

Wheaton Hills Civic Association

September 2017





Agenda

- Welcome
- Wheaton Safety Task Force
- Montgomery County Police Department Update
- Traffic Study and Transportation Updates
- WHCA Elections Kick-Off



Wheaton Safety Task Force

- Purpose: Identify and address safety concerns connected to the Wheaton Central Business District and connected neighborhoods
- When: Formed in January 2017; meets quarterly
- Who: Representatives from Metro PD, MCPD, Westfield Wheaton, Mid-County Services, County Councilmember's Office, Chamber of Commerce, WUDAC, Montgomery Housing Partnership, adjoining Kensington neighborhood associations, Wheaton Hills Civic Association

Wheaton Safety Task Force



WHCA

- Findings To-Date

- Reported crime in Wheaton is low.
- YTD 2016 v YTD 2017: crimes against persons are down; crimes against property are up (most attributed to thefts from vehicles)
- Wheaton Metro Station is one of lowest reported number of crimes of any in the system (bike thefts are top reported offense)
- Perception of Wheaton as a high crime area is the primary driver of concerns about the region (amplified by negative media attention)



Wheaton Safety Task Force

- Actions

- MPD at Taste of Wheaton: Free U-locks for registered bikes
- Westfield: Increased number of security cameras and community involvement (ex: hosting Coffee with a Cop)
- Westfield: Improved crosswalks across property for pedestrian safety
- Conducted Community Survey on how residents get information about the community
 - Developing communication strategy for both local and broader regional messaging about Wheaton



MCPD Update

- Safety and crime statistics for Wheaton Hills
- Q & A



Traffic Study Update

- Jointed conducted Wheaton North Visioning community engagement program in 2015
 - Wheaton North defined as bounded by Georgia Ave, Veirs Mill Road, Connecticut Ave, and Randolph Road
- Led to MHP Traffic (and community concerns) survey (over 500 residents returned completed surveys)
- Led to direct engagement with MCDOT, through the Mid-County Regional Services Director, to address traffic and safety concerns identified in the survey



Traffic Study Update

- Five Categories
 - DOT Committed Action Items (Short-term/Quick Win)
 - Key Program Areas
 - Lighting Concerns
 - General Information
 - Other
- DOT completed a traffic study evaluating the Key Problem Areas earlier this year



Traffic Study Update

- DOT Committed Action Items (completed)
 - New STOP signs at 5 intersections
 - New STOP lines at 3 intersections
 - New crosswalks at two intersections
 - Refreshed STOP line markings at 35 locations
 - Refreshed crosswalk markings at 22 locations
 - Refreshed speed hump markings along Grandview and Dawson Avenues
- Pending Committed Action Item
 - Refresh of double yellow lines on Arcola Ave and Judson Road

Traffic Study Update

WHCA

North Wheaton
Evaluations

MC DOT
Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Grandview Avenue

Issue: All of Grandview Avenue should be modified to improve sight lines, decrease speeding, and clarify intersections where right-of-way is not clear. Additionally, there are many people that park and walk off.

Observations:

- Trees and bushes restrict sight lines at several locations
- Stop signs located far from the intersections due to large radius curbs
- Only one speed limit sign in the southbound direction south of Randolph Road
- No speed limit signs in the northbound direction
- Speed study indicated that motorists follow speed limits reasonably
- Six police reported crashes on Grandview Avenue between 2011-2014
- No speeding related crashes
- Mix of two-way and all-way stop control;
- Grandview Avenue is STOP controlled at some intersections and side street at others



Traffic Study Update

- Mitigation Options on Grandview Ave
 - Coordinate with property owners to trim trees and bushes
 - Install edge line extensions (complete)



NOT TO SCALE

Legend:	
Existing Curb	Existing Stop Sign

Grandview Avenue at Henderson Avenue Proposed Edge Line Extension

Traffic Study Update

WHCA

- Mitigation Options on Grandview Ave (continued)
 - Install “Cross Street Does Not Stop” plaques (Arcola and Dawson)
 - Install STOP lines at Arcola and Dawson
 - Consider “bump outs” for traffic calming at Parker Ave (under discussion)



Traffic Study Update

WHCA

North Wheaton
Evaluations

Medway Street

MCDOT
Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Issue: Specifically by Livingston Street and Claridge Road – additional clarity is needed around one-way restrictions.

Observations:

- Medway is one-way in the westbound direction west of Claridge Road
- Vehicles on the north side were observed parked facing the wrong way
- No “Do Not Enter” signs at Medway Street intersections with Milton Street and Valleywood Drive.

Mitigation Options:

- Install centerline markings between Claridge Road and Livingston Street.
- Install “Do Not Enter” signs at Milton Street and at Valleywood Drive
- Install oversized “One-Way” sign at Claridge Road
- Consider targeted parking enforcement

Traffic Study Update

WHCA

North Wheaton
Evaluations

Arcola Avenue

MC DOT
Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Issue: Specifically at Galt Avenue and Parker Avenue - cars frequently run stop signs.

Observations:

- Most motorists were observed performing a rolling stops at both intersections
- Trees in the northeast corner block sight distance at Parker Avenue
- Southbound stop sign obscured by trees at Parker Avenue
- No STOP lines across the north leg of Parker Avenue

Mitigation Options:

- Consider targeted enforcement in the area
- Install STOP line for southbound Parker Avenue approach and trim trees as necessary
- Install oversized stop signs at both intersections
- Consider realignment of the intersection of Parker Avenue and Arcola Avenue.
- Install "Stop Ahead" warning sign for southbound Galt Avenue
- Consider adding crosswalks and rebuilding ADA ramps at Galt Avenue



Traffic Study Update

- WHCA objected to the proposed solution





Traffic Study Update

North Wheaton Evaluations

Street Lighting Evaluations



- Completed a review of street lighting in the neighborhood
- Spacing of street lights is good and meets county standards.
- Recommend upgrading lighting to LEDs with extended arms at some locations.
- Recommend new intersection lighting at 26 locations (no petition required)

Corridor	No. of Intersections with new Lights
Grandview Avenue	11
Blueridge Avenue	6
Dawson Avenue	4
Livingston Street	5

- Address that need new lights to be installed (signed petition required):
 - 11704, 11712, and 12009 Grandview Avenue
 - 2914 Dawson Avenue
 - 12203 Livingston Street
 - 12040 Claridge Road





Traffic Study Update

- Next meeting scheduled for October
- Q & A



WHCA Elections

- Elections are conducted every 2 years
- Executive board positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary
- Nominees must be Active Members (submitted a membership form meeting residency requirement)
- Nominations – of self or others – will be collected and maintained by the Officer Nominating Committee

Officer Nominating Committee



- Consists of 3 members of the association, per by-law requirements (Article V, Section 2)
- Currently has two members:
 - Jared Hautamaki
 - Paul Dever
- Requesting a volunteer to assist
- ONC members can be nominated and become candidates for positions



Nominating

- Email the nominee's name and the reason for their nomination
- Special email only ONC members have access to: whcaelections@gmail.com
- ONC will collect the nominations and present the slate of candidates at the October Annual Meeting (tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 25)
- During the Annual Meeting, the floor is open for additional nominees



Considerations

- Increase engagement, increasing membership
- Find a resource for translation services
- Use the committees to accomplish work
- Complete non-profit status for WHCA



WHCA Elections

- Emails and posting to NextDoor and Facebook will go out this week with additional details on the duties of the various positions