



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of March 8, 2017

Follow-up from Last Council Meeting

Update on Transition of PEPCO Streetlights

Councilmember Smith inquired about the status of the transition of PEPCO streetlights. Per Public Works staff, we are still at the very beginnings of the process. We recently received the needed geo-located streetlight information for all the streetlights currently on Pepco's inventory. We plan to utilize interns to do the initial field verification of the 1,579 lights. We have one intern in place and will be hiring another. Additional conversations with SHA need to occur regarding light conversion standards, as many of our high wattage lights are along State roads. It is likely that we will desire a lower light output than SHA requires, which is something we will have to work through.

To date, we still do not have complete information from Pepco about the financing program. We are continuing to press for it.

We have provided our list of required attributes of the new lights (3,000 K or less, dimmable, programmable, Dark Sky Compliant). Pepco is going out to bid for the purchase of the fixtures.

Information to Share

New Ave Bikeway Project

The City will be hosting an informational meeting on the New Ave Bikeways project next Thursday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Azalea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center. The project has been made possible by a technical assistance grant the City received from COG for the purpose of developing a creative redesign of the underutilized service lanes on the southbound side on New Hampshire Avenue as a two-directional bikeway, while still providing vehicular access to properties. This phase of the project provides 30% preliminary design, building on the 2012 New Ave Feasibility Study while complementing the Bikeshare Expansion into Ward 6.

More information is available in the Project Directory:

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/new-ave-bikeway/>

Takoma Junction Community Consultation Update

As you know, the Takoma Junction Community Consultation Committee, in partnership with NDC and Streetsense, have been hosting a series of community meetings to gather feedback on various elements of the planned redevelopment of the Takoma Junction. A variety of outreach tools have been used to encourage members of the community to participate in this process by either attending the community meetings that have been scheduled or by

participating in an online survey developed by Streetsense for that purpose. (The survey is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Amharic](#)!)

Outreach efforts have included articles in the Takoma Park Newsletter, on the [City website](#), distribution of survey information by members of the City Council and staff, distribution of fliers by Committee Members, and a number of postings on various social media tools including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Committee members are continuing work to get the word out to residents.

These efforts to get the community engaged in the discussion have been very successful. A total of 90 individuals participated in the first series of meetings which focused on various design elements. As of this morning, 507 people have viewed the online survey to gather feedback on the design elements presented at the first set of meetings. A total of 317 people submitted their feedback with 208 people completing the entire survey and 109 providing partial responses.

A second set of meetings are scheduled for tomorrow, March 9, and this coming Sunday, March 12. Both meetings will focus on the use of the public space and access and mobility options. As with the first set of meetings, an online survey will be available to ensure that those people unable to attend either meeting can provide their feedback.

Meeting Information:

- Thursday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Azalea Room, Takoma Park Community Center
- Sunday, March 12 at 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Fire Station Meeting Room

For more information on the project and to participate in the on-line surveys, please check out the [Takoma Junction Project Page](#).

Racial Equity Impact Statement

Following discussions on the topic at the annual Council Retreat, Council expressed a strong interest in being more disciplined in the way they apply a lens of racial equity when making policy and budget decisions. One of the things that Council decided to do was include a "Racial Equity Impact Statement" on all agenda items. We know that there will be challenges with determining the impact of decisions on various racial groups, mainly due to lack of data.

Now that we have had an opportunity to educate staff on the discussion and Council's expectations, we plan to begin including the Racial Equity Impact Statement on all agenda items beginning with the April 5th Council meeting.

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