



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, August 1, 2022, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Adams, Councilmembers Bofo, Esteve, Gardner (arrived 8:15 pm), Harrison, Ndebumadu (arrived 8:06 pm), and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, Staff, and the Public.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. John Teasdale, Midwood Lane – Spoke on the Bicycle Friendly Communities and City Transportation Priority List agenda items.

Two additional comments were received via email, forwarded to Council, and are attached as part of the record.

PRESENTATIONS:

City Manager Alfred Lott presented Proclamation P-22-22 Recognizing City of Bowie Employees for Response to an Explosion Emergency and read the names of the employees being recognized. Councilmember Woolfley moved to approve Proclamation P-22-22. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 (Councilmember Gardner not yet present).

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Harrison gave an update on the status of the Bowie Youth Council and stated that she would share a document with her colleagues after discussing with City staff and the adult advisor.

Councilmember Esteve thanked staff for working with BGE during the recent storms and asked if BGE could attend an upcoming City Council Meeting. City Manager Lott stated staff have made this request of BGE and are waiting to hear back on what meeting date works for them.

Mayor Adams encouraged everyone to attend National Night Out Against Crime at Allen Pond Park on August 2nd to show their support for the Police Department. He also commended City staff on

all the great events held last week as well as the phenomenal job they did responding to the explosion and the recent storms.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Harrison made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of July 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes; and B) Approval of July 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Boaford seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Bicycle Friendly Communities – Mr. Matthew Rosenbloom-Jones, Transportation Specialist, informed Council that the City will be applying to attain a Bicycle Friendly Community designation from the League of American Bicyclists. Obtaining such designation would recognize the City for the progress made thus far with the adoption of the Trails Master Plan, aimed at improving the safety and quality of the City's trail network and the advancement in that area.

B. City Transportation Priority List – Mr. Rosenbloom-Jones, Transportation Specialist, gave the staff report and reviewed the City's list of priorities. Mr. Rosenbloom-Jones stated that he will prepare new letters to send to the County and the State with Council's recommendations. The City's highest transportation priorities continue to be MD 197, MD 450, and Church Road.

Councilmember Woolfley asked if there is an estimated date for the WB&A Bridge to reopen. Mr. Rosenbloom-Jones responded that he is waiting to hear back on the estimated completion date but that it will be by June 2023 based on the current permit. The project got off to a late start.

Councilmember Woolfley asked about the MD 197 landscaping project and asked what can be done to move it up on the list as that area is the source of a lot of traffic problems. It would be a modest cost and could be very effective for safety. Mr. Meinert responded that that project has been on hold for years, and suggested a separate letter be sent to the District 3 engineer.

Councilmember Woolfley asked about the bollards on MD 197 that appeared without any notice and the efficacy of them. Mr. Meinert stated that those were a District 3 initiative and that he could reach out to them for an explanation of the purpose and reasoning. Mr. Meinert also mentioned that the State plans to lower the speed there and that the bollards likely mimic the future pattern of the roadway design.

Councilmember Woolfley would like staff to think about how to move Pope Creek from a wish to an action plan, what to do and who to collaborate with so there is a path forward on that project. Mr. Meinert mentioned that the City is partner in a stakeholder group that was convened by the Park and Planning Trails Coordinator, it's an interagency group of staff that are meeting. It is a large, long-term undertaking, and the group is gathering information. Mr. Meinert stated that there is as much collaboration as can be accomplished at the moment and the City is connected to the agencies that would be involved.

Councilmember Woolfley mentioned that the MD 450/MD 3 corridor is another concern. He has some thoughts on the intersection at Route 3/450 in terms of land. He mentioned that the last time there was talk of development at the Jesuit property, the parcel closest to the gas station would be developed and it looked like it would be right in the footprint of an intersection. Councilmember Woolfley asked if there anything the City can do to put a marker out there to help engage the State to acquire that property in anticipation of the development of that road as opposed to letting it get developed and potentially blocking future plans? Mr. Meinert stated that Council could include in the letter to the State

a suggestion that the State put money aside for the MD 450/MD 3 future development/interchange as they do for the future right-of-way acquisition of property in the US 301 corridor. At Councilmember Woolfley's request, Council concurred to add this into the letter.

Councilmember Esteve asked if the pedestrian bridge crossing MD 214 could be added to the letter. Mr. Rosenbloom-Jones noted that it is already included in the letter. He also mentioned the feasibility study that was completed in 2021 and potentially partnering with the County to obtain a grant as part of their Vision Zero Plan.

Councilmember Esteve spoke about preserving the pedestrian trail along MD 197 with any improvements that are there and making sure that when looking at MD 450 that they are addressing any missing trail connections.

Councilmember Harrison asked if there were any updates on the Governor's Bridge project that is currently on hold. Mr. Rosenbloom-Jones stated that there are no additional updates at this time but that he would reach out to the County. Mr. Meinert added that when the Bowie Master Plan was approved earlier this year, the County Council made an amendment to ensure that the language stayed in the plan about rehabilitating the bridge and making it usable again. County staff had recommended a policy to take the bridge out of the plan as a project, but that County Council added it back in at the City's recommendation. The City mentions it each year when they send the budget letter to the County and want to keep it on the County's radar.

Council concurred to approve the City Transportation Priority List as presented with one addition from Councilmember Woolfley: including in the letter a suggestion that the State put money aside for the MD 450/MD 3 future development/interchange as they do for the future right-of-way acquisition of property in the US 301 corridor.

C. Zoning Update – Mr. Joseph Meinert, Planning Director, provided a zoning update and important dates for the City based on the Sectional Map Amendment. Mr. Meinert stated that a letter was just sent out to residents by the County about the Sectional Map Amendment, giving them until August 11th to submit rezoning requests. A joint public hearing by the District Council and the County Planning Board will be held at 5:00 pm on September 27th at which time they'll entertain any requests from residents and will discuss Section 6 of the Master Plan. Council will have the opportunity to take a position at their September 19th City Council Meeting. Prior to that, a Bowie Advisory Planning Board hearing will take place on September 13th.

Mayor Adams asked if City staff would attend the joint public hearing. Mr. Meinert responded that yes, City staff would attend and present Council's position.

Councilmember Esteve asked if it would be possible to provide for residents a breakdown of recommendations and changes impacting them and the City on the City website. Mr. Meinert responded that while the plan is not yet available as a hard copy, the digital version is available. Chapter 6 is only ten pages long and can be put on the City website tomorrow, in addition to the list of properties that will be included in the comprehensive rezoning once that is available. The City will do the best they can with what they have and will add more information to the City website as soon as it becomes available.

Councilmember Esteve asked if requesting the County to delay the joint public hearing is possible. Mr. Meinert stated that a second public hearing could be requested.

ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE TO CLOSE SESSION:

Mayor Pro Tem Boafa motioned to adjourn to closed session under the statutory authority of the Md. Annotated Code, State Government Article §3-305(b)(14): "Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process." Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Fifer".

Carolyn Fifer (for City Clerk Awilda Hernandez)
Assistant to the City Clerk

Awilda Hernandez

From: The Black's <rdbwish1@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Speeding

Hello. I'm writing to request this be added to the meeting minutes for the next and ongoing bowie council meetings. I live in saddlebrook west. On some of the streets people are driving 50 or 60 in a 25. It's happening all the time. The community board members and neighbors have complained for years to the council and haven't put in a petition with over 150 signatures and it went nowhere with one of the previous majors. Geraldine has tried to help as well and Mike esteve. The traffic on racetrack is also a problem. They hit the fences all the time. People are using it as a raceway. Something has to be done. We would like to get someone to dial into our meetings so that we can finally come up with a solution for this situation. Someone is going to get hit and get injured or even die if it does not stop. My recommendation is speed cameras on the streets that are really bad. It's about 3 within the community. One more needs to be added right after the park entrance on racetrack.

Thank you for your time Renee Black

Sent from the all new AOL app for Android

Carolyn Fifer

From: Awilda Hernandez
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 8:36 AM
To: Carolyn Fifer
Subject: FW: {EXTERNAL}: Testimony submittals for tonight's City Council meeting
Attachments: Bowie_Transportation_Priorities_MAPS.pdf; Bowie_BFC_MAPS.pdf

From: Joshua Wooten <joshuawooten2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 6:07 PM
To: cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofbowie.org>; Timothy Adams <tadams@cityofbowie.org>; Adrian Bofo <abofo@cityofbowie.org>; Ingrid Harrison <iharrison@cityofbowie.org>; Dufour Woolfley <dwoolfley@cityofbowie.org>; Michael Esteve <mestev@cityofbowie.org>; Rosann Ndebumadu <rndebumadu@cityofbowie.org>; Henri Gardner <hgardner@cityofbowie.org>
Cc: Joe Meinert <jmeinert@cityofbowie.org>; Ashleigh Diaz <adiaz@cityofbowie.org>; michellenbalfe <michellenbalfe@gmail.com>; Matthew Rosenbloom-Jones <mjones@cityofbowie.org>; twk6809 <twk6809@gmail.com>; minihaha76 <minihaha76@gmail.com>; john.teasdale2 <john.teasdale2@verizon.net>; blussier7 <blussier7@aol.com>; john.papagni <john.papagni@gmail.com>
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Testimony submittals for tonight's City Council meeting

Good evening,

The Bowie Green Team's MAPS sub-committee is submitting the following two documents containing testimony for tonight's City Council meeting. These two documents address the following two items on the New Business list:

- Bicycle Friendly Communities
- City Transportation Priority List

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions.

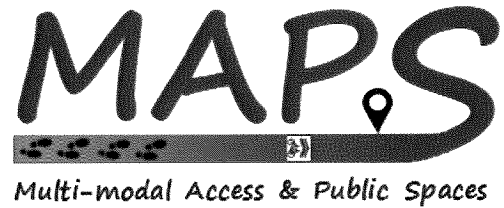
Joshua Wooten, Chair - Bowie Green Team's MAPS Sub-committee
4020 Wharton Turn

To: Bowie Mayor and City Council

From: Multi-modal Access & Public Spaces (MAPS)
Green Team Sub-committee

Date: August 1, 2022

Subject: Bicycle Friendly Community Initiative



The Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) is a program run by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB). The purpose is to recognize communities that have made progress in improving bicycling in their jurisdictions. This is a national program with national recognition.

Back in the 1990's the City of Bowie was the only BFC in the state of Maryland. The program was subsequently revised in the early 2000's. The City either did not re-apply or no longer met the criteria. Now there are seven recognized Bicycle Friendly Communities in Maryland. They include; Columbia, Rockville, Frederick, Baltimore, Annapolis, Hagerstown, and Salisbury. Brunswick is an honorable mention.

MAPS fully supports this effort. This will give credit to the progress the City is making to improve bicycling within the City. Important progress includes the updated Trails Master Plan and Complete Streets Policy.

This recognition could also be a component of the City's branding effort.

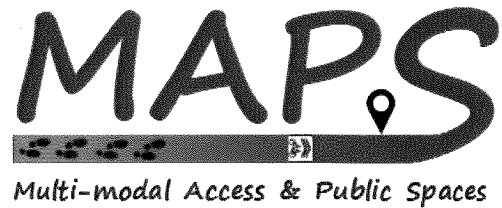
MAPS looks forward to working with the City in this worthwhile effort.

To: Bowie Mayor and City Council

From: Multi-modal Access & Public Spaces (MAPS)
Green Team Sub-committee

Date: August 1, 2022

Subject: Bowie 2022 Transportation Priorities



There are a few items MAPS would like to highlight and comment on for your consideration. These comments focus on multi-modal related priorities. Transportation is more than moving cars, its moving people.

The MD197 upgrade process has been a long one. There was some community engagement in the past year with a preliminary concept being presented. MAPS feels this concept has some promise as it would largely preserve the existing parallel trail. This trail is used by pedestrians as well as those who bicycle. It would be helpful if the City's priorities for MD197 made clear that the multi-modal trail feature must be retained.

Similarly, the upgrade to MD450 from Stonybrook Drive to Route 3 also has a trail with a missing connection at Hilltop to Race Track Road and Whitemarsh Park. The City should include in its priorities that this trail must be preserved and enhanced. This is in line with the Complete Streets and Main Street improvements that are much needed. We appreciate that the City has pushed for SHA to re-evaluate the original plans to recognize the Main street context of this area.

The pedestrian safety improvements on Race Track Rd from MD450 to Clearfield Drive has been long stalled due to COVID. We are pleased this is on the list to the County. This is an important and long overdue safety improvement. Hilltop is a destination for people who walk and bicycle in the community. The current conditions are safe for neither. The City needs to make sure the County will follow through on this project.

While on the topic of pedestrian safety, there are deficiencies in Old Bowie, especially in the vicinity of MD564. Crossing the street at the marked crosswalk near the post office continues to be dangerous. The County has a Vision Zero program for Multi-modal Enhancements on state-maintained roads. We are pleased this is on the trails/sidewalk project list.

MAPS supports the Heritage trail that will one day connect Old Bowie to Bowie State and the MARC station. It is important to advocate for this to be brought to reality. This is a missing link that the Bowie Trails Master Plan has identified as a necessary alternative to driving.

The need for a bridge over MD214 to reach the developing South Lake development needs to be in the list. A recent study looked at options for crossing this busy road. While this project is only in the planning stage, a bridge crossing needs to be advocated for at the county and state levels.

We are very pleased to see that construction has commenced on the WB&A bridge over the Patuxent River. This an important connection for pedestrians and bicyclists. This will improve the three major trails that pass through Bowie; East Coast Greenway, American Discovery Trail, and the September 11th National Memorial Trail.

MAPS strongly supports the City's long term planning efforts with regards to the acquisition of the CSX railroad tracks from Morgantown on the Potomac River all the way to Bowie. This is correctly characterized as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Bowie could be an important terminus on a rail-trail that connects the County from north to south. This potential project will need City, County, and State cooperation.

MAPS has noted several issues with private retail properties that do not connect to the public transportation infrastructure, specifically sidewalks. In many cases these gaps in accessibility are also safety hazards. An effort to more completely catalog these locations is needed, followed by working with the City, County, and property owners to develop solutions.

Thank you for considering these comments.

**PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING ("CLOSING STATEMENT")
UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT (General Provisions Article § 3-305)**

This form has two sides. *Complete items 1 – 4 before closing the meeting.*

1. **Recorded vote to close the meeting:** Date: 8-1-22 Time: _____; Location: City Hall;
Motion to close meeting made by: Bento Seconded by Woolfley;
Members in favor: 4-11; Opposed: _____;
Abstaining: _____; Absent: _____.

2. **Statutory authority to close session (check all provisions that apply).**

This meeting will be closed under General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b) only:

(1) ☐ "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals"; (2) ☐ "To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business"; (3) ☐ "To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto"; (4) ☐ "To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State"; (5) ☐ "To consider the investment of public funds"; (6) ☐ "To consider the marketing of public securities"; (7) ☐ "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice"; (8) ☐ "To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation"; (9) ☐ "To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations"; (10) ☐ "To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans"; (11) ☐ "To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination"; (12) ☐ "To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct"; (13) ☐ "To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter"; (14) ☒ "Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process." (15) ☐ "To discuss cybersecurity, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to: (i) security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology; (ii) network security information . . . or (iii) deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices."

Continued →

3. For each provision checked above, disclosure of the topic to be discussed and the public body's reason for discussing that topic in closed session.

Citation (insert # from above)	Topic	Reason for closed-session discussion of topic
§3-305(b) ☒	Discuss Proposals	Lobbying Services Proposal
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		

4. This statement is made by Samuel J. Adams, Presiding Officer.

WORKSHEET FOR OPTIONAL USE IN CLOSED SESSION: INFORMATION FOR SUMMARY TO BE DISCLOSED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT OPEN MEETING. (See also template for summary.)

- For a meeting closed under the statutory authority cited above:

Time of closed session: 8:56

Place: City Hall

Purpose(s): (14) Discuss Proposals

Members who voted to meet in closed session: Adams, Gardner, Harrison, Estave, Woodley, Benito, Ndeburu

Persons attending closed session: TA, HG, JH, ME, DW, AB, RN, Levan, Lott, Mears

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: (14)

Topics actually discussed: Lobbying Proposals

Actions taken: _____

Each recorded vote: _____

- For a meeting recessed to perform an administrative function (§ 3-104): Time: _____

Place: _____

Persons present: _____

Subjects discussed: _____