



**Baltimore Regional Transportation Board**

*The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region*

## **BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP**

**November 5, 2008**

**BMC Conference Rooms A&B**

**1:00 P.M.**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Amber Blake, Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500
Barry Childress, Baltimore Bicycle Club	410-919-7695
Scot Graff, Carroll Department of Planning	410-386-2247
Monica Haines, Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500
Michael Jackson, Maryland Department of Transportation	410-865-1237
Dan Reagle, MTA	410-767-3771
Ralph Wheeler, Baltimore County Department of Public Works	410-887-3739
Stephanie Yanovitz, SHA-RIPD	410-545-5656

Ms. Amber Blake called the meeting to order at 1:13 P.M.

### **1. INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Blake welcomed everyone. Introductions took place.

### **2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2008 MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes was postponed because there were too few members for a quorum. Mr. Barry Childress e-mailed changes to the July meeting minutes, which were made.

- ◆ safety concerns regarding **discontinuing the** bike lane stripping on Roland Ave **before major** intersections

No changes were requested for the September meeting minutes.

### **3. UPDATE/DISCUSSION OF CURRENT BRTB/BMC ACTIVITIES**

Ms. Monica Haines reported:

At the [October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of BRTB](#) (Agenda) the following action items were discussed:

- ◆ Resolution regarding: Purpose and Need for interchange project at I-795 and Dolfield Blvd. was approved.
- ◆ Resolution regarding: Amendments to the bylaws of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Group was approved.
- ◆ Resolution regarding: Amendment to the 2008-2012 Baltimore Region Transportation Improvement Program was approved.

The BMC Board created a [Regional Sustainability Board](#). Information is now posted on the web site.

Ms. Blake noted that the next BRTB meeting will be November 25, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

#### **4. FY 2010 UPWP**

Ms. Blake asked members for suggestions for work tasks for FY 2010.

Mr. Michael Jackson suggested:

- ◆ Bike Counts
- ◆ An Employee/Employer Bicycle Commuter Guide (similar to WASHCOG's Guide)
- ◆ Signage for inter-jurisdictional bike routes
- ◆ Training for school teachers on biking to school, MD Highway Safety Office has a grant program to train teachers, but is receiving resistance from school administrators. BPAG could create a guide for administrators on ways to address issues

Mr. Childress suggested:

- ◆ Obtain a list of PE Teachers; they may be more receptive to the grant program by MD Highway Safety Office (Consultant Activity)

Mr. Ralph Wheeler suggested:

- ◆ Contacting PTA's as the best advocates for the MD Highway Safety Office training program

Ms. Stephanie Yanovitz suggested:

- ◆ Working to have the jurisdictions encourage jurisdictions to use the SRTS funding for off-street trails to create connectivity

#### **5. INFORMATION ON STATE BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS & HEARINGS**

Ms. Yanovitz gave a presentation on bicycling in Maryland. The presentation included information on:

- ◆ Current and past Acts and Policies
- ◆ Data & Initiatives: Bicycle Level of Comfort, Signage and Marking, and Standards
- ◆ Safety: Laws, and Confidence and Competence
- ◆ Projects and Public Outreach
- ◆ Transportation Enhancement Program, Recreational Trails
- ◆ Strategic Trail Implementation Program
- ◆ 2009 Attainment Report

Download the PowerPoint Presentation.

Ms. Yanovitz informed the group that the state has an inventory of photographs of all state roads that is available to the group as a resource.

Ms. Yanovitz asked BPAG members to come up with ways SHA can help the group utilize TEP funding; members can e-mail her ideas or they can be discussed at future meetings.

#### **6. UPDATES FROM LOCAL/STATE AGENCIES**

Ms. Blake (BMC) reported that the BRTB had approved the resolution updating the BPAG Bylaws including the addition of one citizen voting member. An advertisement for the open position will be e-mailed to interested parties, posted on the BMC web site, included in the

*BikePed Beacon*, and posted on [www.Idealist.org](http://www.Idealist.org). The closing deadline for applications is December 10, 2008. Regarding the discussion of the Bylaws at the BRTB meeting, MDE and MDP asked to have voting membership on BPAG. Ms. Blake asked the group for comments and suggestions. Mr. Jackson suggested a one-year period to consider voting membership; granting the voting membership will be based on meeting attendance and involvement. He also suggested having MDE and MDP give a presentation to the group regarding their initiatives and plans dealing with bicycle pedestrian issues.

Mr. Jackson also noted that BPAG structure, and participation rates can result in the group's difficulty with action items.

Mr. Dan Regale (MTA) reported that all 700 MTA buses have been outfitted with bike racks that hold 2 bicycles. He distributed bike rack policy cards. He noted that not all of the commuter buses have the racks.

Mr. Childress asked if commuter buses will be outfitted with the racks? Is there a contact at MTA to report aggressive bus drivers? **Action:** Mr. Reagle stated he will get back to the group with an answer to these questions. Mr. Childress asked if drivers have specific training regarding the use of bike racks? If so, can MTA consider the placement of posters and other educational materials that will remind drivers that bicycles are also vehicles, not trespassers.

Ms. Yanovitz stated that there was operator training and suggested posting the materials in the drivers break room. SHA has Safety Campaign materials she would be willing to get to Mr. Reagle. SHA's safety materials have been distributed to MVA's around the state and she believes MTA should have received some posters.

MTA is still receiving requests for bike racks and lockers at transit/transfer stations. MTA is joining forces with SHA. SHA will purchase the racks if MTA will install them at Park-&-Ride lots.

Mr. Wheeler (Baltimore County) reported that the first phase of the Red Run bike trail is open from Dolfield Boulevard to Pleasant Valley Road. The trail will eventually continue to Soldiers Delight.

Mr. Childress (BBC) reported that improvements to I-795 are a cause for concern for cyclists at the crossroads. What is Baltimore County doing at the crossroads of this interchange to mitigate issues for cyclists? Mr. Wheeler responded that because of the timeframe, nothing is being done. Most of the road lane widths are 12 feet. City standards are 10 – 11 feet. The lanes can be made narrower with stripping allowing for a wider shoulder. Cyclists need to contact Baltimore County and bring up the issue with continuing to stripe the project as planned because of old standards. The East side of the project has yet to be designed. Mr. Childress stated that BBC will be contacting Baltimore County.

He also stated that some cities advertise that fire stations have the tools to fix flat tires for bicycles, and are great places to register bicycles. This may be something Baltimore is interested in.

Mr. Jackson (MDOT) reported that when he was in Montreal last month he observed many innovative bike facilities, one of note was a bikeway similar to the one in Baltimore between Pratt Street and Light Street. The bikeway in Montreal was unique because it was named after a bike advocate who had passed away.

The primary purpose of the trip was to look at a bike sharing program, which is of interest to Secretary Porcari. The program in Montreal (Bixi) was inaugurated in September, is unique in that the stations are modular, and solar powered. The cost is \$70 per year for an annual membership; monthly or daily memberships can also be purchased using a credit card at the station. The parking authority runs the fully flexible program. The full program will be implemented in April. There is widespread demand across the city for program expansion. Montreal is currently taking bids to share this innovative approach with other cities.

Mr. Scott Graf (Carroll County) distributed a copy of an article regarding the bike commute act contained within the bailout legislation. He said he would e-mail a copy to Baltimore Spokes.

#### **7. UPDATE ON ACTION PLAN 2001 ASSESSMENT**

Ms. Blake reported that she has continued to work on the second draft of the document. Ms. Blake will distribute chapters as they are completed for editorial comments.

#### **8. OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Blake reminded attendees that the Tort Liability Workshop will take place on December 11. Contact Mr. Jamie Bridges for more information.

#### **9. NEW BUSINESS**

Election of a new Vice-Chair was delayed until next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

The next meeting of the BPAG will be January 7, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.