

**DRAFT**



**Gaithersburg**

*A CHARACTER COUNTS!*

**CITY OF GAITHERSBURG**

**MINUTES OF A CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

**September 22, 2008**

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A joint work session of the Mayor and City Council and Planning Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m., Mayor Katz presiding. Council Members present: Ashman, Drzyzgula, Marraffa, Sesma, and Spiegel. Commissioners present: Bauer, Hopkins, Lanier, Levy and Winborne. Commissioner absent: Kaufman. Staff present: Acting City Manager Arnoult, Assistant City Managers Felton and Tomasello, Planning and Code Administration (PCA) Director Ossont, Planner Robinson, Parks, Recreation and Culture Director Potter, and Youth Services Director Smith.

**I. TOPIC OF DISCUSSION #2**

The City of Gaithersburg contracted with Toole Design Group to help in the gathering of information and the formulation of potential strategies in developing a future Bikeway Plan. The Bikeway Plan and its recommendations will be included as a part of the future draft Transportation Element of the City's Master Plan. Mr. Robert Patten of Toole Design Group presented an overview of his research and various options available to the City of Gaithersburg in enhancing bicycle facilities.

Presentation included the following:

- Scope of the Bike Pathways Plan
- Serving Diverse Cyclists
- Facilities and Accommodations
- Findings and Network Development
- Actions and Recommendations
- Implementation Issues

**Discussion included:**

**Sustainability should be integrated from the beginning**

**Biking at night is a safety issue**

**Safe biking practices should be encouraged**

**Encourage office builders to construct showers and bike parking**

**City should provide point to point routes**

**Comparison of 8 ft and 10 ft paths**

**Building a crushed path along NIST/MD 124. Staff has met with officials from NIST and they're not opposed to the trail**

**Trail connection of Conservation Lane to MD 124 and MD 119**

**The safety of Sharrows and possible pilot project**

**Bike Share Program success in other cities was discussed**

During public comment, the input received were to implement a phase plan, remember that for some, bikes are a primary form of transportation, have connections with City of Rockville and the Shady Grove Metro, create safer pathways, promote alternative transportation, concern over the use of Sharrows and possible liability, and more signage to designate routes.

Staff was directed to: 1) Review current requirements and evaluate need for a potential bicycle parking initiative; 2) Pursue building a crushed stone path along NIST/MD 124; 3) Continue with the pathway link from Conservation Lane to MD 124 and MD 119; and 4) Have City Attorney Board review the legal status of the use of Sharrows.

**II. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before this session of the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim "Smitty" Smith  
Youth Services Director