

Town of University Park

**Report of Joint Meeting  
Council Committee on Public Facilities and Services  
with  
Council Committee on Police, Traffic, and Public Safety**

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

University Park Town Hall

6724 Baltimore Avenue

University Park, Maryland

**Present:**

Committee on Public Facilities and Services

Len Carey, chair

Michael Cron

Jacqueline Bradley Chacon

Committee on Police, Traffic, and Public Safety

Susan McPherson, Chair

James Gekas

Also Present:

Mayor John Tabori

Michael Beall, Director of Public Works

Chief Michael Wynnyk, University Park Police Department

Linda Verrill, Van Buren Street

Mickey Lucas, Tennyson Street

The Committees discussed an April 6 Report on Roadway, Traffic Control, Marking and Signage of University Park Roads and Streets.

Roadways:

Mr. Beall reported that the issues of pothole and deterioration of the roadways will be largely gone by the end of the current year. However, some issues remain:

- Under the 44th Avenue bridge and in the block between 44th Avenue and Route 1, there is significant erosion under the storm water structures. These are the County's responsibility. The County has documented these conditions to the State Highway Administration. All storm water structures within the Town which the County has accepted become the County responsibility.

- There is a question of easement in the storm water system off from 40th avenue in Wards 6 and 7, where the County has not yet accepted these portions because there is some concern that they run under private land. Similarly, the Pineway system hasn't been accepted by the County because there is a storm drain in there on private property.

### Bicycle Paths and Lanes:

Chief Wynnyk: Should the Town be involved in trying to connect the hiker/biker trails going down Adelphi with those going down Route 1? A concern about bicycle paths is that Park and Planning calls for 12-foot wide bike paths, versus our current 4' pad. This might open up the park for cut-through traffic. Options include painting on the streets, which costs much less.

Discussion of access to Adelphi Road from the park, including replacement of the steps with a ramp.

Discussion of Route 1 bicycle lane options. There are not a lot of options.

Discussion of 44th Avenue Bridge area:

What do we do with the bridge, which is not a desirable place to be. It does not hold traffic any more. How do we make that bridge a desirable place to be?

Do we plant tree boxes? Do we mill and overlay, or just mill it and put a path through it. Our insurance company has recommended that we eliminate the curb, which is a danger to bicyclists.

The bridge is deteriorating; it's just a pedestrian bridge.

While there is a park infrastructure reserve set up for this sort of thing, there are lots of demands for those funds. Discussion of funding for the bridge. Bond funding can be used for resurface.

Mr. Beall: At some point, the bridge will have to come out, so anything placed on the bridge will be only temporary. There is possibility that the County would be part of replacing the bridge with a pedestrian bridge.

The bridge ponds a lot; there is opportunity to do storm water management in that area as well.

#### Recommendation on 44th Avenue Bridge:

Mayor take up County work on bridge with Riverdale Park Mayor Archer and County Councilman Eric Olson

Take up sidewalk and curb

Mill and Overlay

Funds are in the budget to do this.

Come out of this, in the future, with a designed use for that space.

Talk with a landscape architect.

Explore a grant to do some of this.

Do storm water management in that block in concert with Riverdale Park.

#### Discussion of storm water management in the 7000 block of Wells Parkway:

What do we want this to look like when it's done?

Storm water concerns.

On-road parking issues.

Ideal place to put a bicycle path through University Park, along Wells Parkway.

Connects to the trail system at the Duck Pond.

Will request staff recommendation.

Committee field trip to this location.

#### Traffic Control:

146 stop signs; 8 police officers

Discussion of East-West Highway and Adelphi

Discussion of stop sign at Van Buren and 44th

Discussion of stop sign at 40th and College Heights

Discussion of Pineway/Clagett Pineway, including stop signs and speed bumps

#### Signage/Markings

Mr. Beall: Most unnecessary/outdated signs have been removed

UP needs to replace its 24 inch stop signs with 30-inch high-reflective signs. He assumes that every sign in town fails to meet reflectivity standards.

The Committees discussed sign replacement

It would cost about \$15,000 to replace all signs. There's very little labor cost entailed, because Public Works has a post driver.

The Committees discussed Stop Bars

It would cost about \$3,000 to paint all Stop Bars at all intersections. They would have to be painted every year. This painting would be contracted out.

Look at data on the effectiveness of Stop Bars.

The Committees discussed Stop Signs.

Recommendation on marking and signage:

- Get an assessment of the functionality of UP stop signs--possibly a recommendation of 5-10 stop signs which are erroneous for some reason. With Council decision, replace the signs, using funding from the bond.
- Find data from DOT on the effectiveness of Stop Bars.
- Budget to paint Stop Bars at all stop signs, and paint them all beginning in FY 2013.
- Policy: We do not paint curbs except by special exception.
- If the purpose of our stop signs is to slow traffic, they are doing their job. Therefore, it would make no sense to have zero tolerance of failure to stop.
- Consult with Town Attorney about adapting the Maryland Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices to University Park.

The Committees adjourned at 9:30 PM.