

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

March 3, 2010

BMC Conference Rooms A&B

1:00 PM

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

Iain Banks, City of Annapolis	410-263-7694 x-6004
Mary Davidson, State Highway Administration (SHA)	410-545-5652
Nate Evans, City of Baltimore (Chair)	410-984-4856
Scott Graf, Carroll County	410-386-2247
Molla Sarros, Maryland Department of the Environment	410-537-4180
Steven Hellen, Citizen/Pedestrian	410-735-4431
Ralph Wheeler, Baltimore County (Vice-Chair)	410-887-3739
Stephanie Yanovitz, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)	410-732-0500 x-1055

Guests/Representatives:

John R. Alexander, Baltimore County Planning	443-854-6950
Greg Hinchliffe, East Coast Greenway	443-629-0142
Richard Layman, Baltimore County	410-887-3521
Grant Bagley, Citizen	410-242-9216

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Nate Evans called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. Mr. Evans welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

The January minutes were approved. The minutes have been posted on the web site.

3. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT BRTB/BMC ACTIVITIES

Ms. Stephanie Yanovitz reported that the Draft FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) would include an Access to Rail Station study which received favorable comment. During the discussion of current activities, Mr. Richard Layman commented that we need to have "complete streets" required of all local governments, expanding this beyond the State Highway Administration (SHA).

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Yanovitz highlighted that a Bike to Work Day kick-off meeting was held in February and that registration for the May 21st Bike to Work Day would be available in mid-March.

Mr. Greg Hinchliffe highlighted current bike bills that were read in Annapolis regarding the use of the word “crash” vs. “accident” and the requirement to make a mandatory court appearance when motorists were involved in crashes with pedestrians and bicyclists that resulted in death, thereby requesting to make it a criminal law.

5. UPDATE ON CITIZEN MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Grant Bagley was introduced as a citizen interested in joining the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Group. At this time no new citizen application process has begun and only a few alternates from early 2009 have been contacted. Two citizen members were approved in 2009 and only one citizen member position is filled.

6. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION SESSION #1

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Group began a roundtable discussion on two topics of interest. The first topic was the benefit of *Bike Sharing* for the region. There were many examples, both local and abroad, of bike sharing programs discussed. Questions arose quickly regarding local and regional implementation. Support for a regional program was apparent but implementation questions were discussed in more detail. A local approach may be more appropriate. Suggestions for placement at trail heads, schools, universities, and the proposed Red Line stations were made and thought to be extremely logical. Follow-up is needed to pursue a proposal to a bike sharing vendor that would operate on solar power and could enter into an agreement to provide installation at no cost.

Since the region recently recovered from one of the largest snowfalls recorded, it was past the time to evaluate how the issue of snow removal from sidewalks and trails could be improved. Main topics of discussion were to address the maintenance of right-of-way being partially completed across the region. Some jurisdictions had clear sidewalks and other had not. While property owners were addressing snow removal on adjacent pathways, the city has many vacant properties. Issues of urban trails versus rural trails were also presented as an opportunity to formalize for inclusion as snow emergency routes. Mr. Richard Layman recommended that the update of Action Plan 2001 include the removal of snow from walkways, bike paths, and similar transportation routes.

7. MARYLAND HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE’S GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. Peter Moe from the Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO) provided a presentation on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) grant program that is administered by MHSO. Peter highlighted how MHSO focuses on Problem ID, countermeasures, selection and multi-disciplinary goals. Peter clarified the difference between the MHSO safety grants and those from the Safe Routes to School program at MHSO. In the presentation the emphasis areas of the Maryland State Highway’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) were highlighted. The following emphasis areas still top the list: Distracted Driving; Motorcycle Safety; Occupant Protection; and Aggressive Driving. Initiatives such as Street Smart, which address bicycle and pedestrian safety, were highlighted as a grant from MHSO that

BMC partners in. An upcoming grant workshop was announced for those who wish to apply. The workshop was to be held at MHSO on March 26th. The deadline for MHSO safety grants for FY 2011 is May 14th.

A Baltimore region Problem ID meeting followed and MHSO invited all to participate if time permitted.

8. OLD BUSINESS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

It was agreed that a working group would meet in between regularly scheduled BPAG meetings to address the Action Plan update. The Action Plan working group meeting was tentatively scheduled for April 7th. The next meeting of the BPAG will be May 12, 2010. The Maryland Chapter of the National Safe Routes to School Partnership will hold it's meeting at BMC beginning at noon.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.