

**City of Takoma Park**  
**Takoma Junction Task Force**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 26, 2011**

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The City of Takoma Park Takoma Junction Task Force met on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, in the Auditorium Room of the Takoma Park Community Center, Takoma Park.

**Members Present:** Billy Coulter, Lorig Charkoudian, Kay Daniels-Cohen, James DiLuigi, Steve Dubb, Seth Grimes, Andy Kelemen, Howard Kohn, Barbara Muhlbacher, Katrina Oprisko, Lorraine Pearsall, Susan Robb, Roger Schlegel, Jeffrey Trunzo, Ellen Zavian.

**Members Absent:** Hailu Aichehi, Megan Gallagher, Linette Lander, and Jennifer Sisane.

**Staff Present:** none

**Others Present:** Mary Rooker, Resident of Junction area, J.J. Smith, Patch

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**1. Call to Order and Agenda Review**

A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m.

Meeting minutes for April 13th were distributed.

Subcommittee B meeting notes of April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting with Cedric Ward, Maryland SHA, produced and circulated by Seth Grimes.

**2. Meeting Minutes**

Action: The meeting minutes of April 13, 2011 were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the meeting minutes of April 13, 2011. The meeting minutes were accepted.

**Vote Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstain-4.** The motion passed.

### **3. Recap and Discussion of April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting with Cedric Ward of SHA**

At the TF meeting of April 13<sup>th</sup>, the TF discussed extending an invitation to Mr. Cedric Ward the Assistant Deputy Engineer, Montgomery County District 3, SHA to a “meeting-of-the-whole” on Wednesday, April 20, at 5:00 p.m., at Historic Takoma. The members decided to begin the meeting with a background discussion, then conduct a tour of the area with observation of traffic and pedestrian patterns and issues.

Notes from the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting were produced by Seth Grimes, and circulated to the TF. Those notes comprise the topics which were discussed during the Junction tour and discussion with Cedric Ward. Of particular note, Mr. Ward informed the TF that the Junction lights are controlled by SHA, not Montgomery County. The phasing and timing of the signals is evaluated at 3-year intervals, and that evaluation is currently in progress. The question of whether or not the signals are “outdated” is not clear; they are capable of any configuration programmed, thus are not considered out of date. However, there are newer features available in signals with regard to pedestrian calls, and actuation (by overhead camera rather than road sensors, for instance). Mr. Ward also observed that the addition of any crosswalk at the Junction light would require pedestrian call signals, and may involve significant utility infrastructure relocations/improvements. Mr. Ward explained that a single “mini” round-about is typically used in residential street applications rather than highways, and a mini roundabout is not suitable for a road of this size. Roundabouts require sufficient width to carry buses, trucks, emergency vehicles, etc. through them. Pedestrian impacts would need to be carefully considered, and roundabouts typically don’t work well if they are close to another traffic signal.

The TF asked about process, specifically, how and where should requests for service or evaluation of any kind, be directed. Mr. Ward stated that all requests regarding the Junction should come to his office. The TF concluded this review and discussion, and decided to seek clarifying information from Mr. Ward’s office.

The TF agreed to send Mr. Ward a follow-up list of questions, a request for reactions to the April 20<sup>th</sup> visit, and Subcommittee C traffic scenarios, for a response. Also, copies of any data or reports documenting the 3-year evaluation cycle reviews and historic information about traffic volumes and previous phases and timing cycles which have been in effect were requested. The TF also expressed a desire to have the benefit of Mr. Ward’s impressions of the issues raised during the discussion and review, to support further discussion and a follow up meeting. The TF information request will be drafted and forwarded to Mr. Ward for review and follow up.

### **4. Discussion of Advocacy & Consensus of Near-term & Interim Recommendations**

Previously, the TF reviewed and discussed a revised draft resolution to Council. Continuing the previous discussion, the TF reviewed the items being considered for a resolution or a list of recommendations to Council. The TF decided to characterize near-term recommendations as

those recommendations which have a degree of permanence. Interim recommendations are events or alterations which are desirable, but may be easily reversible.

The purpose of this discussion was to create consensus so that production of a list of recommendations can be finalized and presented to Council. The TF agreed to include the following recommendations:

- Refresh the paint lines of the parking lot and identify the spaces leased by Co-op;
- Install a sign to designate parking at the city lot;
- Encourage functions and events which draw people into the Junction area;
- Designate a left-hand turn lane from Carroll Avenue onto Philadelphia Avenue at the fire station light;
- Paint all side street crosswalks in the Junction area that are within the City's purview;
- Proceed with advice to close the temporary city lot entry nearest the Co-op created to accommodate the temporary fire station.

Action: A motion was made and seconded to proceed with the recommendations to Council. The motion to proceed with these recommendations was approved.

**Vote Results: Yes-13, No-0, Abstain-1.** The motion passed.

## **5. Reprise of Discussion of Engagement of Consultant**

The TF continued their discussion of the possible engagement of a consultant. The TF discussed the availability of Casey Wilson, a Takoma Park resident, as a consultant on a pro-bono basis. Other community consultants, such as Bruce Levin, a local developer, and the OTBA, can provide significant local expertise that a consultant may not have access to. It was also expressed that a consultant may be necessary for the production of the TF's work product, for example with diagrams and artistic renderings of recommendations.

Several members expressed reservations that a Statement-of-Work for the engagement of a consultant has not been reached by consensus during these discussions. A member expressed concern that failure to develop a scope of work and engage a consultant might result in the TF's recommendations being largely ignored. The TF discussed the possibility of including recommendations to engage a consultant in the final report.

Consensus on how to proceed was not reached during this discussion; there fore it was proposed that the TF could consider the option of including a report of the TF's experience of considering engagement of a consultant as a work product in the final report.

## **6. Reports from Subcommittees**

Sufficient time was not remaining for the subcommittees to report out.

### **Next Topics**

The next TF meeting is Wednesday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m., in the Lilac Room of the Community Center. May's second meeting of the month is Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> in the Hydrangea Room. June's meetings are Tuesday June 7 and Wednesday June 22.

The TF website is [www.takomajunction.org](http://www.takomajunction.org)

## **7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Trunzo, Secretary

Roger Schlegel, Secretary