

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

Wednesday, March 16, 2016
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
1:03 to 2:52 P.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by the Chair, Ms. Molla Sarros.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Sarros welcomed attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

The minutes of the January meeting were presented with a motion to approve by Mr. Nicholas Kalargyros and a second by Ms. Caitlin Doolin. The minutes were approved with one correction.

3. REAFFIRMATION OF OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2016

Ms. Sarros began the discussion by sharing that members elected Mr. Kalargyros representing Harford County as Chair and Ms. Doolin representing Baltimore City as Vice Chair at the January meeting. Since several members were not in attendance at the January meeting, members present were given an opportunity to reaffirm these appointments. Ballots were distributed to all members and the elected officers were reaffirmed unanimously. Mr. Kalargyros assumed the role of chair for the remainder of the meeting.

4. BPAG MEMBERS DISCUSSION

Ms. Regina Aris updated the group regarding membership questions posed at the January meeting due to recent issues with reaching a quorum. BMC has contacted the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) in regards to who they want to have as their BPAG representative, given the lack of an MDOT representative at recent BPAG meetings. Alternatively, MDOT can choose to authorize Mr. Tony Campbell from the State Highway Administration (SHA) as their voting representative. In addition, Mr. Kwaku Duah plans to attend for the City of Annapolis from this point forward. Ms. Aris said that BRTB and Technical Committee members expressed support for BPAG at their joint retreat in January and the UPWP core money for jurisdiction participation in BPAG

meetings is increasing. Members were encouraged to make BMC aware of any ongoing conflicts with the meeting time. During discussion, Mr. Steve Carr asked about coordination between MDOT/SHA and BMC staff in regards to bicycle and pedestrian funding. Ms. Aris responded that for Transportation Alternatives funding allocated to the Baltimore region, BMC staff works with an SHA Technical Committee through Ms. Jessica Shearer to evaluate applications and make a recommendation to the BRTB for funding.

5. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- Mr. Jon Mayer said that the Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning budgeted for a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian coordinator position. They anticipate that this position will be approved. In addition, the county is completing the design phase for an on road connection between the Baltimore & Annapolis and Broadneck trails in Arnold. This connection will include Anne Arundel Community College in an effort to encourage students to commute via bicycle. In addition, County Executive Steve Schuh has expressed support for a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over MD 2 connecting the B&A Trail to the community college and a study is currently underway. Mr. Steve Carr asked about the Patapsco Greenway project and the Patuxent River crossing between Anne Arundel and Prince George's County. Ms. Aris said that the FY 2016-2017 UPWP includes money for a consultant and the jurisdictions involved for a feasibility study for the Patapsco Greenway. The BRTB will vote on the updated UPWP on April 26. In regards to the Patuxent River crossing, Mr. Mayer said that the County is waiting on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Prince George's County.
- Mr. E. Scott Hansen shared that the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) is currently undergoing a significant restructuring, though he anticipates continued attendance at BPAG meetings. He has continued his work surrounding Transit Oriented Development and is currently updating the mapping application with updated demographic, socioeconomic and housing data. That work should be completed this summer. MDP is also working with MTA to develop metrics and data sources associated with the analysis and evaluation of the Maryland Transit Administration's BaltimoreLINK project.
- Mr. Patrick McMahon stated that his work on the BaltimoreLINK project includes identifying dedicated bus lanes as well as exploring opportunities to incorporate bicycle facilities with those lanes in coordination with Baltimore City DOT. He also continues to work on upgrading bicycle parking at MTA stations across the region. MARC Penn Line trains included bike cars today due to the planned closure of the WMATA Metro system.
- Ms. Mary Lane said that the MOU for the Washington Road Safe Routes to School project has been executed and they are moving forward with design for the project. In addition, Ms. Nokomis Ford recently presented results from the Carroll County bicycle and pedestrian survey to the Planning Commission.
- Mr. Kwaku Duah stated that the Annapolis Department of Transportation is encouraging the City of Annapolis to set aside money in the budget to implement low cost elements included in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

- Ms. Sarros said that Bike Maryland presented to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) employees on commuting and making other short trips by bicycle. In another effort to encourage MDE employees to commute by bicycle, the gym located in MDE's building will now offer use of their shower facilities for \$5 per month. MDE hopes to join with the University of Maryland Medical Center Bike to Work Day rally on May 20.
- Ms. Doolin shared that Baltimore City officially awarded the bikeshare contract to Bewegen in a press conference held today. Phase I will include approximately 500 bikes at 50 stations, 200 of which will be electric assist bicycles. This will give Baltimore the largest electric assist bicycle fleet in the United States. MTA is contributing \$500,000 for stations at rail stations within the Phase I area. The initial launch is expected fall 2016. There is the possibility of expansion of the system to Baltimore County by 2020. In addition, bids are due for the Downtown Bike Network on March 23, with construction beginning on June 1. The network includes 6 miles of cycletrack and 10 miles of other bike facilities. Bikemore and Rails-to-Trails received an American Planning Association Plan4Health grant for coalition building for a 35-mile trail network encircling Baltimore City within city limits. Mr. Carr highlighted the importance of public outreach and involving affected communities from the start in projects like these.
- Mr. Kalargyros said Safe Routes to School projects are moving forward at Emmorton Elementary and Southampton Middle School. The county is hosting a bike rodeo at Emmorton Elementary on April 2. There will be four Bike to Work Day events in Harford County – two at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, one in Bel Air, and one in Havre de Grace. The new Harford County Master Plan, HarfordNEXT, is in final draft form. It includes many recommendations surrounding bicycle and pedestrian issues including reducing vehicle miles traveled and increasing connections and linkages between subdivisions. Finally, state officials announced that beginning July 1, cyclists will be allowed to ride across the Susquehanna River on the US 40 Hatem Bridge. The state is working on measures to make the crossing as safe as possible for bicyclists.
- Mr. Zach Kaufman stated that BMC staff held project kickoff meetings with bike/ped and GIS staff in each jurisdiction for the regional bicycle map project. The list of attributes approved by BPAG remains mostly unchanged, but was modified slightly in response to feedback from several of the jurisdictions. The reception to the project has been positive and the goal is to have data collected and submitted to BMC by this fall. BMC staff will take the lead in creating a web application which will be available as a planning tool to all Baltimore region jurisdictions.
- Ms. Noelle Smith shared that the Towson Spokes project has been approved. They can begin restriping and installing signage once repaving work is complete, with anticipated completion in late 2016 or early 2017. The Dundalk Loop will also move forward once resurfacing work is completed and will include storm drain replacements. A project on Edmondson Avenue in Catonsville will extend bicycle lanes to meet existing state highway bike lanes.
- Mr. Carr summarized the upcoming Baltimore Region Trails Workshop to be held at BMC on April 20. The workshop will be hosted by the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association. Invitations were sent out this week and include local and state stakeholders including planners, department of public works staff, recreation and parks staff, and elected officials. Workshops will be held throughout the state and are an effort to coordinate applications for funding around regional priorities to be designated at the workshops. The goal of each workshop is to identify the top five

on-road and top five off-road priority projects and to designate project champions. Staff should come to the meeting prepared to discuss what projects they feel are most beneficial to the region.

- Ms. Lindsay Donnellon stated that Secretary Anthony Foxx of the U.S. Department of Transportation has emphasized bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. She is interested in exemplary bicycle and pedestrian network projects in Maryland that can be included in a document compiling examples of these kinds of projects from across the nation. This document is intended to be a resource for state, MPO, and local government project sponsors.
- Ms. Aris said that there will be a public meeting for the 2016 Federal Certification Review of the BRTB on Monday, April 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the BMC offices.

6. REGIONAL ON-ROAD AND OFF-ROAD TRAIL PRIORITIES

Mr. Kaufman began the discussion by noting that this is intended as a preparatory discussion for the April 20 Baltimore region trails workshop. It was also something that BPAG members expressed interest in discussing at the January BPAG visioning session. Members began by brainstorming characteristics that they would like regional bicycle facilities to fulfill. After several minutes of discussion, the following priority characteristics were suggested:

Priority Characteristics for Regional Facilities – Brainstorming

- Complete/contribute to the East Coast Greenway
- Multi-jurisdictional
- Bolster last-mile connections
- Utilize consistent signage
- Focus on key gaps
- Access to key regional destinations
- 8 – 80: Accessible and comfortable for all users
- Located in Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas and Short Trip Opportunity Areas
- Connect activity and population centers

Members representing the local jurisdictions then broke into small groups and suggested priority facilities on large printed maps of the region. The results from each breakout group were quickly summarized. Due to time constraints, the session was cut short and it was agreed that it would continue at the May meeting. A summary of the facilities noted on the maps is as follows:

Facilities Discussed

Baltimore City

- Completion of missing segments of “Emerald Necklace” bikeway encircling city including:
 - Druid Hill Park to Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park.
 - Lake Montebello to Johns Hopkins Homewood campus.

- Off-road trail along BGE and CSX ROW in the Canton/Highlandtown area, extending from Boston Street north to the Herring Run Trail.
- Hanover Street Bridge multimodal corridor: This project received a TIGER grant for project planning.

Anne Arundel County

- South Shore Trail: Phased sections are in design. The trail will primarily utilize the abandoned WB&A railroad bed between Annapolis and Odenton.
- MD 175 hiker/biker trail near Fort Meade and Odenton, with a connection to the BWI Trail: Some sections along MD 175 are built while others are in design and under construction.

Baltimore County

- Catonsville Trails.
- Dundalk Loop.
- Towson loop and spokes.

Carroll County

- Rails to trails near Taneytown.
- Governor Frank Brown Trail near Sykesville.
- Westminster Community Pond/Bennett Cerf Trail.

Harford County

- Ma & Pa Trail in Bel Air.
- Colonial Greenway: provide multi-use trails to connect with Winters Run Greenway, Copenhaver Park, and Mariner Point Park.

Howard County

- Patuxent Branch trail extension: in design.

Multi-jurisdictional

- Patapsco Greenway:
 - Concept: Extends the existing Grist Mill Trail north into Ellicott City, Sykesville and Catonsville and to the BWI Trail to the south. The project would also include a connection to the Middle Branch/Gwynns Falls Trail in Baltimore City.
 - Coordinated planning effort by multiple jurisdictions, Maryland DNR, SHA, and the Patapsco Heritage Greenway Inc.
 - FY 2016-2017 BRTB UPWP includes FY 2017 funds for an initial study to explore alignment options, including funds for a consultant to be managed through BMC.
- Patuxent River Crossing:
 - Received \$560,000 for design 3.5 years ago.
 - Anne Arundel County, Prince Georges County, and SHA to sign MOU.
- Explore connectivity in the area of MD 198 between Fort Meade and Laurel.

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Kwaku Duah – City of Annapolis
Jon Mayer – Anne Arundel County
Caitlin Doolin – Baltimore City (Vice Chair)
Noelle Smith – Baltimore County
Mary Lane – Carroll County
Nicholas Kalargyros – Harford County (Chair)
Chris Eatough – Howard County
Molla Sarros – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Steve Carr – Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
E. Scott Hansen – Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
Patrick McMahon – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Blake Fisher – BMC
Zach Kaufman – BMC
Nokomis Ford – Carroll County
Jon Korin – BikeAAA
Lindsay Donnellon – Federal Highway Administration