda and details at left).

The *Civic Federation News* is published monthly except July and August. It is emailed to delegates, associate members, news media, and local, state, and federal officials. **Recipients are encouraged to forward the *Civic Federation News* to all association members, friends, and neighbors.** Permission is granted to reproduce any article, provided that proper credit is given to the "*Civic Federation News* of the Montgomery County (Md.) Civic Federation."

Civic Federation News

civicednews AT montgomerycivic.org

TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE, SEE PAGE 25

December Program: Policing in Montgomery County

By Alan Bowser, President

Policing in Montgomery County is the subject of our December General Meeting. We are pleased to welcome Montgomery County Police Chief Marcus Jones as our guest speaker.

Recently, County residents have expressed concern about notable increases in crimes throughout Montgomery County. Carjackings, gun violence, homicides, school incidents, and serious traffic violations have caught the attention of many residents who are asking what can be done to reduce crime and increase the public's safety.

In a recent interview, Jones outlined several issues of concern to him as police chief in Maryland's largest county. Morale, anti-police sentiment, retirements, recruitment,



salaries top his list of concerns.

Our December meeting will provide an opportunity for members of the Civic Federation and the public to ask the Chief their questions about specific public safety issues. ■

Planning Department Information Update

By Alan Bowser, President

Montgomery County civic associations and homeowners associations are asked to update their information on the Montgomery County Planning Department's [website found here](#).

The Planning Department maintains a list of organizations to keep residents informed. Developers use the list to publicize their application plans, and the Planning Department send announcements about planning issues of interest to the community. Providing current email addresses cuts costs and ensures a rapid flow of information.

When you're updating your data, send a copy to MCCF at info@montgomerycivic.org. We'd like to keep in touch, too! ■

An Update on Thrive Montgomery 2050, the 30-Year General Plan for the County

By Liz Joyce, Second Vice President

On October 25, 2021, the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee held the last of its ten work sessions on Thrive Montgomery 2050 (“Thrive”), the Planning Board’s 30-year general plan for the County. Although there was some debate over the failure to engage some minority communities in developing the document, the committee voted to approve the plan, which had been amended with the help of Council staff for several months, and send it to the Council for their consideration. On November 16, Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson and Director Gwen Wright briefed the full Council on Thrive. One of the most interesting moments came when Councilmember Katz asked why Planning Board

and PHED insist that Thrive does not change zoning. “Won’t zoning changes and text amendments have to be passed for the plan to go into effect?” he asked. “Yes,” Council President Hucker admitted. Many residents are concerned about the plan, Katz said. The Council decided not to vote on the plan until it held at least one “listening session” for the public, and two sessions were scheduled—for November 30 and December 15.

At the November 30 listening session, only 42 of the 72 scheduled speakers testified, probably because the Council had not notified those approved to speak until the day before. Pro-Thrive speakers urged immediate passage of the Plan, citing its overall goals of providing housing for new residents and re-

ducing sprawl. Critics cited the lack of metrics, the need for a funding mechanism, the poor timing (developed during the pandemic), the need for master plans, concerns about tree canopy and environmental resiliency, and the need for more robust and extensive community engagement before the plan is approved. The Council continues to distinguish between Thrive (a “visionary” document or guide) and later steps that will be required to implement it.

Although some Councilmembers wanted a quick vote, none has been scheduled. The process will continue under the leadership of new Council President Gabe Albornoz.

The Civic Federation will hold our own listening session on Sunday, December 12, from 7–10 p.m. See next page or [register here](#). ■

MCCF Hosts Community Public Hearing on Thrive 2050

By Alan Bowser, President

The Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc., and partners invite you to attend—and to testify—at a “Community Public Hearing on Thrive 2050,” the County’s proposed General Plan. The meeting will be online via Zoom on Sunday, December 12, 2021, at 7 p.m.

The Montgomery County Council has arranged two “listening sessions” (11/30 and 12/15) on a draft General Plan as recommended by its Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee. But many residents have expressed concern that the County Council has (1) limited the number of people allowed to speak, and (2) has limited the time allowed for testimony to only two minutes. The County Council has also excluded from these

listening sessions individuals who testified at an earlier online County Council Public Hearing on the draft Plan *before* it was modified by the Council Committee.

Please join us for our “alternative” Community Public Hearing on Thrive 2050! You will be able to speak for up to *four* minutes, and we will accommodate everybody who wants to express their views. We will provide the Montgomery County Council with a link to our community public hearing! We also will encourage participants to provide written statements so that we can share them on a public website.

Especially if you were excluded from the County Council’s “Listening Sessions” or haven’t yet had a chance to express your views on the Thrive 2050 plan, this is your opportunity



to do so.

The registration link is <https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtd-iprjMuHdW6oX67D-MvT2bNHRW64re6V>.

We hope that you can join us Sunday evening at 7 p.m.

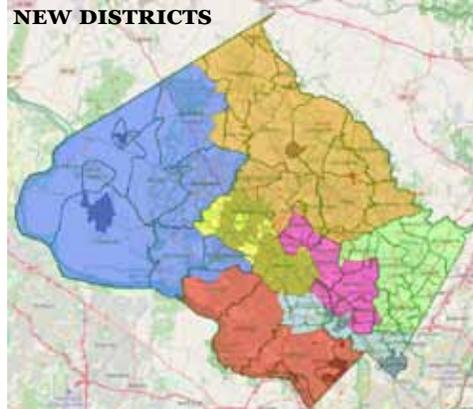
The meeting is sponsored by the Montgomery County Civic Federation, the Montgomery County Taxpayers League, the Citizens Coordinating Committee for Friendship Heights, and Responsible Growth for Montgomery County. ■

Redistricting Commission Recommends Map to Montgomery County Council

By Alan Bowser, President

Members of the Redistricting Commission voted 6-5 for the map it will send to the County Council recommending how to divide the county into new districts. (That map is show at right; the map at the far right overlays the current boundaries for five districts.)

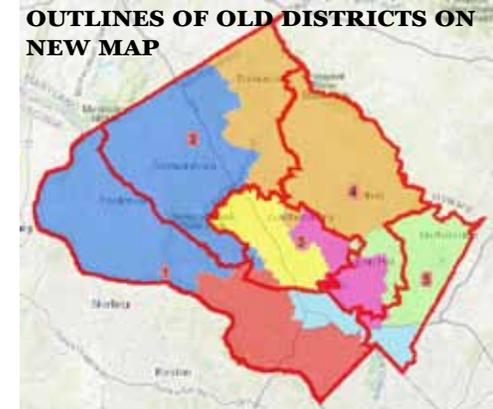
The map divides Montgomery County into seven districts, each of which can elect one council member and one at-large council member. The map stands as a revision of one presented last week when the commission narrowed its choices to three maps as the county moves to add two additional council seats. During a meeting Wednesday, Commissioner David Stein said changes reflect input from commissioners as well as the public.



The Commission must now write a report for the County Council. Members will meet next on Nov. 3 to vote on a final report and map to deliver to the council by Nov. 5.

District 1 (red) includes Chevy Chase, Bethesda, Potomac, and Travilah.

District 2 (darker blue) is ex-



clusively upcounty; it contains all of North Potomac, all of Germantown, and includes Clarksburg.

District 3 (green) is in east county and would be a plurality African American district. It starts at the Beltway around Four Corners, goes up to Burtonsville and up to

Redistricting, cont.

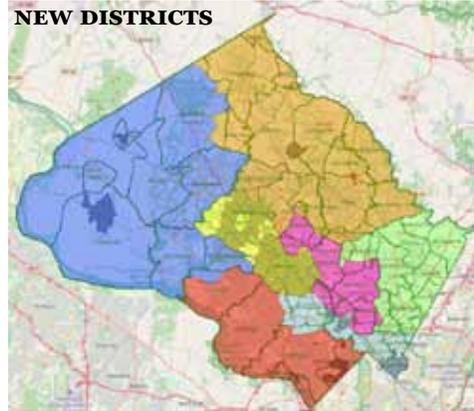
the top of Cloverly, Spencerville, and Colesville. It also includes all of Leisure World.

District 4 (yellow) includes Rockville and Gaithersburg. The commission voted to keep the cities together.

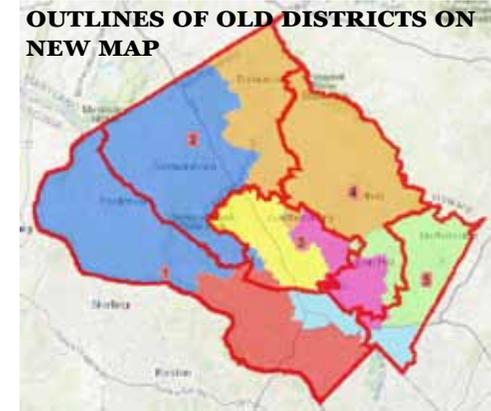
District 5 (light blue) is the Silver Spring district. It includes Silver Spring, Long Branch, and Takoma Park, extending up to North Bethesda.

District 6 (purple) is the Wheaton district; it starts in Forest Glen and includes all of Wheaton, the entire Glenmont district, and goes up through Aspen Hill into Derwood.

District 7 (brown) is the upcounty/midcounty district. It includes Olney and Montgomery Village, continuing all the way into Damascus.



Stein said six districts are majority people of color. The revised map moved part of Chevy Chase from the Silver Spring district into the Bethesda district, resulting in the Silver Spring district going from Takoma Park up to North Bethesda. The Wheaton district, therefore, loses North Bethesda and extends up to Derwood, Stein said. The Hispanic population and voting-age



population of the Wheaton district increases to become a plurality. The upcounty/midcounty district has more upcounty representation by adding in areas around Damascus. Some upcounty community concerns were addressed, so Germantown and North Potomac are no longer split, Stein said.

[Published in MyMCMedia, October 21, 2021.] ■

County Regresses to ‘Substantial Transmission’ Status of COVID-19, Leading Board of Health to Reinstate Indoor Mask Mandate Starting on Saturday, November 20th

By Alan Bowser, President

Due to an increase in COVID-19 cases, Montgomery County has returned to the status of “substantial transmission” of COVID-19 based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. The increase in cases led the County Council, acting in its role as the County Board of Health, to again invoke its regulation mandating masks be worn indoors starting at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20.

According to the Board of Health regulation on mask requirements, if the County’s rate of transmission is measured as substantial for seven consecutive days, the indoor mask mandate return is to be implemented.

In early August, the County Council, acting as the Board of



Health, voted unanimously to require all residents, regardless of vaccination status, to wear face coverings indoors once the County became an area of “substantial transmission” of COVID-19. See Board of Health regulation 19-975 for more

detailed information.

The CDC recommended in July that jurisdictions with substantial or high transmission rates of COVID-19 require masks be worn indoors. The CDC defines substantial transmission as 50-99 cases per 100,000 residents over a period of seven days.

The County’s COVID-19 data dashboard provides the latest metrics and key indicators. The dashboard is updated daily by 2 p.m.

Residents who are not vaccinated can find free vaccination clinics at www.GoVAXMoCo.com. People who feel sick or think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should get tested. Locations of free testing clinics can be found at www.MoCo-COVIDtesting.org. See the number of cases in MoCo on the next page. ■

Snapshot of COVID-19 Cases in Montgomery County as of December 2, 2021

Statewide in Maryland there have 589,113 Cases as of Thursday December 2, 2021. There have been 10,996 deaths from COVID-19 in Maryland and currently there are 741 people hospitalized in Maryland. Below are the number of cases by Zip Code in Montgomery County on a cumulative basis as of December 2. ■

<u>Total</u>	<u>%/1K</u>	<u>Zip</u>	<u>Town/Area</u>										
				2562	51.64	20854	Potomac						Walter Reed
16	62.75	20812	Glen Echo	1088	76.04	20855	Derwood	92	92.00	20892	Bethesda NIH		
1574	56.94	20814	Bethesda	221	92.24	20860	Sandy Spring	1296	68.02	20895	Kensington		
1485	51.06	20815	Chevy Chase	217	115.73	20861	Ashton	3248	93.25	20901	Silver Spring		
690	42.57	20816	Bethesda	22	64.14	20862	Brinklow	5774	118.22	20902	Silver Spring		
1805	49.81	20817	Bethesda	1545	115.78	20866	Burtonsville	2922	123.68	20903	Silver Spring		
71	36.19	20818	Cabin John	86	108.86	20868	Spencerville	6025	110.32	20904	Silver Spring		
1603	64.21	20832	Olney	1740	132.52	20871	Clarksburg	1487	82.41	20905	Silver Spring		
537	69.42	20833	Brookeville	1118	85.32	20872	Damascus	7622	117.81	20906	Silver Spring		
410	70.82	20837	Poolesville	5278	92.00	20874	Germantown	2971	79.34	20910	Silver Spring		
10	38.61	20838	Barnesville	2253	88.37	20876	Germantown	2108	84.98	20912	Takoma Park		
17	79.44	20839	Beallsville	4482	130.59	20877	Gaithersburg	531			Unknown		
540	51.63	20841	Boyd's	4021	64.39	20878	Gaithersburg						
115	63.05	20842	Dickerson	2679	109.98	20879	Gaithersburg	85615	87.24		Total Cases of		
3563	76.89	20850	Rockville	988	70.26	20882	Gaithersburg				Covid-19 in		
1370	96.54	20851	Rockville	3620	108.77	20886	Montgomery				Montgomery County		
2967	73.50	20852	Rockville				Village						
2789	93.99	20853	Rockville	58	58.00	20889	Bethesda				<i>185 New Cases Per Day</i>		

Update on Pepco's Shared Use Recreational Path Along Its Right-of-Way

By Peggy Dennis, Transportation Committee Member

If you remember, the Civic Federation played a key role in getting Pepco to agree to allow a shared use recreational path along its corridor in the western part of the county. My contact at Montgomery Parks, Michael Zelaski, reports the progress being made on our Shared Use Path:

■ Coordination meetings are occurring in-house between Planning and Design sections.

■ The access application was received, Park staff and designers can now access the right-of-way (ROW).

■ Parks is preparing scopes of work for consultants to perform topographic surveys and environmental assessments to aid in avoidance and minimization of impact efforts. They are preparing maps to

aid the consultants in defining the limits of work.

■ Parks entered into discussions with Pepco staff to determine means to comply with stormwater management requirements that won't affect Pepco's ability to maintain its equipment. Subsequently, Parks evaluated Parks' own nearby properties to identify potential areas to treat stormwater management.

■ Parks will begin conducting site visits this winter through next year to develop plans.

■ Grant application was filed and supplemental information is being provided as requested to secure funding through the State for initial construction.

■ Parks and Pepco are in the early stages of developing legal agreements regarding future access and

maintenance of the finished project.

There is a tremendous volume of work to complete prior to the start of construction; once access to the ROW is permitted, the design process will begin in earnest, including: numerous site visits to get detailed visualization, topographic survey of the terrain, delineation of environmental assets, documentation of streams to be crossed, selection of points of connection to existing travel-ways, and design of the alignment.

“We are on-track to retain a consultant and begin detailed design in 2022,” said Zelaski, “which will include public outreach efforts. Later on, construction schedule and phasing will be developed as part of the design process and will be dependent on permitting.” ■

The War Against Tree-Killing Vines in the County

By Peggy Dennis, Transportation Committee Member

Last June I wrote a piece about the pleasures of volunteering with DOT's Adopt-a-Road program. Now I'm working to create another kind of Adopt-a-Road Program.

This past October, the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) partnered with other conservation organizations and the City of Takoma Park to organize volunteers to cut the thousands of invasive vines that were slowly killing the city's trees. See the [CCAN website here](#) for a better idea of what this involved.

Montgomery Parks Department is doing the same work with volunteers participating in its Weed Warrior Program.

But no one is looking after the

trees that grow along our roads. It's hard to see the problem now because most of our deciduous trees have lost their leaves, but thousands of trees are being overwhelmed and slowly killed by these same vines. In summer, they look like green ghosts. DOT's "tree man," Brett Linkletter, acknowledges the problem and says that DOT does not have the human resources to solve the problem. But he is open to starting a volunteer program to save our roadside trees.

It will take some time to iron out several legal and technical issues, but I look forward to helping get a program set up, at least with a trial stretch of road. It would be another wonderful way for individuals and civic groups to help keep our mature roadside trees alive and healthy. So, stay posted! ■

WMATA Parking Lot Usage

By Jerry Garson, Transportation Committee Chair

The usage of parking lots at the WMATA Stations in MoCo is only 8.57% compared with prepandemic usage. This indicates that people with motor vehicles have reduced their usage of WMATA rail. Many parking lots used to be full every day before Covid-19 changed rail ridership.

For example, the parking lot at Shady Grove was used by 4,769 cars in Sept. of 2019; that dropped to 78 in Sept. of 2021. Even the least-used lot at Wheaton, which held 432 cars in Sept. of 2019, was used by only 41 cars the entire month of Sept. 2021.

The total for all the WMATA lots in Montgomery County in September 2019 was 12,342; two years later, that total was 1,058. (In February 2021, that total was only 590.) ■

Photos from the County's 2021 Thanksgiving Parade in Downtown Silver Spring



All Photos by Alan Rowser

Thanksgiving Parade, cont.



Thanksgiving Parade, cont.



Thanksgiving Parade, cont.



Thanksgiving Parade, cont.



Thanksgiving Parade, cont.



Thanksgiving Parade, cont.



Minutes of November 8, 2021, MCCF General Meeting #927, Virtual Zoom Meeting

By Karen Cordry, Recording Secretary

[Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the General Meeting was held via Zoom as a virtual meeting. A total of 51 persons attended on the Zoom platform.]

Call to Order: Alan Bowser called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and led introductions.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Moved, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

Approval of October Minutes: Moved, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report (Jerry Garson): Since July 1, we had receipts of

\$914 with \$80 received in the last 30 days. Our expenses have been \$400, for a net gain of \$514. The current bank balance is \$9,592.00.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ The Taxpayers League has sent in a resolution on Thrive 2050.

■ The December meeting topic will be changed; it was going to be a meeting with the state legislators but it conflicts with their budget priority meeting, so we will have a new topic.

■ We need new committee chairs, co-chairs, and members to keep those committees up and functioning, so let Alan know if you're interested.

■ The Planning Dept. has list of HOAs and CAs on its website, would like us to update that and make corrections.

■ Need people to be on Awards Committee.

■ MoCo Thanksgiving parade is Nov. 20; we will have a vehicle in the parade and invite folks to join us to help raise our profile.

■ Redistricting draft has come out and there are some controversies about how the new Councilmanic districts have been drawn, in terms of communities being split up.

PROGRAM: TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Moderator Jerry Garson

■ The infrastructure bill should provide Maryland with another \$300 million per year for 6 years. (Total of \$1.2 billion per year under all of the bills). RideOn buses will remain fully free through June 30,

November Minutes, cont.

2022.

■ WMATA has problems with Rockville and Shady Grove stations.

■ New contracts to restart Purple Line construction probably will not be done until 2026.

Chris Conklin

[Director of the Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation Vision Zero, Climate and Resiliency (electrification or auto and light vehicle fleet in County)]

■ The transportation sector produces about 40% of overall greenhouse emissions. Working to convince private parties to buy electric, and to expand number and visibility of charging stations across the County. Allow private EV charging in right-of-way. Group buy/co-op purchase program to get electric

vehicles cheaper.

■ Reviewing RideOn usage and WMATA service as well. Expect there may well be significant changes in those services with goal of making WMATA more accessible and reliable.

■ Purple Line: hope to have contract signed with new contactor by end of the year and get things moving again.

■ Expansion of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) services: Flash Service on Route 29 started last year. Did about 500,000 rides, which isn't bad for pandemic. Continuing design work on Rt. 586. Will be starting design work on 355 from Clarksville to Bethesda and working on New Hampshire Avenue from Colesville to the District. Looking at whether to install dedicated Bus HOV lanes on Rt. 29.

■ Parking facilities have had real

difficulties during the pandemic when usage declined dramatically during lockdowns but demand is picking back up. They are looking to do larger development project near existing parking facility such as in Silver Spring near parking facilities. The facility under the Planning Dept. building in Wheaton is being more used as that building is starting to fill up.

■ Capital program: they continue to move on major projects, including pedestrian tunnel under Route 355 at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its Metro Station. Western workaroud at Exec. Blvd and Old Georgetown Road has reopened, as has connection to Pike and Rose.

SELECTED Q&A FOR CONKLIN

■ **Question 1:** What's your opinion of the Thrive 2050 General Plan?

November Minutes, cont.

Answer: DOT has weighed in on Thrive 2050 and its recommendations to severely cut back or eliminate new road projects in light of still relatively light usage of buses (about 5% of commuters). They did not support Thrive in its current form but do expect there will not be large numbers of new roads and cars will still be a large part of transportation for the foreseeable future. Comments focused on the need for greater clarity and they do see benefits from transit on a number of corridors. Comments are available, but he did not say where to find them.

I Question 2: Repairs on neighborhood roads, which has been chronically underfunded.

Answer: Over the last 15 years, effort to apply more funds but amount to fully fund repairs is not

achievable in the County's current budget structure. We look at the most bang for the bucks so we fully reconstruct the worst streets but try to spread the rest of the funds over a wider area. The infrastructure bill is for larger projects so it won't directly affect this work by may free up some funds that can be used.

I Question 3: Cut-through traffic in neighborhoods while construction is going on has been a continuing problem.

Answer: They are looking to integrate consideration of traffic barriers with the Neighborhood Greenways program and also to work with the new Purple Line contractor to deal with those issues and others such as utility relocation. He will look into those issues going forward, particularly on the Purple Line contract.

I Question 4: Some of the state

roads/intersections such as at Colesville Road and Dale Drive are a major source of accidents. If we want to push for changes such as center islands, who do we go to at the state?

Answer: This is state highway with high volume but doesn't have high speed. Considering whether to make one lane a bus lane, which could be basis for overall study. Derek Gunn (Asst. Dist. Engineer at state) and Michael Taylor from his office are state people to talk to.

Wade Holland

[Vision Zero Coordinator in the Office of the MoCo Executive]

I Showed PowerPoint on Vision Zero efforts [[view PDF here](#), ignore label PBTSAC]. Up to 20 state and local agencies involved in this process, which includes Pedestrian Highway Beacons; road safety

November Minutes, cont.

audits in Aspen Hill and on New Hampshire Avenue from I-495 to Piney Branch Road); Shared Streets programs in Silver Spring, Wheaton, etc.

| About 10 bikeway projects are under construction or in the design phase.

| White Flint West Workaround: realign the roads to make safer and more inviting.

| See their Vision Zero home page [[view it here](#)].

| “Twenty is Plenty” pilot project to set target speed of 20 mph in downtown and neighborhood streets. Looking at efforts to improve experience for visually impaired and those with other disabilities. Looking at task force between various police forces to get impaired drivers off the road. Sober ride pro-

grams.

| Discussed process for requesting sidewalks (about a three-year queue now). Use [MC311.com](#)—“traffic study”—to request safety engineer to look at area.

| University Blvd. bike lane project is a state project based on a grant; pilot project they are reviewing now.

| eBikes can also be a good option and Capital Bikeshare does have ebikes in its inventory.

SELECTED Q&A FOR HOLLAND

I Question 1: How do we get enforcement of the safety measures?

Answer: We concentrate on arterials but district commander has resources to do spot enforcement. There is a program going on now to do some high-profile ticketing on various violations. Can also go to the Vision Zero site at [the “Get Involved” webpage](#) to have more input. To get

statistics, ask Wade Holland directly; there is a database but it’s hard to use so he’ll help.

I Question 2: What’s the status on the Metropolitan Branch Trail?

Answer: They will work on next spring from the downtown Silver Spring Transit Center to Fenton Street. It will eventually run from Union Station up to Silver Spring, link to the Capital Crescent Trail to Bethesda, and then back to D.C. to connect back up, with goal of making biking a viable option for that whole loop area.

I Question 3: How do you handle design speed versus posted speed on roads?

Answer: We have to redesign roads to force speeds down to the posted limits. Absent that, you may get more accidents as people drive at different speeds. Methods to

November Minutes, cont.

do this include speed bumps and humps, chicanes (a sharp curve or artificial narrowing on a road to slow traffic), bump-outs, removing curved right lane exits, and reduced speeds.

■ Civic Associations can raise issues to the County Council, call 311/ visit MC311.com, or fill out intake forms through the state.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Land Use

■ A lot of activity going on around Thrive 2050 and housing issues. Cary Lamari and Kim Persaud have been collecting information on results in other areas. We have a new second Vice President, Elizabeth Joyce, who is working in this area. Alan Bowser noted that Prince George's County's General Plan is

much more detailed, with specific metrics, etc., compared to Montgomery County's Thrive 2050. Harriet Quinn noted that D.C.'s General Plan Update took five years to complete. Specific proposals will be spelled out in the Action Report, which must be separately reviewed, and passed on, which will take time. But they are still thinking about passing ZTAs without waiting on the Action Report framework to be passed so we should oppose that.

Legislation

■ Peggy Dennis is contacting delegation as to bills they want to put forward that may be of particular interest to the Civic Fed and we'll review them.

■ Harriet Quinn noted that public hearings on redistricting maps will be held November 16 and 18. She

suggested we should send letter requesting more hearings.

Public Safety

■ Stabbing today at Blair High School in Silver Spring. The school is very overcrowded. Discussion on removal of School Resource Officers and general safety concerns; a longer conversation is needed on this issue.

OLD BUSINESS

■ None

NEW BUSINESS

■ None

Adjourned at 9:55 p.m. ■

Minutes of the MCCF Executive Committee Meeting November 18, 2021

By Karen Cordry, Recording Secretary

Attendance: Alan Bowser, Karen Cordry, Joshua Montgomery, Elizabeth Joyce, Jerry Garson, Jacquie Bokow

Approval of the Agenda: Moved, seconded, and approved.

Treasurer's Report: \$35 received since last report. Conservation Montgomery has joined Civic Fed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Committee for Montgomery Legislative Breakfast <http://www.committeeformontgomery.org/legislative-breakfast>. December 10, 2021 – at Marriott in Bethesda. Tickets are \$150. Alan and Liz will go. Gu-

bernatorial candidates will be there. Moved, seconded and approved to pay for tickets.

■ Update on the County Thanksgiving Parade. Civic Fed application has been accepted. Jerry will drive car with Civic Fed signs. Liz Joyce will join Jerry. Live broadcast on Sat. 10-12. Rebroadcast on Thanksgiving Day. Alan will be there and will be taking pictures for the newsletter.

■ Update on Thrive 2050. Looks like some divisions between those pushing speedily and those looking to take some more time. As new President, Gabe Albornoz will be driving the agenda and running for re-election, so will likely have interest in this. We should have at least some time on the December meeting agenda to report on the Council lis-

tening session. Liz will do an update on the topic.

■ Update on Redistricting. There have been some complaints about the way communities have been divided up. Alan will look to see if we can find someone on County staff (who had a briefing today) to report on where this is at and where they are going.

DECEMBER 13 PROGRAM

■ In view of the concerns about public safety and policing as the County has reopened, this will be our topic.

MEMBERSHIP

■ Discussion about how to really move forward on pushing the membership base back up. We need to

Nov. ExCom Minutes, cont.

get mailing list of all who should be getting notice (Harriet has that list) and then Liz, Harriet, Jerry, Alan need to meet to go over the list and decide who else needs to be added. Also should consider revise timing of membership year so it coincides with calendar year. Joshua noted that Montgomery Planning Dept. has [HOA/CA tools online](#) that let one more readily find groups. We should discuss that site in the newsletter and how CAs can update/correct their information on that site.

COMMUNICATIONS

■ Should we have a Civic Fed Listserv so members can contact each other directly without having to go through Civic Fed officers. After discussion, Joshua Montgomery agreed to be administrator/modera-

tor for the site. Those who could post would be all members of Civic Fed and any members of a member that is designated as delegate to Civic Fed. Jacque says her CA used GroupsIO.com as its site (and Joshua approves). May also want to do some Facebook postings about upcoming events to get more exposure and to note decisions taken by Civic Fed.

NEWSLETTER

■ Due to Thanksgiving holiday, the deadline was extended to November 30.

Adjourn: 8:05 p.m. ■

Montgomery County Civic Federation

www.montgomerycivic.org
[info AT montgomerycivic.org](mailto:info@montgomerycivic.org)
Twitter Feed @mcciviefed
[MCCF Facebook Page](#)

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