

Complete Streets Advisory Committee Meeting

July 18, 2019

MINUTES

Attendees:

- Steve Sharkey, DOT
- Theo Ngongang, DOT
- Graham Young, DOT
- Mikah Zaslow, DOT
- Kristen Ahearn, Planning
- Zachary Chissel, MDOT MTA
- Lt. Dennis Dawson, BCFD/OFM
- Matthew DeSantis, Planning
- Robert Pipik, DHCD
- Yolanda Winkler, DPW
- Larry Marcus, Wallace Montgomery
- Jill Patterson, Wallace Montgomery
- Fred Lippert, Toole Design
- Dan Reed, Toole Design

1. Minutes from the last meeting (June 20) were approved.
2. Larry Marcus of Wallace Montgomery reviewed the Meetings and Milestones Schedule and, with Graham Young, introduced the two-phase Complete Streets Manual development schedule. The first stage of the Manual development is the submission of a word document that meets the ordinance requirements for the Manual content by the October 3rd deadline. This word document will be distributed to the public and stakeholders for comment. The second delivery phase will run in tandem to and extend beyond the first stage, and includes incorporating topics not required by the ordinance into the Manual, finalizing graphics and formatting the Manual, and editing the written content to incorporate public and stakeholder feedback.
 - Advisory Committee members commented that, when releasing the first draft in October, it must be made clear that it is not the final product and is formatted and intended as a draft for review.
3. Larry Marcus of Wallace Montgomery introduced the proposed Table of Contents, as follows:
 - Introduction (Letter of Commitment, Why/How to use Manual, Guiding Principles)
 - Modal Hierarchy (Hierarchy vs. Priority)

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- Street Typology (10 Baltimore Street Types)
 - Design Guidance for Streets (Cross-Section Overview by Type)
 - Innovative Features, Treatments / CMFs
 - Community Engagement Policies
 - Implementation (Project Prioritization, Project Delivery Link, Annual Report)
 - Appendices (Glossary, Resources)
4. Advisory Committee members asked if climate change as a reason for prioritizing multi-modal transportation will be addressed in the introduction. It was suggested the following resources be cited as evidence that the City considers climate change an important issue and is taking steps to address it:
- Baltimore Sustainability Plan (2019)
 - Baltimore Climate Action Plan (2012)
 - Disaster Preparedness and Planning Project (2018)
5. Advisory Committee members discussed modal hierarchy vs. modal priority.
- The Manual will include an overarching Baltimore-specific modal hierarchy, with pedestrians first, followed by transit and cyclists, and with vehicles being prioritized last. Advisory Committee members asked whether transit priority supersedes cyclist priority, or vice-versa, and the possibility of prioritizing them at the same level was discussed.
 - Advisory Committee members commented that the term “cyclist” should be changed to “shared mobility” to account for scooters and other possible future alternative modes of transportation.
 - The Manual will include suggested modal priorities for each of the street typologies. The modal priorities will be used as reference for designers when choosing and developing design features for future street improvement and construction projects. Modal priorities are situation-based and can differ from Baltimore's modal hierarchy.
 - The Manual will not assign modal priorities; it is up to the City to use the provided guidelines to assign modal priorities to specific streets.
 - In order to accommodate developmental changes, we must be forward-thinking when assigning modal priorities. For example, as an industrial area changes over time to a residential area, the modal priorities must serve as a framework to accommodate those adaptations.
6. Advisory Committee members asked how the Manual will address competing and/or relating design codes and design standards (for example, if sidewalk width is changed from 5' to 8' then street tree and stormwater management regulations also apply).
- Subcommittees must meet and discuss design standards and codes.
 - The Manual will serve as guidance, not as a replacement for policies or design judgement.
 - The Manual must strengthen and not conflict links and communication between City documents.

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7. Fred Lippert of Toole Design distributed a summary document of the ten proposed Baltimore Street Types for review. A Sharepoint site will be set up so committee members can comment on the proposed Street Types and other documents.
8. Advisory Committee members commented that Public Engagement should be actively pursued before the October release so that the public is aware of and ready to comment on the draft Manual.