

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

President Gregory Intoccia called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. GOCA representatives, alternates, invited guests and members of the public introduced themselves.

Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the October 10, 2017 minutes. Stacy Levine made a motion to approve the minutes. Jackie Benn seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Intoccia noted that two changes needed to be made to the agenda for today's meeting. The statement "Approval of September Minutes" should say "Approval of October Minutes" and the statement "Approval of October Agenda" should say "Approval of November Agenda". Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the revised agenda for today's meeting. Dave Miller made a motion to approve the revised agenda. Bob Hambrecht seconded the motion. The revised agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no public comments and announcements.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLCE SAFETY INITIATIVE

President Greg Intoccia introduced the topic by stating that pedestrian and bicycle safety is important to Olney because we are a crossroads community. The GOCA Officers would like to increase the level of profile and attention to this area. It requires constant attention from the community. The GOCA Delegates should keep in mind ways we can partner with the County for the safety and enjoyment of pathways.

Wade Holland, Performance and Data Analyst, County Stat Office, Office of the County Executive, discussed the Vision Zero Plan. He stated that November, December, and January are the worst months for pedestrian safety. The goal of the Vision Zero Plan is to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries on our roads by 2030. The focus of the Pedestrian Safety Initiative is on Engineering, Education, and Enforcement.

Holland stated that transportation-related deaths and severe injuries are preventable and unacceptable. Human life takes priority over mobility and other objectives of the road system. Human error is inevitable. People are inherently vulnerable. Safe human behaviors, education, and enforcement are

essential contributors to a safe system. Policies at all levels of government need to align making safety the highest priority for roadways.

He discussed the Safe System Approach which is to prevent crashes from resulting in fatal and serious casualties. The goal is to have zero fatalities and serious injuries.

The Bicycle Master Plan Bicycle Stress Map can be found at www.mcatlas.org/bikestress. This map shows the level of traffic stress that people who bicycle experience on each public road and trail in Montgomery County, Maryland. This tool is intended to assist planners in evaluating connectivity for bicyclists that tolerate different levels of traffic stress and to identify locations where investments are needed to reduce the level of traffic stress.

Holland discussed the following Action Plans:

- Engineering – Expand Road Safety Audits, Review Transit Stops, Redesign Trail Crossings
- Enforcement – Establish Collision Review Team
- Education – On Bike Education Program for Kids
- Traffic Incident Management – Provider prompt emergency medical service
- Law, Policy and Advocacy – Publish collision data

The Safety Feedback Map will be launched in late November / early December.

Seifu Kerse, Area Engineer, Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations, MCDOT discussed Pedestrian Safety and MCDOT process. He is in charge of County traffic engineering for the Olney area. The work depends on people's requests. The division does not initiate work on its own. They respond to the residents requests. He said that the best way to get in contact with him is to call 311. The HOA can submit a request. Then his division will do a study and recommend a solution. Some of the studies have to do with traffic signals, crosswalks, speed calming devices, traffic studies, and painting faded lines. He stated that the Vision Zero website has information that describes what 311 does.

Pat Shepherd, County Bicycle Coordinator discussed Bicycle Safety and MCDOT process. Pat has been an Olney resident for 23 years. She said that it is helpful to hear from community members and to obtain feedback. Shepherd stated that Montgomery County is committed to develop a seamless transportation system including a low stress bicycle network. MCDOT's focus is to expand biking infrastructure with shared use paths, separated bike lanes, and conventional bike lanes. MCDOT's mission is to move people and connect places with the best transportation choices and services. MCDOT's vision is to have a seamless transportation system for people of all ages, income and abilities that supports a vibrant and sustainable community.

Shepherd mentioned that the ideal solution is to have a separated bike line. She mentioned the Needwood Road bike path which recently opened in October. She also discussed the following minor projects that the Bikeway Program completed this year:

- Nebel Street separated Bike Lanes (Randolph Road – Marinelli Road)
- Glenbrook Road / Little Falls Parkway separated contraflow bike lane
- Clopper Road shared-use path

- Emory Lane shared-use path (Muncaster Mill Road – Holly Ridge).

She also stated that construction of a protected intersection and Second Avenue and Spring Street is anticipated in summer 2018. This type of intersection improves safety for all users. It uses best practices. It will be the first protected intersection on the East Coast.

She discussed the following proposed projects in Olney:

- Emory Lane shared use path – fill in missing link in bike network from Holly Ridge to Muncaster Mill Road (1600 linear feet)
- Muncaster Mill shared used path – link the Emory Road shared used path to the North Branch Trail providing a regional connection from the ICC to DC (1550 linear feet)
- Dr. Bird shared use path from MD 108 to 1400 feet east of MD 108 – proposed for planning study and preliminary design in FY 19.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/LIAISON REPORTS

Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee (PP&CAC)

Greg Intoccia stated that he attending the October 23rd meeting about the Laytonsville Landfill. He said that there did not appear to be anything for Olney residents to be concerned about. A ground mounted solar energy system will be built on top of the landfill. It is expected to generate \$350,000 in savings each year. It is financed by TESLA. Construction will start in spring 2018. Trucks will be coming from the Route 270 Corridor. It is not anticipated that Olney will be impacted by the traffic.

Billy Boyd discussed a resolution that is being considered for next month's GOCA meeting. The resolution enhances our input on development in the town center area. Since Olney is a commercial/residential town, it has unique zoning characteristics. A CRT under 10,000 square feet and with a height under 40,000 feet has a simplified approval process. Only functional requirements currently need to be satisfied. GOCA would like small properties in the town area to also be evaluated on safety and aesthetics.

Greg Intoccia and Billy Boyd discussed the Chick-Fil-A sign which is 81 square feet and was installed at a height of 23 feet. There were a lot of complaints about the sign on social media. The sign was taken down temporarily since it was not in the proper location. It was re-installed in the proper location at a lower height. Greg spoke with the owner about the size and height of the sign. He was approached by the owner who wants to address the problem for the community. The owner is willing to reduce the sign by 1/3 (so it will be 54 square feet) and reduce the height to about 15 feet. He needs to discuss this with the company. They want to open soon. They need a sign to open. So, they will use the existing sign on Rt 108 at the height allowed by the County. The new sign likely needs to be approved by the County. The owner stated that he intends to put up the smaller new sign within a month after any necessary approvals are obtained. GOCA wants a right-sized sign appropriately placed at the appropriate height. The owner recognizes the need to work with GOCA and wants to participate in the community.

Joe Corbett asked if we can ask for a smaller sign. Greg responded that the above discussion was

achieved after a discussion with the owner on what could be achieved in terms of a sign that would be reasonable, and we have no leverage to achieve an even smaller sign.

Transportation Committee Report

Greg Intoccia stated that the committee will meet November 21 at 6:00 pm in the library. Transportation priorities will be discussed the GOCA's December meeting.

Correspondence Report

Jackie Benn stated that there were no new items to report.

Mid County Citizens Advisory Board

Greg Intoccia stated that the \$15 minimum wage bill was passed. It will have a phased in approach. In July 2021, the new minimum wage will go into effect for large companies with 51+ employees. It will go into effect in July 2024 for midsize and smaller companies. The Mid County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) is very pleased about the passage of the bill. George Leventhal will speak at the next MCCAB meeting.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee

Helene Rosenheim stated that the next OTCAC meeting was cancelled because the review of the proposals for the Town Center are not ready yet. They hope that the County staff will have something to present to them in January.

Nominations Committee

Greg Intoccia reminded the Delegates to speak with Barbara Falcigno or one of the Officers if they are interested in being on the board next year. He stated that it is very worthwhile to be on the board.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

At last night's Civic Federation Meeting, there was a lot of discussion about the Purple Line. Construction is beginning and will take 18 months. There was discussion about whether this is the way of the future. The project is very expensive and will be disruptive.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion was submitted to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Stacy Levine, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

GOCA Officers

Greg Intoccia, President – Ashley Hollow; Billy Becker, 1st Vice President; David Miller, 2nd Vice President; Stacy Levine, Recording Secretary - The Reserve at Fair Hill; Jackie Benn, Corresponding Secretary – Fair Hill Farm; Bob Hambrecht, Treasurer

GOCA Delegates and Alternates

Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Thomas Kriger (Norbeck Chase Townhouse), Gervais Crouch (Norbeck Chase Townhouse), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Ravin Howell (Oatland Farm), Carol Frenkel (Olney Mill), Jay Feinberg (Olney Oaks), Michael Cullingford (Reserve at Fairhill), Alden English (SEROCA), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village), Joe Corbett (Williamsburg Village).

Invited Guests

Wade Holland, Performance & Data Analyst, County Stat Office, Office of the County Executive
Seifu Kerse, Area Engineer, Division of Traffic Engineering & Operations, MCDOT
Pat Shepherd, County Bicycle Coordinator.

Public

Terri Hogan (Greater Olney News)