Attendees: Chair Sheldon Epstein, Allysha Lorber, Charlie Murphy, Ted Levin Carl Jackson, Sachin Hebbar, Matt Peterson, Nate Evans, Fran Taylor, Mike Filsinger, Pat McDougall

Absent: None

Department of Planning staff present included Jenifer Nugent, Jessie Bialek, and Kristopher Weaver.

1. Introduction of Members and Announcements

Mr. Sheldon Epstein opened the meeting at 4:07 p.m. Mr. Epstein asked the members to introduce themselves. There were no announcements.

2. Review of Today’s Agenda

Mr. Epstein stated that there were no changes to the agenda that had been previously sent to the committee members.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes of November 13, 2018 Meeting

Mr. Epstein called for a motion to approve the meeting notes from the November 13, 2018 meeting. Mr. Nate Evans made the motion and Ms. Allysha Lorber seconded. The approval was unanimous.
4. Proposed 2019 Meeting Schedule and Work Program

Mr. Epstein called on Ms. Jessie Bialek to present the proposed meeting schedule and work program for 2019. Ms. Bialek proceeded to go through an overview of the year’s schedule. Mr. Epstein then called for a motion to approve the Proposed 2019 Meeting Schedule and Work Program. Mr. Ted Levin made the motion and Mr. Charlie Murphy seconded. The approval was unanimous.

5. Discussion on partnering with MDOT on potential bike projects

Mr. Epstein called on Ms. Jessie Bialek to present the proposed partnership. Ms. Bialek stated that MDOT MTA approached Baltimore County to perform a feasibility study on a shared-use path extension of the Torrey C. Brown (NCR) Trail from its current southern terminus to the Warren Road Light Rail Station. The study would include 30% design of the trail. Additionally, Ms. Bialek stated that MDOT would like to formalize a parking area owned by MDOT MTA at the southern terminus of Railroad Avenue, west of York Road to Baltimore County. Additionally, MDOT would like to transfer ownership of Railroad Avenue to Baltimore County. The county would provide an in-kind contribution of staff time and public input assistance. PBAC members agreed to provide a letter of support for the project to MDOT MTA to include in their MDOT Bikeways application.

6. Discussion on County Executive’s Budget Message

Mr. Epstein opened the floor to the committee for a discussion on the County Executive’s Budget Message, most especially the 1 million dollars allotted for bike lanes and pedestrian features.

During the discussion, the committee members made the following points:

A question was posed to County Staff as to how the $200,000 in 2018 was spent. Ms. Bialek and Mr. Mike Filsinger indicated that it may have been used under a certain division of the Department of Public Works. An additional question that was also posed to County staff was how the $1 million on bicycle funding will be allocated in 2019. The county staff’s general consensus was that the funds will not be used until a DPW Transportation Planner is hired. The future transportation planner will then determine how the funds will be allocated.

Mr. Fran Taylor expressed concern that sidewalks adjacent to Edgemere Elementary School are in a poor state of repair. Students using these sidewalks are required to walk to school as no bus transportation is provided.
As stated in the November 13, 2018 meeting notes, Mr. Evans began investigating the Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) transportation policy and how walking distance and sidewalk access were applied. Mr. Evans noted that even though sidewalks in his neighborhood were in a good state of repair, were ADA-compliant and met the BCPS criteria for students to walk to school, students were provided bus transportation.

Mr. Taylor, Ms. Lorber, and Mr. Evans noted that the policy may not be applied evenly and could indicate an issue of transportation equity. As such, the committee members requested BCPS Transportation staff provide additional information on how these two conditions illustrated a disparity.

Mr. Carl Jackson asked if two sidewalk projects could be investigated. These projects were brought to his attention by community members of Districts 5 and 6.

7. Other Business

Mr. Epstein asked if there was any other business. There was none.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Epstein asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Levin made the motion and Mr. Murphy seconded. The approval was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.