



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

305-307 First Street • Laurel, Maryland 20707 (301) 725-0088

<http://www.cityoflaurel.org> • email – dpw@laurel.md.us Fax (301) 498-5266

Committee Members:

***Stanley Spaulding, Chair
Lisa Wolfisch, Vice Chair
Dr. Marcia B. Levi
R. Ummi Modeste
Adina Reno
Emily Swain***

Staff:

***Thomas Helms, Assistant Director
Department of Public Works
Arman Safakhah, City Engineer
Katherine Wright, Administrative
Assistant II***

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN CITIZENS ADVISORY (BPCA) COMMITTEE MINUTES Wednesday, September 17, 2025 – 6:00 P.M. - Virtual

The virtual meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Mr. Spaulding. All committee members were present at the start of the meeting except for Ms. Wolfisch. Staff in attendance included Thomas Helms, Assistant Director of Public Works; Arman Safakhah, City Engineer; and Katherine Wright, Secretary to the Committee. No members of the public were present.

Mr. Spaulding began with Agenda Item 1, Roll Call, welcoming everyone to the meeting. The committee then moved to Agenda Item 2, Approval of Minutes from August 5, 2025, and each member voted to approve the minutes as written.

Agenda Item 3, Staff Reports, was opened at 6:15 p.m.

Ms. Wolfisch arrived as Staff Reports began. City Engineer Mr. Safakhah provided an update on the Cherry Lane Bike Path funding. The Maryland Department of Transportation has approved the Kim Lamphier grant, which will provide 65% of the funding for the project. The city is expected to provide at least 20%. Mr. Safakhah explained that the proposal process would begin after the committee's vote that evening.

He also announced that the City of Laurel received a \$451,000 grant from the State Highway Administration to develop a comprehensive safety action plan.

Mr. Safakhah also discussed the status of several upcoming projects:

- Van Dusen Dam improvements
- Van Dusen Road project: The 65% plan for Stage 3 is complete, and the final design is pending after comments were submitted.
- Stanley Place: Ongoing work includes replacing gutters and curbs, improving crosswalks, resurfacing, and re-marking faded stripes.
- Main Street: The Main Street bumpouts are complete, including pedestrian crossing signs for improved visibility and safety.



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- Snowden Place, Ward Street, and Northview Court: A contract has been awarded for sidewalk replacement, markings, thermoplastic conversion, and sign improvements.

Ms. Wright provided answers to questions the committee had asked during the previous meeting. The committee discussed recommending that the Mayor and Council formally contact surrounding counties and the State Highway Administration regarding sidewalk and bike lane improvements. Sara Green, Clerk to the City Council, provided the following guidance:

- The Department of Public Works (DPW) should make these comments when outside agencies submit referrals for city-abutting projects.
- The committee could recommend that DPW add bike lane requests to their internal procedures for referrals. Amending the City Code would require the committee to draft a memo recommending an ordinance.
- If the committee wants the Mayor and Council to send a letter to surrounding governments requesting new projects to connect bike lanes to the city, the committee should send a memorandum to the Mayor, through Tim, with copies to Christian, Nekesa Matlock, Crystal Hypolite, and Sara Green.

The committee asked Ms. Wright to draft a memo for their approval to send to the council. Finally, the Clerk explained that while the committee had discussed a hybrid design for one of the projects at the August meeting, they would need to vote on their most-favored option with a recommendation that the final design be a hybrid.

Agenda Item 4, Vote on Cherry Lane Bike Path

Before the vote and upon request, Ms. Wright summarized the three options the committee was considering: Option 1 proposed striping on the street, Option 2 involved using bollards to create a bike lane on the street, and Option 3 suggested a hiker-biker trail by expanding the sidewalk.

Ms. Wolfisch inquired about the impact on bus stops. Mr. Safakhah explained that the impact wouldn't be known until the drawings were complete and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) provided comments. WMATA would then suggest solutions, such as gaps in the bollards or moving bus shelters, to ensure public transit isn't obstructed.

Mr. Spaulding then called for a vote, asking each member to state their preferred option to see if a majority existed. The results were as follows:

- Option 1: Ms. Reno
- Option 2: Mr. Spaulding, Ms. Modeste, Ms. Swain



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- Option 3: Ms. Wolfisch, Dr. Levi

With Option 2 receiving majority support, Mr. Spaulding made a motion to approve Option 2 with the recommendation that a hybrid of Option 2 and Option 3 be considered at the Van Dusen Road junction. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 5, Bikeway Master Plan suggestions for streets

The committee was asked to suggest streets to include in the upcoming bikeway master plan update. Committee members inquired if the ongoing Van Dusen Road project would include a dedicated bike lane from Cherry Lane through Sandy Spring Road. Mr. Safakhah confirmed that it would not.

The committee then expressed a desire for a change order to the project to add the bike lane. Mr. Safakhah stated he would discuss the issue with the director and assistant director of public works but expressed concern about potential budgetary constraints. The committee asked Ms. Wright to create a formal memo on their behalf to recommend the change.

The General Public Hearing was opened and closed at 6:42 p.m., with no one wishing to speak.

Committee members scheduled the next meeting for October 22 at 6:00 p.m., to be held virtually on Teams.

Respectfully submitted by Katherine Wright, Administrative Assistant II
10/29/2025

Date: 10/29/2025

Katherine Wright, Administrative Assistant II
Department of Public Works