

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

Wednesday, January 20, 2016
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
1:08 to 3:04 P.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. by the Chair, Ms. Molla Sarros.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Sarros welcomed attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves. During introductions, group membership was discussed. Voting members are structured to reflect the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB). The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is currently the voting representative on the BRTB representing eligible transit agencies, though MTA is a non-voting member of BPAG. BPAG could amend the bylaws to reflect voting status for the representative of transit agencies. The topic of substitute representatives for member jurisdictions unable to attend was also discussed. For example, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is a voting member, but could designate a representative from the State Highway Administration (SHA) as their voting representative. SHA is currently a non-voting member of BPAG. Ms. Regina Aris agreed to get back to the group on this topic.

2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER MINUTES

The minutes of the September and November meetings were presented with a motion to approve by Ms. Caitlin Doolin and a second by Mr. Patrick McMahon. The minutes were approved as presented.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2016

Ms. Sarros began the discussion by sharing that both the Chair and Vice-Chair positions were open. Members were asked to share who might be interested. Ms. Doolin said that she was interested in serving as the Vice-Chair and Mr. Nicholas Kalargyros had expressed a willingness to serve as a BPAG officer prior to the meeting. There was unanimous support for nominating Ms. Doolin as Vice-Chair and Mr. Kalargyros as Chair. This vote will be reaffirmed at the March BPAG meeting.

4. BPAG VISIONING DISCUSSION

Members were asked to come to the meeting prepared to share ideas for what they would like BPAG to accomplish in 2016. Several ideas were mentioned during the brainstorming session, with each member then having the opportunity to vote for their two favorite items. These ideas, along with the number of votes received, are summarized below. A lack of votes does not necessarily indicate that BPAG will not work on that item over the coming year. For example, several ideas for presentations did not receive votes but remain priorities for upcoming BPAG meetings. Mr. Zachary Kaufman will compile the project list and distribute it to members. This list should also be incorporated into regular meeting materials so that members are reminded of ongoing and upcoming BPAG projects.

- 1) Regional Trail Planning Summits/Priority regional on-road and off-road projects (5 votes): The Maryland Recreation and Parks Association is taking the lead in planning several regional trail summits throughout Maryland. These will be modeled after a similar trail summit being held in Garrett County in March. BMC has offered to host the summit for the Baltimore region, currently scheduled for April. Each meeting will bring multiple local, state, and advocacy group stakeholders together to clarify and coordinate priorities for the region. The goals of each meeting will be to identify priority on-road and off-road regional projects, the integration of priority projects into priority letters and grant applications, and to designate regional champions for these projects. Mr. Chris Eatough mentioned that one such project could be the Regional Patapsco Greenway, a project involving Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, and Howard Counties as well as Baltimore City.

Local participation in these summits is key since local priorities may differ from regional priorities. BPAG members expressed interest in holding a discussion regarding priority regional on-road and off-road projects at the March BPAG meeting. Members should bring information on regional projects included in their respective bicycle and pedestrian plans to the March meeting. Members also discussed the possibility of seeking public input on regional connections and missing links through a public forum, but this was tabled for the time being.

- 2) BPAG vision document (4 votes): This is envisioned as an effort to compile existing local and regional plans into a short (10 – 15 page) document. The document should include regional priority projects such as those funded through the Transportation Alternatives Program and policy recommendations for the region. Project progress tracking could also be incorporated into this document. Since BPAG includes members from both local and state agencies, the group can serve as a vital resource for identifying local-state coordination issues and helping to resolve project implementation delays.
- 3) Bicycle Facilities by Roadway Characteristics (3 votes): A presentation on this topic would be useful for Carroll County as they proceed with their bicycle and pedestrian master plan. Members from Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, and Howard County could be potential resources for this information. Montgomery County is another potential resource as their

updated bicycle master plan includes a matrix for appropriate bicycle facilities for different roadway types.

- 4) All-season Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Maintenance Document (2 votes): This document would seek to (a) summarize bicycle and pedestrian facility maintenance policies for each jurisdiction along with the enforcement of those policies; and (b) identify regional best practices for facility maintenance. Though the focus for this document could be winter weather clearing, all-season maintenance issues such as sidewalk maintenance and leaf clearing should also be covered. A potential resource for this document would be materials from the 2016 Winter Cycling Congress held in Minneapolis, MN.
- 5) Sharing of Best Practices (2 votes)
- 6) BaltimoreLink Presentations (0 votes): The BaltimoreLink proposal includes funds for Baltimore City Bikeshare and for improving last mile connections to transit. A number of workshops were held through January 11 on the redesign of MTA bus routes. Public input from that process is currently being compiled and will inform a second public workshop process to be held this year. Mr. McMahon offered to give a presentation to the group on both the BaltimoreLink project in general and last mile connections in particular. Local jurisdictions could potentially participate in the public input process by testifying at a workshop.
- 7) Police reports and crash data (0 votes): The state is currently transitioning the crash reporting system to a digital geo-coded system that should improve data collection and the availability of police reports. Baltimore City Police have not yet agreed to adopt this updated system. Currently, getting a copy of a police report can take weeks for a bicyclist or pedestrian involved in a crash, thus limiting insurance claim options. BPAG members expressed an interest in a presentation on the new crash data reporting system. BMC staff could arrange this through the safety subcommittee. There was also discussion surrounding the availability of data on bicyclists and pedestrians impacted by criminal activity. The National Study Center is a potential resource for this information.
- 8) BPAG Membership Structure and Composition (0 votes): This was mentioned in light of BPAG not having a quorum at several recent meetings. In light of this, Ms. Sarros asked members at the meeting why they attend. Interacting, coordinating, and sharing information with representatives from local and state jurisdictions was cited by multiple members. For example, MTA works with multiple local jurisdictions to improve access to transit stations throughout the region.
- 9) Regional Bicycle Map (ongoing): The selected data layers and attributes for the regional bicycle map were presented to the BRTB and Technical Committee at their joint retreat on January 14, 2016. The project will now proceed into the data collection stage through the Baltimore Region GIS Committee (BRGISC). Input from BPAG may be required as data collection commences. It is included in the visioning project list as an ongoing project that

could be expanded upon in the future but was not included in the voting. For example, the group may decide in the future to incorporate bicycle friendly roads.

5. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- Ms. Doolin said that the Roland Avenue cycle track is moving forward with some positive feedback received. The nine mile downtown bicycle network will go to advertisement soon, with six miles of parking protected cycle tracks. The advertisement will incorporate the Jones Falls Trails improvements and Potomac Street cycle track projects to expedite the review process. Baltimore City also recently hired Mr. Jay Decker as the new bikeshare coordinator and expects to award the bikeshare contract in February.
- Mr. McMahon shared that work on the BaltimoreLink project is moving forward including \$500,000 for bikeshare to provide docks at rail stations in the bikeshare service area. MTA is also upgrading bicycle parking at all rail stations throughout the state. Finally, MTA is working to coordinate routes with and will contribute operating funds to the Charm City Circulator.
- Ms. Dawn Thomas stated that the county is working on a 1 mile trail connection in Shadyside. The trail will connect neighborhoods and a school in the area.
- Mr. Kristoffer Nebre said that work is ongoing on the Towson Spokes, Dundalk Loop, and Catonsville Park Short Trail projects. The Dundalk Loop includes a bike lane on Dundalk Avenue and connects to other existing facilities. The Catonsville Park Short Trail is a network of shared road facilities and connects to the existing Edmondson Avenue bike lane. Two projects in Arbutus and Lansdown are currently on hold.
- Mr. Eatough shared that the Howard County Executive announced his support for BikeHoward. The planning board also approved BikeHoward, leaving approval by the county council as the final step for official adoption of the plan by Howard County. The County Executive also included a complete streets statement at the front of BikeHoward and initiated an implementation team to integrate complete streets into the Howard County design guidelines.

Mr. Eatough also said that Bike to Work Day (B2WD) will be on May 20, 2016. The event will include more than 30 pit stops across the region. Thus far, the committee has raised approximately half of the \$20,000 goal for sponsorships. Save the Date cards are available, with registration opening in March at bike2workcentralmd.com.

- Ms. Sarros stated that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Alternative Transportation Group is starting planning for B2WD. They are also working with the gym in their building to get access to low cost showers for bicycle commuters. BikeMaryland will conduct a bicycle commuter workshop at MDE before B2WD.
- Mr. Kaufman said that the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed into law in December and provides five years of funding for Federal highways and transit programs starting in FY 2016. The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) will now be a set-aside of the new Surface Transportation Program Block Grant (STBG). Most elements of the program remain in place, including the formula for distributing funds. He also shared that BMC is interested in

hosting a workshop for the TAP/Safe Routes to School/Recreational Trails programs and asked for local jurisdictions to submit contacts from stakeholders interested in attending.

- Ms. Mary Lane shared that Carroll County started outreach for their bicycle and pedestrian master plan on January 1 with an online survey. So far they have received 578 responses. Many are responding that they don't walk or bike because of safety concerns with traffic. The survey closes in March.
- Mr. Tony Campbell stated that SHA is implementing bicycle priority areas as mandated by the legislature. No funds are attached to priority area designation, but SHA projects that fall within the boundaries of bicycle priority areas will be eligible for bicycle and pedestrian related improvements.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Dawn Thomas – Anne Arundel County
Caitlin Doolin – Baltimore City
Kristoffer Nebre – Baltimore County
Mary Lane – Carroll County
Chris Eatough – Howard County (Vice Chair)
Molla Sarros – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) (Chair)
Patrick McMahon – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)
Tony Campbell – State Highway Administration (SHA)

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Zach Kaufman – BMC
Nokomis Ford – Carroll County
Jon Korin – BikeAAA
Steve Miller – BikeAAA
Noelle Smith – Baltimore County