

Town of Chevy Chase Public Services Committee (PSC)

January 20, 2026

Meeting Minutes

The meeting, which was held via Zoom was convened at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Attendees:

- Howard Berkof, Chair
- Rich Brancato, Council Liaison
- Sonela Ardekani, Member
- Christian Barnette, Member
- Rob Portman, Member
- Gautam Prakash, Member
- Kevin Telford, Member
- Grant Davies, Member
- Judy Polk, Member
- Dawn Heuschel, Member
- Carlos Mojica, Member
- David Walton, Town Staff

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order. The Chair welcomed members and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Carlos agreed to take notes.

2. Approval of December Meeting Minutes

The December meeting minutes were reviewed. Members expressed appreciation for the quality of the draft.

Key Takeaways / Decisions:

- Motion made and seconded to approve the December minutes.
- Minutes approved unanimously.

3. Town Council Liaison Updates

Rich Brancato provided updates from the January Town Council meeting and recent engagement with the State Highway Administration (SHA).

Key topics included:

Bradley Lane – SHA Engagement

- SHA agreed to install a wider white edge line (10 inches wide, approximately 2 inches from curb).
- Centerline to be shifted toward the country club to accommodate striping.
- Implementation dependent on warmer weather (thermoplastic application).
- Any decision regarding speed tables is likely at least **two years away**, pending statewide pilot evaluations.
- SHA is balancing pedestrian safety with maintaining traffic flow.
- PSC and town staff will monitor pilot results.

Speed Cameras on Bradley

- Town is pursuing authority to deploy a speed camera.
- Contract expected within 4–6 weeks.
- Application must be submitted to SHA.
- Earliest deployment anticipated in early summer.

Other Updates

- Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements at West and Ridge approved.
- East Avenue speed humps approved.
- Ongoing coordination regarding Bradley Lane hydrants and sidewalk (WSSC/SHA).

4. Town Forecast Input for March

Committee discussed potential topics for the March newsletter article. Suggestions included:

- Spring public safety reminders.
- Trimming hedges/shrubs for pedestrian visibility.
- Reporting streetlight outages.
- Reminder about police reporting procedures (e.g., hit-and-run/side-swipes).
- Purple Line/Capital Crescent Trail updates (if relevant).
- General seasonal pedestrian and traffic safety messaging.

There was discussion about prior side-swipe incidents and the importance of reminding residents to report non-emergency incidents properly.

5. Rosemary Street Traffic and Safety – Update from Town Staff

Staff reported on a productive meeting with the school principal, assistant principal, and MCPS facilities.

School Engagement Outcomes:

- School hired engineering firm, whose conclusions aligned with PSC recommendations.
- Agreement in principle to:
 - Remove five parking spaces between Rosemary Circle and school parking lot.
 - Consider creation of a 70-foot lay-by area near Connecticut Avenue.
- School willing to relocate teacher parking (circle, Hillcrest, Triangle Park).
- Principal committed to increased staff monitoring during drop-off/pick-up.
- School highly cooperative.

Permit Parking Discussion:

- Possible designation of Rosemary as permit parking.
- Requires 60% resident petition + parking study.
- Residents may initiate petition following February engagement session.

Additional Efficiency Measures:

- Potential marking of parking spaces on circle and near Triangle Park to improve utilization.
- No recommendation at this time to remove Connecticut/Rosemary corner parking.

Action Item:

- Send letter to Rosemary residents outlining proposed measures and invite them to public engagement session at PSC's February meeting.

6. Leland & East / Thornapple Path Discussion

Committee revisited prior safety concerns regarding:

- Stop sign placement at Leland & East.
- Single parking space at dogleg near Thornapple Path.
- Potential sidewalk extension.

Stop Sign Relocation

- Moving stop sign closer to intersection would improve sightlines and safety.
- Strong view from traffic engineer that relocation would be safer.

- Some concern about resident opposition.

Parking Space Removal

- Removal of single parking space may improve visibility.
- Impact significant to adjacent resident.
- Mixed views on whether to pursue immediately.

Sidewalk Extension

- Technically feasible but likely contentious.
- Would require grading and tree impacts.
- Significant resident opposition expected.
- No current recommendation to advance.

Key Takeaways / Decisions:

- General support for revisiting stop sign relocation.
- Sidewalk extension not recommended at this time.
- Schedule in-person resident engagement session in April.
- Send notification letters in early April.

7. Stop Signs with Cameras and AI (Takoma Park Pilot)

Committee discussed Takoma Park’s legislatively authorized pilot using AI-enabled stop sign cameras.

Key themes:

- Would require state legislative authority for enforcement.
- Possibility of using cameras for data collection only.
- Concern about cost (vendors unlikely to provide free service).
- Debate about enforcement vs. behavior change.
- Some members see strong deterrent value.
- Others concerned about over-enforcement and resident backlash.
- Recognition that stop sign compliance is a recurring safety topic.

Key Takeaways:

- No formal recommendation at this time.
- Interest in exploring legal feasibility of data collection pilot.
- Mixed views on enforcement approach.
- Dave to consult Town Attorney regarding legal authority for:
 - Data-only pilot
 - Enforcement pilot

- Staff to assess potential vendor costs if legally permissible.

8. Next Meeting

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 17

7:00 p.m.

Town Hall (in person)

Summary of Major Forward Actions

1. Draft and publish March Forecast “Spring Safety Tips.”
2. Advance Rosemary engagement (letter + February in-person session).
3. Prepare April engagement for Leland/East stop sign discussion.
4. Continue Bradley Lane implementation and speed camera process.
5. Explore legal feasibility of stop sign camera pilot (data and/or enforcement).