

From: [Tim Smith](#)
To: [Greg Ossont](#); [Rob Robinson](#)
Subject: FW: Gaithersburg Transportation plan
Date: Monday, August 02, 2010 7:43:36 AM

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Lindstrom [<mailto:dick.lindstrom@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 02, 2010 7:24 AM
To: The Fenimores
Cc: alan migdall; peter.darmody@dullesmetro.com; thomassnyder48@gmail.com; bill@karensnyder.com; liz@liznotter.com; Crisostomo, Chuck; Tim Smith
Subject: Re: Gaithersburg Transportation plan

Chuck, your note is perfectly timed. I'm planning to say a few words about Gaithersburg biking non-plans at tonight's City Council meeting.

Dick

On Mon, Aug 2, 2010 at 5:35 AM, The Fenimores <fenimori@erols.com> wrote:

- > Dear Former Members of Gaithersburg BPAC,
- >
- > The Gaithersburg City Council is receiving comments
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- > http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/poi/default.asp?POI_ID=309&TOC=307:309;&id=4534
- > on a draft transportation plan that can be found at
- > http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/poi/default.asp?POI_ID=664&TOC=664;
- >
- > At the moment I'm unable to comment on the plan other than to note:
- > - in the first couple pages the plan puts forward the automobile as the
- > preferred transportation vehicle while including pro forma invocation of
- > bicycles as a transportation alternative.
- > - the plan is authored by the Planning Board, not the Transportation
- > Committee.
- > - the plan does not reflect the key priorities raised by BPAC in our letter
- > to the Council. In particular, the Toole report is mentioned but not
- > included.
- >
- > I'll be away for a few days but will comment before the August 13th closing
- > date. I encourage others to do likewise.
- >
- > Chuck Fenimore
- > ==
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- > Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee Members,
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- > City staff recently completed an evaluation project of all City committees,
- > and recommendations were made to the Mayor and City Council at a work
- > session on August 10, 2009. The goal was to ensure that the City's primary
- > advisory committees are aligned with our strategic initiatives, and that the
- > committees operate efficiently and effectively.
- >
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> One recommendation was to establish a new Transportation Committee to
> provide input on such issues as CCT alignment, pedestrian safety,
> transportation and alternative transportation methods. The committee would
> also address issues currently being discussed by the Bicycle Pedestrian
> Advisory Committee.

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> On October 19, the Mayor and City Council adopted a resolution approving
> nine primary advisory committees, including the new Transportation
> Committee. The resolution also approved several changes concerning the
> format of committees, including more structured reporting to the Mayor and
> Council through regular minute taking, standardized information available on
> the City's website, and reports and an annual presentation to the Mayor and
> City Council.

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> The City Manager will be working with staff in the coming weeks to identify
> a liaison and create the charge of the Transportation Committee. As a
> member of BPAC, your participation was valued and we would like to extend
> the opportunity to continue participation in this new committee you will be
> invited to submit a letter of interest for membership once the committee is
> established. We will notify you at such time.

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> I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to continue to
> advocate for bicycle and pedestrian issues in Gaithersburg. We appreciate
> all that you've done for the City, and we look forward to your continued
> involvement.

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> Tim "Smitty" Smith
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> Youth Services Director
>
> City of Gaithersburg
>
> 301-258-6350

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From: Britta Monaco
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 11:22 AM
To: Doris Stokes; Monica Sanchez
Cc: Angel Jones
Subject: FW: Gaithersburg Master plan

From the City Hall e-mail box. I have responded that we are in receipt of the e-mail and will include as part of the public record.

From: Rosenbusch, Lynne [mailto:L.Rosenbusch@cpsc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 8:07 AM
To: CityHall External Mail
Subject: Gaithersburg Master plan

I would like to support Alan Migdall's email on this plan and add that

In reviewing this plan, it seems to me that Gaithersburg has not made a whole lot of progress in accommodating bikes and peds. Rt. 355 is still as dangerous as ever. The bike map looks about the same as the one in 03. I don't know what happened to your bike committee but I am disappointed in Gaithersburg.

I would not favor relying on riding on 5' sidewalks due to ped conflict and numerous driveways and intersections.

You need to maintain what they have such as Great Seneca Highway trail with trash pickup, sweeping and not allowing the trail to be torn up for utility work unless the company fixes it. And you need to think of logical connections which Alan and others have pointed out to the city..

Despite all this I do see bikes and peds on G-burg streets and sidewalks every day. Don't you think it is time to give them a decent plan? Both Germantown and Rockville have bike facilities.

If areas are being redeveloped, please require developers to put in 10' trails in accordance with AASHTO standards and safe road cross walks. For roads that parallel 355 put in bike lanes or sharrows. Please think of connections between cookie cutter developments and obtain right of ways for trails that could parallel 355 and 124.

I also would like to see more bike racks at commercial buildings, shopping centers, Lake Forest Mall and the library. Please ask Montgomery county DOT bike planner Gail Tait Nouri where the bike facilities are around Shady Grove Road and Derwood and connect to them. Also contact Rockville about connecting into their bike facilities.

Another idea is to post signs for a Gaithersburg bike route for new and existing trails and roads so that bikes can follow the route. Also post phone number for trail problems such as the Great Seneca Highway trail which often gets torn and littered so that persons using the trail can contact you for maintenance.

Lynne Rosenbusch
301-504-7681

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Joint Hearing - MCC & PC
MP-1-10
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From: Britta Monaco <BMonaco@gaithersburgmd.gov>
To: alan migdall <alan_migdall@yahoo.com>
Sent: Mon, August 9, 2010 7:35:20 AM
Subject: RE: Cooments on Transportation Plan
Mr. Migdall, thank you for your comments related to the transportation components of the Gaithersburg draft Master Plan. They will be included as part of the public record and will be shared with our elected officials for their consideration.

Britta Monaco
Director
Department of Community and Public Relations
City of Gaithersburg
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301-258-6310 x 2111
Fax: 301-948-6149
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From: alan migdall [mailto:alan_migdall@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, August 06, 2010 11:25 PM
To: CityHall External Mail
Subject: Comments on Transportation Plan

Dear Mayor Katz,

Here are a number of comments Gaithersburg draft Master Plan and they are specific to the bicycle and pedestrian components of the Plan. Critical to the bicycle and pedestrian components of the plan is a mechanism to implement them. To do that the City must incorporate the Plan's recommendations and guidelines into every project that the City takes on. That means that all transportation and land use planning projects must be evaluated not only by City staff for ways to implement the Master Plan recommendations, but also by the relevant transportation committee or committees.

To make that happen it is important for the City to understand the history of the previous Bicycle and Pedestrian master plan and the functional problems of previous Committees. It would also be useful to include that history in this current document. That history included an older Bikeways Master Plan that mapped out a number of useful links, many of which are common with the Toole draft plan. The problem was that those links and recommendations were ignored and most importantly the City did not seek input from the relevant Committee when sought projects were developed and even on occasion, actively discouraged input. To avoid a repeat of this, the procedure should map out a close coordination between the planning staff and the Committee members not only as

a project plan is developed but before any planning even begins. That close coordination means presenting the concepts to the Committee members for suggestions and feedback at a number of stages during the development.

An example of the problem can be seen in this current Master Plan Process, with a total public comment period of just 3 weeks during the summer when people are often out of town. In addition it appears that the members of the what was the Bicycle Pedestrian Committee were not notified of this comment period.

Unless a procedure that institutionalizes fixes to these previous problems, the probability of success of this plan will be unfortunately very low. The first step would be to extend the public comment period by at least a couple of months and actively solicit input from previous groups that have expressed interest in these issues and finally to hold public hearings on the proposed plan.

In addition, if the purpose of this plan is to implement a viable bicycle & pedestrian network, rather than simply have a plan for its own sake, then there must be implementation goals set for interim periods and reviews of progress that are presented to the Council. Perhaps yearly reports would be a good spacings of those reviews but certainly no less frequent than every two years. Then the Council can decide if they intend to reach those goals or not, but at least they and Gaithersburg residents will know if the plan is moving toward implementation.

Sincerely

Alan Migdall
11736 Owens Glen Way
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

From: [Britta Monaco](#)
To: [Doris Stokes](#); [Monica Sanchez](#)
Cc: [Angel Jones](#)
Subject: FW: Gaithersburg Master Plan
Date: Monday, August 09, 2010 7:36:30 AM

From the City Hall e-mail box. I sent an acknowledgement response.

From: Mike and Joan Divine [mailto:mikeandjoandivine@erols.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 08, 2010 10:59 AM
To: CityHall External Mail
Subject: Gaithersburg Master Plan

I have lived in the Gaithersburg city limits for 29 years and have spent most of that time as an avid cyclist. I live in Bennington. I have found that Gaithersburg like many suburban communities was developed and grew as a car-centric city where traveling around by any other means is difficult. Over the years, this has changed somewhat with paved multiple-use path added to major arteries like Clopper Road. However, if someone wanted to cross the I-270/CSX rail barrier that cuts down the middle of city by any means other by car, the options are very poor. I hate to think about someone try to head east from along Montgomery Village Blvd. without being in a car. I strongly urge the city to consider all options in arriving at a solution that make our city livable by means other than cars.

Michael P. Divine
16 Honey Brook Circle
Gaithersburg, MD 20878-1067