

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2019 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 11

RESOLUTION NO. 115 - 2019

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Edward Cochran to the Multimodal Transportation Board.

Introduced and read first time on September 3, 2019.

By order

Diane A. Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on September 16, 2019.

By order

Diane A. Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn __ by the County Council on October 7, 2019.

Certified by

Diane A. Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

WHEREAS, Section 404 of the Howard County Charter and Section 6.300 of the Howard County Code provide for the County Executive to appoint and for the County Council to confirm nominees to Howard County Boards and Commissions created by law; and

WHEREAS, Sections 6.332 and 21.502 of the Howard County Code provide for a Multimodal Transportation Board in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has proposed the appointment of Edward Cochran as a member of the Multimodal Transportation Board; and

WHEREAS, the County Council ratifies the County Executive's special trust and confidence in the abilities of the nominee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 7th day of October, 2019 that the following person is appointed as a member of the Multimodal Transportation Board to serve from the passage of this Resolution to May 1, 2023 or until a successor is appointed and confirmed:

Edward Cochran
Columbia, Maryland

Dr. Edward (Ted) Cochran

SUMMARY

Grew up in Clarksville; moved back to Howard County in 2017 from Minneapolis, where I was a year-round bicycle commuter and transit advocate. I have biked over 25,000 miles since 2011, including over 4000 in Howard County in the past two years. I have extensive experience in qualitative and quantitative assessment of alternative solutions to problems characterized by resource limitations and incomplete or uncertain information.

EDUCATION

B.A., Psychology, Johns Hopkins University, 1976

Ph.D., Psychology, University of Minnesota, 1980

EXPERIENCE

Honeywell R&D — Director of Engineering, 1985-2019 (retired)

34-year progressive career in corporate R&D, focusing on human factors, safety, physical and cyber security, vulnerability assessment, quantitative analysis, and factors affecting human behavior in complex systems, especially during stressful situations.

Free Bikes 4 Kidz — 2010-2019

Volunteer Bike Mechanic for nonprofit that has helped kids ride into a happier, healthier childhood by refurbishing 60,000 donated bicycles and giving them away to kids in need.

Free Bikes 4 Kidz Maryland — Founding Director, 2019

Established a new nonprofit affiliate of Free Bikes 4 Kidz with a goal to collect and refurbish 1000 donated bicycles to give to kids in need during the 2019 holiday season.

Minneapolis Midtown Greenway / Trailwatch — 2012-2016

Member/volunteer for citizen group promoting the Minneapolis Midtown Greenway bicycle/pedestrian trail and conducting safety rides after dark on Minneapolis bikeways.

Our Streets Minneapolis — 2012-2016

Member/volunteer for group promoting Complete Streets and sponsoring seven Open Street events attracting over 90,000 attendees each year.

National Association of Rocketry — 2004-2016

Board of Trustees member, Vice President, and President (2012-2016) of a 6000-member nonprofit organization with a \$450K budget dedicated to consumer safety, youth education, and the advancement of technology in the hobby of sport rocketry in the U.S.

Pyrotechnics Committee, National Fire Protection Association — 2010-present

Maintain and refine NFPA consensus standards for model rocketry, high power rocketry, and professional fireworks manufacturing and use adopted throughout the U.S.

Assistant Professor, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY — 1980-1985

Volunteer Firefighter/EMT, East Meadow Fire Department, NY — 1982-1985

I am honored to be nominated for appointment to the Howard County Multimodal Transportation Board.

I grew up in Howard County and have always considered it my home. As a child, I rode far and wide on my single-speed bicycle, and later biked to lifeguard jobs in Columbia.

I spent 34 years in Minneapolis, MN. I worked for Honeywell in their corporate R&D group, on topics such as improving safety through human factors in complex systems. I was a year-round bicycle commuter and Complete Streets advocate, and a volunteer for Free Bikes 4 Kidz, a nonprofit that refurbishes bicycles for kids in need.

We moved back here two years ago in anticipation of retirement. I've started a Free Bikes 4 Kidz affiliate here; our first bike collection day is October 5.

Much has changed since I was a child biking all over Howard County—we don't see many kids biking on county roads these days. And more change is coming: Not merely population growth, but increased commuting to Howard County's growing employment centers from elsewhere. Multimodal transportation must be a focus if we are to avoid much worse automobile congestion than we already experience.

The good news is that the opportunity is there: The Census bureau says that about 45% of us live within walking or bicycling distance from work, but only about 1% of us do that. 55% of us are long-haul commuters, but less than 4% of us use public transportation. More than 80% drive alone to work.

By comparison, in Minneapolis, on a percentage basis, there are 25% fewer automobile commuters (61% vs. 81%), three times the mass transit users (12.7% vs. 3.8%), three times as many pedestrian commuters (7% vs 1%), and *forty times* as many bicycle commuters (4.1% vs 0.1%), despite the weather.

Howard County has tremendous opportunities to reduce congestion. We can begin by focusing on the 45% of commuters who live within biking or walking distance: A rapid implementation of a Complete Streets policy and a barrier-free infrastructure will enable biking and walking and offer a legitimate, and safe, alternative to driving, with significant benefits for health and the environment as well.

We can also work towards providing better mass-transit options to support long-haul commuters who will increasingly be coming to Howard County to work, rather than leaving it for work elsewhere.

Of course, the devil is in the details, and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to be able to help with those.

Thank you for your consideration, and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Edward (Ted) Cochran
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Columbia, MD 21044