

**Shared Use Bike Path Task Force (TF)
Zoom Meeting Minutes, 7:30 pm, July 19, 2021**

TF Members Present: Kriss Grisham, Gary Temple, Mary Blake, Gretchen Horlacher, Andrew Hotaling, Jeff McCrehan, Eva Patrone, Oscar Ramos, Nick Suzich

Welcome to TF members and other members of the Washington Grove community. This is a working meeting of the TF; community members will not have an opportunity to speak at this meeting, but we look forward to providing Town residents with future opportunities to provide input. We ask that everyone in Town feel free to give us written feedback via email.

In your comments to the TF, please provide facts and objective evidence that will help us in our analysis of the various bike path options. For example: If you say a road is too steep, indicate evidence why you think it is too steep.

For our Zoom meeting tonight, we have disabled the chat feature in order to minimize distractions.

The recording of the meeting can be accessed at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X4jtOv709OAvweFYRc5z5fehsu1RzkQ5/view?usp=sharing>

Following are key points of the meeting discussions.

- The agenda was approved: [Agenda for July 19, 2021 Meeting of Shared Use Path Task Force - Town of Washington Grove \(washingtongrovermd.org\)](#)
- Task force members introduced themselves.
- Kriss reviewed the Evaluation Plan the TF received from the Mayor and Town Council: This plan includes: Mission, nine Evaluation Criteria, Evaluation Scope, TF Actions, Evaluation Schedule and Evaluation Approach. The TF will present its findings to the Town Council by Nov. 8, followed within 60 days, by giving a presentation of the TF report to the Town.
- Three Evaluation Criteria were added. See attached Revised Evaluation Plan.
- Mary Blake noted it may be helpful to define the difference between a shared use path connection and a shared use path. Are they the same thing with the same implication regarding Town liabilities and responsibilities? We should come up with a consistent set of definitions.

- When we talk to Town residents and community leaders, it will be important to have a consistent base of questioning, we will need to develop a standardized form of fact-based inquiry.
- We need to decide on the main focus for each evaluation criterion. For example, one criterion includes both environmental and historic impacts. Should they be separate criteria? Does “environment” mean the environment of the Town? We will need to clarify what these terms means.
- To what extent do we need to think about our connections with our neighbors? While it’s not specified in our charge, we can’t ignore it. Some of our connections will have quite an effect on neighboring groups like Emory Grove and others who want greater access to Town and may foster greater traffic in town beyond Brown and Ridge.
- Some criteria address impacts of a bike path option on the Town that are similar to all or most of the options; other criteria are more specific to each connection, for example, the impact of bike paths on traffic flow. Eva Patrone suggested use of a Google doc to organize our information on the various connectors. We will need to develop effective ways to communicate with the Town residents and to receive their input.
- To receive input from Town residents, Kriss suggested we develop a format that collects information in a standardized form, to promote consistency and keep the focus to factual information and sources of information that we can validate.
- To solicit information from Town residents, Mary suggested a set of interview questions that provides a standardized format.
- The criterion of Social Equity requires that the TF reach out to other communities about their views on the path. We need to recognize that we presently know too little about the needs of neighborhoods around WG and identity of their spokespeople. Gretchen noted that Emory Grove is in the process of doing a renewal project that could also inform our discussion. How that community connects to the rest of the world probably needs some investigation. We can utilize other existing Town committees to help with some of these matters.
- Gary presented an annotated map of bike path options, both funded for construction or not. See attached.
- For the next meeting, TF members should choose several Evaluation Criteria that they want to focus on. All the online documents will be placed into a single shared Task Force folder, which Eva will create.

Date for next meeting: Wednesday, July 21, 7:30 pm