

**1. CVCA TRAFFIC CALMING/PEDESTRIAN SAFETY/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE UPDATE** contact [guidahome@comcast.net](mailto:guidahome@comcast.net) with any questions:

On Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, the CVCA General Membership Meeting was devoted to Traffic issues. The following topics were covered and news delivered:

- a. Charles Street Reconstruction Update: Please see below for the latest update regarding the Charles Street Reconstruction Project. This update can also be found at the project's website, [www.charlesstreetreconstruction.com](http://www.charlesstreetreconstruction.com). Please check the website for the most up to date information.

**On or about Monday, June 10- Northbound Charles Street will be closed between 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Streets.** Weather and unforeseen conditions can always delay the work. *This closure is being implemented to begin the installation of the public art plaza between 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Streets and will remain for the duration of the project. Vehicles traveling northbound on Charles Street will continue to be diverted at 28th Street to continue north on Calvert Street; southbound travelers will continue to use St. Paul Street. Local traffic proceeding north on Charles Street past 28<sup>th</sup> Street will have to turn left or right at 33<sup>rd</sup> street. Traffic turning right will proceed eastbound on 33<sup>rd</sup> street to Calvert Street to continue to follow the signed detour. Traffic turning left will proceed westbound on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street to Art Museum Drive.*

*East-west Streets will continue to remain open throughout the project (including the connection between Art Museum Drive and 33rd Street), except for periodic weekend closures on Charles Street between 25th and 28th Streets.*

If you have any questions or concerns during the project please contact Mary Colleen Buettner at (443) 984-4095 or at [mary.buettner@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:mary.buettner@baltimorecity.gov).

A complaint was raised by a resident about the dangerous conditions being caused by speeding cars on the access road between 29<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup>. Speed limit signs, rumble strips, and speed bumps, which require signatures by property owners on blocks, were discussed as possible solutions.

- b. CVCA Traffic Calming Requests from 2/1/2013: Please go to [www.charlesvillage.net](http://www.charlesvillage.net) for the list submitted to the DOT by the committee and the DOT response, which was delivered by Kohl Fallin, Northwest Community Liaison.
- c. Flashing Traffic Light at intersection of 26<sup>th</sup> and St. Paul: Valorie Lacour, Acting Chief of Planning for DOT reported that the Traffic Study has begun and will be completed in time to install the new light before the new school year begins.
- d. Expansion of Purple Circulator from Penn Station to University Parkway: Valorie LaCour reported that the money for the expansion, which was in the DOT's budget in December 2012 as reported to the committee by then Director Kahil Zahid, has been removed because the Mayor does not want the expansion to be implemented until the Charles Street Reconstruction is completed. This was a surprise to the committee and residents in attendance at the meeting.

**PLEASE SEND LETTERS;** The CVCA Board voted to send a letter to the Mayor, the Director of Dept of Transportation, the Council President, and Council Representatives requesting that the funding for the Purple Circulator expansion from Penn Station to University Parkway be reinstated to the Fiscal Year 2014 Transportation Budget as originally presented (or promised) by the DOT.

On 5/29/2013 at the CVCA General Membership meeting devoted to Traffic safety/Transportation issues, Valorie LaCour, Acting Chief of Planning for DOT, informed us that the Expansion of the Purple Circulator was no longer in the DOT budget for FY 2014, which begins on July 1, 2013, because the Mayor did not want the expansion to occur until after the completion of the Charles Street Reconstruction which was expected by the Fall of 2014. **THIS WAS THE FIRST WE WERE HEARING THAT THE EXPANSION OF THE PURPLE CIRCULATOR WAS NO LONGER IN THE DOT'S FY 2014 BUDGET.** Valorie said she would get back to the committee about when, why, and how it was removed from the DOT budget. We explained that we were told it would begin on July 1, 2013 and that Charles Street Reconstruction should be no reason for delay because Calvert Street, from 25<sup>th</sup> to University, could be used temporarily. In response to questions about what can now be done, Valorie said we could send letters to the new Director of DOT, William M. Johnson, cc her at DOT, to the Mayor, the City Council President, and our council reps, Mary Pat Clarke and Carl Stokes, demanding that the Purple Circulator be reinstated to the FY 2014 budget.

At the 12/21/2012 meeting, Kahil Zahid, then DOT director, told us that DOT already had the buses and, therefore, no expenditure for new buses was required. The Mayor also promised us in January 2012 that we would be getting the circulator and we expressed to her at that time that the Charles Street Reconstruction was not a valid reason to delay the start of the expansion. Technically, we have been waiting since August 2010 when we first made the request. (Steve Pitcairn murder in 2600 block of St Paul). We have been looking for ways to improve safety as well as improve circulation of City Tourists to Charles Village business areas. Also, a good argument can be made that, because the Charles Street Reconstruction is affecting so many small businesses in and around Old Goucher and Charles Village, expanding the purple circulator **DURING** the reconstruction of Charles Street rather than afterward would show that the City understands that these businesses need help now rather than later.

At the 5/29th meeting, the residents in attendance agreed that we should send letters as suggested. Since 5/29, Central Baltimore Partnership, Greater Homewood CC, Old Goucher Civic Association, Old Goucher Business Association, and Carl Stokes have agreed to support the committee's efforts to push for reinstatement of the expansion in the FY 2014 budget. The plan is to generate letters from JHU, Charles Street Development Corp., Community and Business Associations, residents, business owners, etc. to request this.

The Revised DOT budget was submitted to City Council on 5/30/2013 so we have to move fast if we have any hope to have the expansion of the Purple Circulator reinstated to the Budget. CVCA believes that we should not accept this change without a fight because the reasons given for the delay do not make sense, because there is no guarantee that the funding will be in the FY 2015 budget, because there is a real possibility that the Charles Street Reconstruction will be delayed beyond the Fall of 2014, and because the residents and businesses, who have been waiting since 2010, really need this to happen now.

- e. Calvert and St. Paul Street-Two Way Street Study; Charlie Duff of Jubilee Baltimore spoke about Mt Vernon/Belvedere Community's request of DOT to study the effect of making these streets two ways. CVCA supports the Study on the condition that the scope of the study includes whether the St. Paul Street exit ramp onto St. Paul Street should be closed, measures the impacts on Charles Street, Maryland Avenue, Guilford and Barclay Streets, and includes the impact of the proposed 25<sup>th</sup> Street Station Traffic Calming Matrix and Maryland Avenue Cycle Track.
- f. Maryland Avenue Cycle Track: Valorie Lacour, and Chris Merriam of Bikemore, presented plans to reduce Maryland Avenue to one travel lane for cars and one travel lane for bicycles with construction to begin in Spring 2014. Plans can be viewed online at [www.charlesvillage.net](http://www.charlesvillage.net)

Committee is overwhelmingly in favor of this plan provided that the plan includes the repaving of Maryland Avenue and Guilford Avenue, which is designated a bicycle boulevard by the DOT but is in deplorable condition. Committee will also consider whether to withhold support until the purple circulator expansion and the urgent 25<sup>th</sup> Street Station Traffic Calming matrix items are completed. Comments and suggestions are welcome to [guidahome@comcast.net](mailto:guidahome@comcast.net). Committee will collect input and make a recommendation to the CVCA Board at its June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- g. 25<sup>th</sup> Street Station Traffic Calming Matrix: See [www.charlesvillage.net](http://www.charlesvillage.net) for the Traffic Calming Matrix approved by the DOT as part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Street Station PUD process. The committee asked Valorie LaCour to expedite some of the items on the Traffic Calming Matrix which are in dire need since the project has been delayed, e.g., missing crosswalks and pedestrian signals at 25<sup>th</sup> and Howard Streets, Left Hand turn arrow turning south on St. Paul traveling west on 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Traffic Calming solutions for 28<sup>th</sup> Street from Sisson to Greenmount and for 29<sup>th</sup> Street from Greenmount to Sisson. Valorie stated that as long as the Presidents of the 5 community associations who participated in the 25<sup>th</sup> Street Station PUD process agree in writing, and assuming that they are traffic calming items and not items required solely because of the development project, DOT would expedite those requests. Committee will work to make that list, get the other associations to agree to expedite the items on that list, and follow up until completed.
- h. Revised Truck routes to be implemented to steer trucks away from residential areas. More on this in next week's update.
- i. Baltimore Streetcar News: Committee member, Sandy Sparks, reported that the group promoting what was once called the Baltimore Trolley have changed the name and are working on a broader funding approach which involves coordination with other mass transportation options. Sandy attends the Streetcar meetings on behalf of CVCA and will keep us posted of any developments. You can sign up for newsletter, get information, and learn how you can help make this dream a reality at <http://baltostreetcar.org>. The latest Streetcar newsletter can also be found at [www.charlesvillage.net](http://www.charlesvillage.net).

Best regards, Robin Budish, *Director*  
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**2. CVCA LAND USE COMMITTEE: 25TH STREET STATION UPDATE:** contact [guidahome@comcast.net](mailto:guidahome@comcast.net) with questions.

On May 16, 2013 Bruce Mortimer, the owner of most of the properties that make up the 25th Street Station PUD, invited reps from Charles Village, Old Goucher, and Remington to a meeting to update us about that development and to introduce Seawall Development Corp. as the new Developer. For details of this meeting go to [www.charlesvillage.net](http://www.charlesvillage.net) to the 25<sup>th</sup> Street Station Section and Land Use Committee section. Because Seawall has really only just started, they asked us to produce documents submitted to the former developer, one of which is a copy of the retail "wish list" so that they could get up to speed on what the community has invested its time in over the last 2 1/2 years. Seawall plans to reach out through its contacts and to hire a Realtor to locate prospective retail tenants for the 25th Street Station. Here is the wish list that was given to the old developer in 2011. Please send your additions to this list to [guidahome@comcast.net](mailto:guidahome@comcast.net). The Land Use committee will collect input and submit an updated list to Seawall.

Retail Wish List for 25<sup>th</sup> Street Station submitted to Developer in 2011:

Wine Bar  
Hair Salon  
Gift Shop/Hallmark Crown Store  
Whole Foods  
Trader Joe's  
Sam's Club  
Price Club  
Electronics Store  
Bicycle/Skateboard/Roller Skate Shop  
Florist  
Seamstress/Tailor  
Appliance Repair  
Boutique Shoe and Accessory Store  
Bed Bath and Beyond/Linen and Things  
Sports Apparel and Memorabilia  
Ice Cream Shoppe  
Bakery  
Toy Shoppe with personalized items/Game store  
Children's Day Care  
Doctor's Offices  
Health Club  
Candy Store  
Fresh Local Produce  
Bird/Nature Store  
Running/Jogging Apparel Shop  
High End Craft Store/Art Gallery  
Kitchen Gadget/Utensil store