

Introduced	<u>3/1/2021</u>
Public Hearing	<u>3/15/2021</u>
Council Action	<u>4/5/2021</u>
Executive Action	<u>4/6/2021</u>
Effective Date	<u>6/6/2021</u>

## County Council Of Howard County, Maryland

2021 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 5

### Bill No. 18 -2021

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT removing the requirement that the Office of Transportation establish a Transit and Pedestrian Advisory Group; amending the qualifications to serve on the Multimodal Transportation Board; amending the powers of the Multimodal Transportation Board; and generally relating to transportation and the Office of Transportation.

Introduced and read first time March 1, 2021. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.  
 By order Michelle Howard  
 Theo Wimberly, Acting Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on March 15, 2021.  
 By order Michelle Howard  
 Theo Wimberly, Acting Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on April 5, 2021 and Passed , Passed with amendments \_\_\_\_\_, Failed \_\_\_\_\_.  
 By order Michelle Howard  
 Theo Wimberly, Acting Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 6 day of April, 2021 at 3<sup>00</sup> a.m.  
 By order Michelle Howard  
 Theo Wimberly, Acting Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive April 6, 2021

Calvin Ball  
 Calvin Ball, County Executive

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

1 *Section 1. Be It Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the*  
2 *Howard County Code is amended as follows:*

3 *By amending:*

4 1. *Section 6.408. Office of Transportation*

5 *Subsection (e)*

6  
7 2. *Section 21.502. Multimodal Transportation Board.*

8  
9 3. *Section 21.503. General powers and duties of Multimodal Transportation Board.*

10  
11 4. *The name of Subtitle 5 of Title 21 to be Multimodal Transportation.*

12  
13 **Title 6. County Executive and the Executive Branch**

14 **Subtitle 4. Department of County Administration.**

15  
16 **Section 6.408. - Office of Transportation.**

17 (e) *BICYCLE Advisory* ~~[[Groups]]~~ GROUP ~~[[To the Office of Transportation]]~~. The Office  
18 shall establish a Bicycle Advisory Group~~[[ and a Transit and Pedestrian Advisory~~  
19 ~~Group]]~~to advise the Office on issues related to ~~[[the modes of]]~~BICYCLE transportation.  
20 ~~[[Both]]~~THE advisory ~~[[groups]]~~GROUP shall be staffed by the Office of Transportation.

21 (1) ~~[[Bicycle Advisory Group]]~~MEMBERSHIP. The group shall be comprised of:

22 (a) A member of the Multimodal Transportation Board;

23 (b) A Howard County Student, selected by Voices for Change;

24 (c) A Howard County Student, selected by the Howard County Association of  
25 Student Councils;

26 (d) At least one representative from each of the following organizations:

27 (i) The Bicycling Advocates of Howard County;

28 (ii) The Columbia Association;

29 (iii)The Howard County Department of Public Works;

30 (iv)The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks;

31 (v) The Howard County Police Department;

- 1 (vi) The Howard County Public School System; and
- 2 (vii) The Howard County Council; and
- 3 (e) Other members at the discretion of the Administrator of the Office.
- 4 **[[2) Transit and Pedestrian Advisory Group.** The group shall be comprised of:
  - 5 (a) A member of the Multimodal Transportation Board;
  - 6 (b) A Howard County Student, selected by Voices for Change;
  - 7 (c) A Howard County Student, selected by the Howard County Association of
  - 8 Student Councils;
  - 9 (d) A Howard County resident who is a Regional Transportation Agency
  - 10 paratransit passenger;
  - 11 (e) A Howard County resident who is a fixed-route Regional Transportation
  - 12 Agency passenger;
  - 13 (f) Two people selected by the Howard County Public School System, at least
  - 14 one of whom shall be a high school principal;
  - 15 (g) At least one representative from each of the following organizations:
    - 16 (i) The Howard County Association of Community Services;
    - 17 (ii) The Commission on Aging;
    - 18 (iii) The Commission on Disability Issues;
    - 19 (iv) The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks;
    - 20 (v) The Howard County Police Department; and
    - 21 (vi) The Howard County Council; and
  - 22 (h) Other members at the discretion of the Administrator of the Office.]]

- 23 **[[3]]2) *[[Advisory Group]] Meetings.***
  - 24 (a) THE **[[Each advisory]]** group shall meet at least four times per year. **[[At least**
  - 25 two meetings shall be joint meetings with the Bicycle Advisory Group and
  - 26 the Transit and Pedestrian Advisory Group, and at least two meetings shall
  - 27 be held separately.]]
  - 28 (b) Each meeting shall include an open forum component in which members of
  - 29 the public are invited to comment about transportation.
  - 30 (c) **[[Advisory groups]]**THE GROUP shall follow the State of Maryland Open
  - 31 Meetings Law.

1 (d) The Office of Transportation shall notify directly the groups and  
2 organizations listed in section 6.408(e)(1)(d) [[and section 6.408(e)(2)(g)]] of  
3 each [[advisory group]] meeting, but [[an advisory group's]]the BICYCLE  
4 ADVISORY GROUP'S work shall not be invalidated for lack of representation  
5 from one or more of the listed groups or organizations.

6 ([[4]]3)[[Advisory Group]] Responsibilities. THE GROUP [[Advisory groups]] shall:

- 7 (a) Advise and inform the Office on BICYCLE transportation matters;  
8 (b) Provide additional subject matter expertise to the Office; and  
9 (c) Provide feedback and technical assistance on the implementation of master  
10 plans and other initiatives and policy issues.

11  
12 **Title 21 - Traffic Control and Transportation.**

13 **Subtitle 5. [[Public]] MULTIMODAL Transportation.**

14  
15 **Section 21.502. - Multimodal Transportation Board.**

16 (a) *General Provisions.* General provisions applicable to the Multimodal Transportation  
17 Board are set forth in subtitle 3, "Boards and Commissions," of title 6, "County  
18 Executive and the Executive Branch," of the Howard County Code.

19 (b) *Number of Members.* There is a Howard County Multimodal Transportation Board.  
20 The Howard County Multimodal Transportation Board shall consist of nine members.  
21 Non-voting ex officio members from State, regional, and County agencies may also be  
22 designated by the County Executive, but not to exceed four in number.

23 (c) *Qualifications.*

- 24 (1) Each member shall be a resident of Howard County;  
25 (2) Each member shall be experienced or interested in or a user of at least one of the  
26 following:  
27 (i) Public transit, including [[fixed-route or paratransit]]FIXED-ROUTE,  
28 PARATRANSIT, OR MICROMOBILITY;  
29 (II) ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN  
30 TRANSPORTATION;  
31 [[(ii) Bicycle transportation;

- 1 (iii) Pedestrian transportation;]]
- 2 ([[iv]]iii) Road networks that SAFELY promote all modes of transportation; [[or]]
- 3 ([[v]]iv) Transportation demand management[.]; OR
- 4 (v) TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES FOR UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.
- 5 (3) As new appointments are considered, special attention shall be given to ensure
- 6 that a balance of expertise is maintained on the Board. The County Executive
- 7 shall, when submitting the appointment of a potential Board member to the
- 8 County Council for approval, also provide a statement of the balance of
- 9 expertise among the existing members of the Board and an explanation of how
- 10 the potential appointee's expertise will complement the current balance.
- 11 (4) APPOINTEES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION RELATED
- 12 EVENTS AND BE INFORMED ABOUT TRANSPORTATION MATTERS, INCLUDING HOW
- 13 THOSE MATTERS RELATE TO UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS AND ISSUES OF ACCESS.
- 14 (d) *Executive Secretary*. The Administrator of the Office of Transportation or the
- 15 Administrator's designee shall serve as Executive Secretary to the Board and shall attend
- 16 all meetings.

17

18 **Section 21.503. - General powers and duties of Multimodal Transportation Board.**

19 The Howard County Multimodal Transportation Board shall:

- 20 (a) Initiate, advise, ENCOURAGE, AND assist in providing A SAFE, WELL-CONNECTED,
- 21 EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK [[transportation options]] for
- 22 Howard County [[residents and]]RESIDENTS, businesses, AND VISITORS, including, but
- 23 not limited to:
  - 24 (1) Public transit, including [[fixed-route and paratransit]]FIXED-ROUTE,
  - 25 PARATRANSIT, OR MICROMOBILITY;
  - 26 (2) ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN
  - 27 TRANSPORTATION;
  - 28 [[(2) Bicycle transportation;]]
  - 29 [[(3) Pedestrian transportation;]]
  - 30 ([[4]]3) Road networks that SAFELY promote all modes of transportation; [[and,]]
  - 31 ([[5]]4) Transportation demand management; AND

1           (((6))5)     ADA COMPLIANCE AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.

2     (b)   Make recommendations to the County Executive as requested or by its own  
3     initiation, concerning contracts with State and Federal agencies, firms, corporations, and  
4     associations to provide public transportation services to Howard County;

5     (((c)) Encourage additional home-to-work transit services, including, but not limited to  
6     the modes of transportation described in subsection (a) of this section;]]

7     (((d))] (C) Assist in providing adequate public transportation for County residents, WITH  
8     SPECIAL CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO RESIDENTS WITH LIMITED [[having no]] alternative  
9     means of transportation;

10    (((e))] (D) Assist in increasing transportation SAFETY AND access to health and human  
11    services, educational institutions, recreational facilities and other goods and services BY  
12    MULTIPLE MODES;

13    (((f))] (E) Develop and submit recommendations to County, State, and regional  
14    administrative bodies in planning comprehensive transportation services for Howard  
15    County residents;

16    (((g))] (F) Receive and coordinate public comment and complaints concerning  
17    transportation needs and to recommend actions thereon; [[and]]

18    (((h))] (G) Make recommendations[[, in consultation with the Transit and Pedestrian  
19    Advisory Group,]] to the Office of Transportation on any proposed permanent  
20    elimination [[or relocation]] of a transit stop in Howard [[County after notice is  
21    provided and at least one public meeting is held at which interested persons shall be  
22    afforded a reasonable opportunity to offer input into the proposed change;]] COUNTY.  
23    THE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL PROVIDE THE BOARD WITH THE OPPORTUNITY  
24    TO CONSIDER PUBLIC INPUT ON THE MATTER, however, nothing in the foregoing shall  
25    preclude the County from the temporary elimination or relocation of a transit stop in the  
26    case of an emergency, provided that no such change shall be made permanent prior to  
27    completion of the Board's recommendation process described above; [[and]]

28    (((i))] (H) Furnish recommendations and provide information to the County Executive  
29    and the County Council on any matter concerning the present and future needs of  
30    [[public]] transportation in Howard County, including providing access to both the  
31    Baltimore and Washington areas through the transportation options described in this

1 section[.];

2 (i) PRIOR TO ANNUAL EXECUTION OF A PERMIT, REVIEW AND PROVIDE  
3 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION ON THE FORM OF AN  
4 ELECTRIC SCOOTER SHARING SYSTEM PERMIT WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE OPERATING  
5 ZONES AND SHALL TAKE PLACE AT A PUBLIC HEARING; AND

6 (j) At the directive of the County Executive or by resolution of the County Council,  
7 review and make recommendations on any matter related to public transportation in  
8 Howard County.

9

10 *Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County,*  
11 *Maryland, that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.*

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on April 6, 2021.

Michelle Harrod  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council





HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION  
3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-0702

Bruce Gartner, Administrator

[BGartner@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:BGartner@howardcountymd.gov)  
FAX 410-313-1655  
TDD 410-313-2323

**Date:** February 18, 2021

**To:** Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Bruce Gartner, Administrator, Howard County Office of Transportation

**Subject:** Staff Testimony for Council Bill X-2021, Modifications to Multimodal Transportation Board (MTB) membership and duties and elimination of Transit and Pedestrian Advisory Group (TPAG)

Council Bill \_\_\_-2021 is a modification in County Code regarding two advisory groups who provide input to Howard County Government on issues related to Public Transit and Pedestrian Transportation. The legislation eliminates the Transit and Pedestrian Advisory Group which currently meets on a quarterly basis, and changes the qualifications, general powers, and duties of the Multimodal Transportation Board and its membership. These changes can be found in Section 6.408 of Title 6, *Department of County Administration, Office of Transportation*, and Sections 21.502 and 21.503, both of Title 21, *Traffic Control and Transportation*. The Administration is recommending these changes to streamline the stakeholder input process to the Office of Transportation and to update the language pertaining to the MTB to reflect recent trends in transportation policy since the adoption of the Complete Streets Policy adopted by County Council in late 2019.

The TPAG, along with the Bicycle Advisory Group (BAG), both serving the Office of Transportation, were officially brought into existence in 2017 by County legislation to advise and inform the Office on transportation matters, provide additional subject matter expertise to the Office, and provide feedback and technical assistance on the implementation of master plans and other initiatives and policy issues.

Over time, it has become clear that other groups, boards and commissions in Howard County address these same sets of concerns as those presented to the TPAG -- primarily, the MTB, which is able to address the concerns more immediately and is able to consider them within the broader context of the County's transportation network more effectively due to the diversity of the transportation expertise of its members. In addition, the Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland (RTA) has both a Board of Commissioners and a Rider Advisory Group that address issues concerning transit and pedestrian access to transit.

The Office now has several plans, policies, and guiding documents reflecting the priorities of our community, including our pedestrian master plan, *WalkHoward* (2020); bicycle master plan, *BikeHoward* (2016); Complete Streets policy (2019); Strategic Road Safety Plan (2020); and Transit Development Plan (2018). These plans and policies, along with input and feedback from County government, the County Council, the MTB, the RTA Commission, and the public, provide sufficient guidance to the Office moving forward.

Ending the TPAG has the understanding of the TPAG membership and the endorsement of its Chair. Two members of the TPAG will be considered for appointment to the MTB to help address any remaining issues or concerns.

The proposed changes to the County Code include:

- Elimination of all references to the Transit and Pedestrian Advisory Group.
- Providing language concerning our transportation network that is consistent with the County's Complete Streets policy emphasizing safety, connectivity, equity, and sustainability.
- Specific reference to active transportation, which includes bicycling and walking, to reflect the increased importance these modes have in our County and country and which promote healthy citizens and healthy communities. The importance of active transportation is also included in Complete Streets Resolution (CR120-2019).
- Inclusion of micromobility as a mode, which includes e-scooters, to be consistent with Council Bill 3-2020, Electric Scooter Sharing Permits.
- Requesting a more active role of the MTB members, specifically to support and educate themselves on transportation issues related to Howard County and underserved populations, reflecting the County's priorities demonstrated in the adoption of our Complete Streets policy and ongoing implementation.
- Addressing the fact that our transportation network serves visitors, as well as residents and businesses.
- Redressing language focused explicitly on transit from previous Code amendments and clarifying the MTB's focus on helping to provide a network that includes multiple transportation options. Additionally, the requirements concerning the steps needed for transit modifications are already more appropriately addressed by the RTA, its Commission, its Ridership Advisory Council, and the RTA's public outreach process.

Financially, there are no budgetary obligations required to enact these changes; on the contrary, the elimination of a redundant advisory group will eliminate unnecessary demands on staff, improve efficiency, and assist staff to better support existing and future County transportation policies, projects, and initiatives.

The Office of Transportation affirms that the issues previously addressed by the TPAG in its quarterly meetings are being fully addressed in a more timely manner by the monthly meetings of the MTB, both at this time and moving forward.

These changes in legislation will better reflect the transportation priorities of the County and increase the capacity of the Office of Transportation and the MTB to address them. The Office of Transportation supports Council Bill \_\_\_\_-2021 and recommends adoption by the County Council.

**Office of the County Auditor**  
**Auditor's Analysis**

**Council Bill No. 18-2021**

Introduced: March 1, 2021

Auditor: Edward Shulder

---

Fiscal Impact:

This bill will not impact County revenues or expenditures.

Purpose:

This bill streamlines advisory oversight of the County's transportation network by eliminating the Transit and Pedestrian Advisory Group and moving the group's responsibilities to the Multimodal Transportation Board.

Other Comments:

None.