



Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

Record

Together we make a difference

Founded in 1969

Volume LVIII No. 01, January 2025

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

1. Happy New Year to All!
2. The February General Council Meeting is cancelled. In lieu of that meeting, please attend the Feb 25, 2025 county budget presentation via Zoom hosted by Supervisor Storck. It is critical that we weigh in early and often on budget items. Meeting details will be provided as soon as we get them. Please provide your questions ahead of time to our chair.bf@mvcca.org and cochair1@mvcca.org.
3. Needed: volunteers for the MVCCA board elections nominating committee. We will hold an election in May, and we need three members of the general council or committees to be on that committee. Contact Leo Milanowski (specialcommittee@mvcca.org) and/or Larry Zaragoza (chair.er@mvcca.org) if you are interested.
4. Public Safety Committee guests speakers: The Mount Vernon police outreach and the crime analyst representatives will be at the February 4th Public Safety committee. Your community presidents will have the zoom link for this important meeting.

MVCCA BOARD

| | |
|------------|---|
| Co-Chairs | Katherine Ward co.chair1@mvcca.org |
| | Judy Harbeck co.chair2@mvcca.org |
| | Scott Taylor co.chair3@mvcca.org |
| Secretary | Tamera Srader secretary@mvcca.org |
| Treasurer | Bill Kane treasurer@mvcca.org |
| Membership | open membership@mvcca.org |
| Editor | Terry Mulligan editor@mvcca.org |
| BUDG | James Perkins chair.bf@mvcca.org |
| EDUC | Cathy Hosek chair.edu@mvcca.org |
| E&R | Larry Zaragoza chair.er@mvcca.org |
| PL/Z | Bindu Mathur chair.pz@mvcca.org |
| PS | John Lincoski chair.ps@mvcca.org |
| TRAN | Jason Zaragoza chair.tran@mvcca.org |
| SFDC | Ellen Young rep.sfdc@mvcca.org |
| FCFCA | Marty Lowery rep.fairfaxfederation@mvcca.org |
| Stormwater | Leo Milanowski specialcommittee@mvcca.org |

MVCCA General Council Meeting Minutes

MVCCA GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 2024 Meeting Virtual Meeting/ZOOM

PRESIDING: Co-Chair Judy Harbeck

ATTENDING

- Secretary – Tamara Srader
- Co-Chair — Scott Taylor
- Co-Chair — Katherine Ward
- Treasurer — William Kane

Committees

- Environment and Recreation – Larry Zaragoza
- Planning and Zoning – Bindu Mathur
- Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation – Ellen Young
- Storm Water Management Special Committee – Leo Milanowski
- Public Safety – John Lincoski
- Budget and Finance – James Perkins
- Transportation – Jason Zaragoza
- Terry Mulligan – MVCCA Record Editor

Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Website: www.mvcca.org

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Communities Attending

Belle View Condo
Holland Court Property
Gum Springs Homeowners
HHV
Mt. Zephyr
Montebello
Mt Vernon Civic
Riverwood HOA
Wessynton
Mt Vee Manor
Potomac Valley - River Bend CA
Huntington
Hollin Hills
Villamay
Belle Haven Terrace Citizens Association
Mt Vernon Manor
Wellington Civic Association

Dan Storck-Fairfax County Supervisor
Peyton Smith – Fairfax County Staff

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. on December 18, 2024.

Minutes from November 2024 — approved as written by acclimation.

New MVCCA Budget Chair — James Perkins, Meetings starting in January 2025

Education — committee chair has a conflict tonight and did not attend; committee will be looking at school budget and boundary discussions coming in the next several months.

E&R — had meeting in December and guest from Park authority attended; discussed Quander Fairchild parks trail which is moving forward; will have questions on this, and they are beginning the work. Also, some members of the committee attended P&Z meeting; Paul Spring Stream Valley Park will be undergoing a stream restoration; the question that will be raised will be about invasive plants, and that will be an issue the committee will be exploring.

Air Quality Monitoring - notice from Supervisor Storck's office that there is an interest in air quality monitoring - previous air monitoring stations were shut down and now they are reviewing the potential future monitoring.

Recommendation to have someone come to one of the E&R meetings to talk about this potential issue.

P&Z — Meeting on December 2nd; discussed IMP building—8850 Richmond Hwy (20 percent occupied). Woodlawn historic overlay district guidelines are the biggest hurdle. Another discussion involved visitors to talk about the Barn at Grist Mill and dispel some of the rumors about what the project is and is not. They have not talked to the county yet, so not much to share. Concern how to maintain history and keep it as safe as possible. Barn is walking distance to several thousand homes.

Public Safety — Two speakers for the meeting in December. First was from Dept of Emergency Management and Security who stressed the need for community level emergency preparedness. Updated visit from NPS on parkway speed enforcement, with legislative efforts continuing to try and redirect money. There was an expression of interest to restrict turns at certain intersections but no specifics. Letter from Congressperson Byer to encourage enforcement. Looking to bring a speaker or crime statistics for January meeting.

Transportation — did not meet this month; Jason is stepping down as Transportation chair; board has someone who is interested and will be interviewing with the co-chairs and should be in place by January. Jason has been leading for about 4 years and believes it is time to step down and have someone else step up.

SFDC — Brief overview meeting December 18, and they are concentrating on helping Fairfax County to get EIP extended to get more tax breaks for businesses along the corridor; starting to go in with new murals painted on cloth on fencing along Richmond HWY to look better and more inviting.

Fairfax Federation — no meeting in December; Jan 23 7pm meeting Mateo Dunne will be giving a presentation on school boundary situation at Gatehouse Road FCPS building in the first floor cafeteria

Stormwater — Meetings starting back up in January with a focus on the budget and if priorities are included in the budget. Will be working with the new budget chair.

Steering Committee — has not set a new date to get together to discuss property around Sherwood Hall Library/Police/Fire. Katherine shared some material from 2009 when the MVCCA made recommendations about that corner, and it mirrors a bit what it looks like in the future.

Treasurer Report — No income in November; two small expenses of \$168 for a second Zoom license and 2 months of MVCCA Record work. Treasurer report approved as published.

Co-chair — Two people from the board are on the nominating committee, and we need one more volunteer; we need to elect one more co-chair; Leo/Larry currently volunteering for this position; Karen's last MVCCA Record is complete, and Terry is now stepping in going forward for January.

Supervisor Stork

Newsletter and Good News Advisor/MVCCA Land Use has been sent.

Holiday open house Dec 4; food drive—about 60 bags worth of food were donated and will help about 30 families.

Mt Vernon first hike of the year—starting at Collingwood Park to Mt Vernon trail: 10 a.m. on January 1.

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Little Hunting Creek—gravity sewer line was replaced a few years ago, and crews are now going to be working on the next phase; want the community to be aware of the impact of the work; met with Wessynton Community. Impact should be minimal.

Bus Rapid Transit Line — stations have different themes, and we are looking at designs; feedback was generally positive.

Parking Enforcement Increased—stepped up enforcement including tax administration enforcement for out-of-state plates.

Read accomplishments of 2024 in the newsletter

Community Time

Woodlawn HOD — National Historic trust and plans; response from the group over this is that they don't have the funds to do anything with the barns/buildings.

Mount Vee Manor HOA — truck parking and reporting - keep calling nonemergency for help and wanted to know if we could still use the form. Peyton informed us that we could use the form to report violations, and it doesn't necessarily have to be truck parking violations.

Budget issues — fire trucks and ambulances

Air quality monitors — looking to have more data on air quality as well as possibly noise monitoring.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tamara Srader

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Public Safety

The Public Safety Committee did not meet in January. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom and will feature an update from the Fairfax County Police Department regarding crime statistics in the Mount Vernon region.

Education

Our committee will follow the FCPS Budget Discussion and are working on planning a joint Education/Budget Committee meeting. Details of upcoming School Board budget work sessions will be shared with the Education Committee. Please plan to follow the budget discussion.

Superintendent to Present Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget

Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid is scheduled to present the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Proposed Budget at the School Board meeting on **Thursday, January 23, at 7:00 p.m.**

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The meeting can be viewed on FCPS Cable TV Channel 99 (Verizon Channel 11), the [FCPS YouTube Channel](#), and the [FCPS website](#).

Boundary Work

Our committee will be focused on the School Boundary work. Below are some helpful links to learn more:

Summary of comments discussed at the regional boundary feedback meetings

<https://www.fcps.edu/summary-person-community-boundary-review-meetings>

Boundary Review Advisory Committee link (includes the list of appointees)

<https://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/maps/2024-2026-boundary-review/superintendents-boundary-review-advisory-committee>

Comprehensive Boundary Review Link

<https://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/maps/2024-2026-boundary-review>

There are four remaining boundary meetings. These are all virtual. Here is the schedule with links to register (as registration is limited to 400 attendees)

Community Boundary Review Meetings

Virtual Meetings

If you did not get a chance to attend an in-person meeting, please consider participating in one of the virtual Community Boundary Review Meetings. All virtual meetings will follow the same format as the recently held in-person meetings, and the same information will be shared. Join us:

- [Saturday, January 25, 2025, 9:30-11 a.m.](#)
- [Monday, January 27, 2025, 6:30-8 p.m.](#)
- [Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 6:30-8 p.m.](#)
- [Monday, February 10, 2025, 6:30-8 p.m.](#)

Please register by clicking a date above. Each virtual meeting will be limited to 400 participants, and each participant will receive their own unique Zoom link. Language interpretation will be available. Sign up for the [School Boundary Review](#) newsletter for updates.

Our next Education committee meeting will be in March after the Superintendent's Boundary Advisory Committee has begun their work and we have written our Budget resolution.

Environment & Recreation

MVCCA 2025 E&R and P&Z Joint Meeting (01/02/2025)

E&R Chair, Larry Zaragoza and P&Z Chair Bindu Mathur convened the Zoom meeting at 7:00 p.m. on

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January 2. Co-Chairs Katherine Ward and Scott Taylor were in attendance.

E&R communities represented included: Bell Haven Terrace Civic Association, Hollin Hall Village Citizens Association, Belle View Condominium Unit Owners Association, Tauxemount Community Association, Inc., Spring Bank Community Association, and Potomac Valley-River Bend Civic Association.

P&Z communities represented included: Belle Haven Terrace Association, CA of Hollin Hills, Collingwood Springs CA, New Gum Springs CA, Riverwood HOA, Spring Bank CA, and Wellington CA.

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

Scott Cameron, Chair of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District discussed the district’s work, including its involvement in discussions about invasive species management, renewable energy, and utility-scale solar. He also mentioned the district’s operation of nine grant programs in Fairfax County, funded by both the county government and the Department of Conservation Recreation. He also discussed the need for a \$500,000 budget increase to address the dam safety issue at the Lake Barcroft Dam, which is structurally sound but not designed to handle the current frequency of storms and hurricanes. Katherine asked about the potential for agrivoltaics in Fairfax County, to which Scott responded that while there are some examples in Virginia, more awareness and education are needed for farmers and local planning commissions.

Resolution on the Plan Forward Industry “White Paper”

Larry described the draft resolution distributed in advance of the meeting. He then motioned approval of the resolution, including minor edits made during the meeting. Poul seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Legislative Recommendations

Larry motioned to support the State personal income tax credit recommendation, which was seconded by Poul. The majority voted in favor of the item. Larry then moved to adopt the rest of the items as written and edited, which was seconded by Nandini. The majority voted in favor of this motion.

Follow-up items

- Scott Cameron to engage with the E&R Committee during the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District’s strategic plan revision process this winter.
- E&R Committee members to check the Friends of Dyke Marsh website for information on the annual water quality testing event in Mount Vernon Park.

Larry expressed his appreciation for the group’s contributions and wished them a great New Year. The conversation ended with a motion to adjourn that was made, seconded and passed.

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Transportation

MVCCA Transportation Committee Minutes January 13, 2025

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Association (MVCCA) Transportation Committee met on January 13, 2025 in a virtual gathering hosted on Zoom. Participating in the meeting from the MVCCA was Jason Zaragoza, Transportation Committee Chair and attendance/note-taker for tonight’s meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Prior to the holiday break Chairman Zaragoza notified the committee by email that he intends to step down as Chairman in 2025. He will begin searching for someone to take his place and urged committee members to consider stepping up to lead the committee.
2. Over the holiday break the National Park Service (NPS) named Jennifer Madello as the new Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP). A link was also included: <https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/learn/news/jennifer-madello-selected-as-superintendent-of-george-washington-memorial-parkway-12-19-2024.htm>. Chairman Zaragoza indicated that either he or his upcoming relief would invite Superintendent Madello to address the Committee at some later date.
3. Reminder that there will be an in-person public meeting about the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project which now has an expected completion date of 2033. The meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. on January 15 at the Gerry Hyland Government Center (8350 Richmond Hwy). A flyer was also attached.

PRESENTATIONS: None

AGENDA ITEMS

Transportation Priorities for 2025

Discussion

Chairman Zaragoza started the discussion by noting that for most of the past 2 years the Committee has focused its energy on issues related to the George Washington Memorial Parkway, most notably speeding enforcement and improvements to the intersections of Belle View Blvd. and Belle Haven Road. The Committee’s efforts were often frustrated by the fact that the GWMP is overseen by the National Park Service which operates within a large federal bureaucracy.

He suggested that there are other areas in the Mount Vernon District where the Committee could have more direct impact. These include areas under the jurisdiction of Fairfax County where the MVCCA has strong relationships with Supervisor Dan Storck’s office and other county officials. He then opened the floor to members.

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- The first member to speak suggested that the Committee advocate for the implementation of changes recommended by the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan, which envisions a comprehensive network of “safe, comfortable, and convenient” transportation options to include trails for pedestrians and bicyclists. Chairman Zaragoza said this project aligns with the MVCCA’s long-range vision for the Mount Vernon District and that the next step would be for the Committee to push for funding to implement the recommendations outlined in the plan.
- Another member cited the upcoming meeting regarding the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project and said that it’s unclear if the final design has been determined or if there will be future opportunities for public input as the project unfolds over the next 8 years. Another member cited concern about the impact of overflow traffic to Fort Hunt Road and other smaller streets surrounding Richmond Highway as a result of the project. Chairman Zaragoza said that either he or his successor will invite project representatives to a future Committee meeting so that these questions can be answered.
- A member suggested that future efforts to improve safety on GWMP should focus on the intersections of Belle Haven Road, Belle View Blvd, and Morningside Lane.
- A member cited poor integration of the district’s bus network with neighboring jurisdictions and the Metro System. Moreover, there was discussion on whether the Committee should advocate for extension of the Yellow Line to Fort Belvoir. Another member noted that Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and local authorities are also exploring extending the Blue Line to Maryland instead of expanding the Yellow Line. All agreed the Committee should remain actively involved on the issue.
- A member asked if there has been any strategic planning for a potential move by the FBI to Springfield and the traffic issues that would result. Another member cited the need for comprehensive modeling which can predict where traffic will flow as the result of specific changes.
- Chairman Zaragoza noted that final recommendations for the I-495 Southside Express Lane Study will likely be made in 2025 and that the Committee should remain actively involved.
- Another member cited the need for additional public education on crosswalk laws to include increased visibility and signage to encourage drivers to stop for pedestrians. There was also a discussion on

various methods for traffic calming to enhance pedestrian safety.

Before discussion concluded, a member noted that State Senator Scott Surovell will hold a Mount Vernon Legislative Town Hall on at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, February 1, 2025 at Walt Whitman Middle School where some of these issues may surface.

Meeting Adjourned

Chairman Zaragoza thanked members for their input regarding 2025 Transportation Committee focus items. The MVCCA Transportation Committee meeting concluded at 7:54 p.m.

Future (2025) Transportation Committee Meetings:

- February 10th
- March 10th
- April 14th
- May 12th
- June 9th
- July 14th
- August – No Meeting
- September 8th
- October 13th
- November 10th
- December 8th

Note: Until further notice, all meetings will be held remotely.

SFDC

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We are still planning a ribbon cutting for The Faces of One, which we hope to do at Nepenthe Gallery. This would coincide with an exhibition of artist Michael Alfano’s smaller sculptures.

We are planning a webinar with the county, with a presentation on the Economic Incentive Program along Richmond Highway corridor. Details and the date will follow.

Fairfax Federation

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The Fairfax Federation did not meet in December 2024.

The next General Membership Meeting is is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2025 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Gatehouse Administration Center, Gatehouse Cafe, Suite 1500, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA.

The Guest Speaker will be Matteo Dunne, Mount Vernon District Representative to the Fairfax County Public Schools Board (FCPS), discussing the FCPS school boundary study and proposed budget.

Requires General Council Ratification

MVCCA Legislative Recommendations for 2025

Support for solar energy:

- Establishing a nonrefundable income tax credit. For example, Del Krizek introduced HB 197 in the 2024 session to provide a state personal income tax credit for residential solar installation. Our nearby neighbor, South Carolina, has had such a credit for several years.
- Solar on buildings is important so that we can reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and also reduce the use of forests and prime agricultural lands for utility-scale solar farms. We anticipate that Delegate Bulova will be introducing a bill to empower county governments to promote appropriate solar energy, such as rooftops and parking lots, during the development process.
- Remove barriers to solar. Such solutions would include providing for cost-sharing of the interconnection of private solar energy generation to the electrical grid. Such costs should be allocated so that the solar installer pays for the costs of equipment for safety and reliability purposes at the premises of installation. The utility should bear the cost of needed equipment between the solar premises and the utility's generation facilities. The utility would recover its costs from its rate structure as the state Corporation Commission determines to be appropriate.
- Support legislation to allow local governments to establish efficient energy standards that differ from Virginia state code.
- Support legislation to authorize local jurisdictions to require commercial buildings to report publicly the energy use intensity of their buildings (benchmarking) and develop and enforce building energy performance requirements.

Data Centers

- Support legislation to modify the Virginia Clean Economy Act to count renewable energy generated outside of Virginia's borders. The exceptional concentration of data centers in Virginia, especially Northern Virginia, has placed a strain on the electrical grid, and the resulting high energy demand is threatening Virginia's ability to meet carbon neutrality goals.
- Given the high energy demands and potential water demands that would threaten Northern Virginia water security (i.e., the ability of the region to deliver water to customers), data centers should be rewarded for sharing information on energy use, water use, and wastewater, including salts and PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), if any, released to the publicly owned treatment facilities, especially wastewater released to the Upper Occoquan Service Authority. PFAS has been used in at least some

systems that use liquid cooling for data center chips, so if wastewater includes PFAS, the PFAS should be removed before release to wastewater treatment facilities.

- Reward the major corporations and data center operators that share their data on energy use, water use, and wastewater (e.g., amount, constituents). Many of the major corporations that use data centers have goals that include net zero carbon, and these corporations should be thanked and rewarded for their environmental contributions, which may be shared nationally with shareholders but do not seem to be shared at the local level here in Virginia.

Invasive Plants

- Support legislation to label and highlight native plant species in nurseries and other places where plants are sold.

Chesapeake Bay and Living Shorelines

- Provide legislation to ensure that property owners who legally raise the height of their bulkhead to protect their property from sea level rise can also raise the height of the land on the landward side of the bulkhead.
- Require objectivity from Wetland Boards, who have exceptional latitude to require replacement of man-made hardened structures with living shorelines at the expense of the property owner, which also devalues the property and reduces its use by the property owner.
- Under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, a tidal waterfront property owner can be penalized for the removal of a single "wetland" plant. Yet "wetland" plants listed in Virginia law include plants that do not require a wetland environment. This is especially troubling as county, VDOT, and utility projects clearcut and regrade areas. The current law has been written and interpreted to be excessively stringent for property owners who have acquired and maintained their property in accordance with the law, which makes the law easy to enforce but lacks reasonableness. Virginia is a buyer-beware state, and the information for a property owner to make informed decisions, especially for tidal waterfront properties, is lacking.
- If living shorelines are really a priority, grants to support property owners who consider their property to be a viable option should be provided. The current amount of up to \$30,000 per property will be inadequate for most properties because engineering analyses and other costs will be needed so that the stability of the land and nearby structures will not be threatened. Moreover, much more funding will be needed to provide these grants because their budget would only allow for a few of these projects.

----- Treasurer's Report -----

Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, Inc. Treasurer's Report, Current Month and Fiscal Year to Date Compared to Annual Budget Periods Ending December 31, 2024

| | December | Total July 1 to December 31 | 2024-2025 Annual Budget | Budget Variance To spend or Favorable (Unfavorable) |
|--|----------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Cash Receipts (including deposits in-transit): | | | | |
| Dues - Current Members | \$ - | \$ 3,452 | \$ 3,955 | |
| Money Market Interest | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| Total Cash Receipts | 0 | 3,452 | 3,957 | \$ (505) |
| Cash Disbursements (including outstanding checks): | | | | |
| Administrative | - | 555 | 540 | (15) |
| Insurance Premium | - | - | 707 | 707 |
| Outreach/Town Hall Meets | - | - | - | - |
| "Record" Production | 70 | 390 | 1,400 | 1,010 |
| Web Site | - | 354 | 800 | 446 |
| Total Cash Disbursements | 70 | 1,299 | 3,447 | 2,148 |
| Net Budget - Receipts in Excess(less than) Disbursements: | (70) | 2,154 | 510 | \$ 1,644 |

Other Sources/Changes in Cash:

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cash at Beginning of Period | 12,119 | 11,545 | 11,545 |
| Total Cash at End of Period | \$ 12,049 | \$ 12,049 | \$ 12,055 |

End of Period Cash Balances by Account (adjusted for outstanding items):

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--|--|
| Burke & Herbert - Checking | \$ 5,886 | | |
| Burke & Herbert - Money Market | 6,163 | | |
| Total Cash | \$ 12,049 | | |

Respectfully Submitted,
William J Kane, Treasurer
January 1, 2025

Notes:

- 1 This financial statement uses the cash basis of accounting except as noted on the face of the statement.
- 2 Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, January 22, 2025
Virtual

AGENDA

- Call to order
- Minutes Approved
- Committee Reports
- Treasurer Report
- Resolutions
- Supervisor's Time
- Member's Time
- Adjourn

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

MVCCA Council—February meeting canceled
MVCCA Board—February 12, 7:00 p.m., Virtual

| Comm | Date | Time | Place | Chair |
|------|------|------|---------|---------------|
| BUDG | 2/3 | 7:00 | Virtual | James Perkins |
| EDU | 2/5 | 7:00 | Virtual | Hosek |
| E&R | 2/5 | 7:00 | Virtual | L. Zaragoza |
| PL/Z | 2/13 | 7:00 | Virtual | Mathur |
| PS | 2/4 | 7:00 | Virtual | Lincoski |
| TRAN | 2/10 | 7:00 | Virtual | J. Zaragoza |
| MSCS | TBD | 7:00 | Virtual | Milanowski |

*JOINT Public Safety/Transportation Meeting

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