

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

Wednesday, May 16, 2018
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
1:10 to 3:05 P.M.

MINUTES

Ms. Nokomis Ford, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. APPROVAL OF APRIL 2018 MINUTES

The minutes of the April meeting were presented. Mr. Chris Eatough made a motion to approve and Mr. Peter Southerland seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

3. REVISION TO BPAG BYLAWS

Ms. Regina Aris requested that the group consider an update to the Bylaws that would recognize Queen Anne's County as a voting member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Group. Mr. Eatough made the motion to approve, which Ms. Marty Baker seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. PRESENTATION ON TASK FORCE TO STUDY BICYCLE SAFETY

Ms. Baker, Manager of Intermodal Policy and Programs at MDOT, updated the group on the activities of the Task Force to Study Bicycle Safety on Maryland Highways. The Task Force, which was created by the Maryland Legislature in 2017, was charged with considering a series of safety, operations, and design issues and reporting back to the legislature by the end of the calendar year. Its members were from both the public and private sectors and included advocates as well as law enforcement. The group looked at 11 issue areas over five meetings and came up with 39 recommendations, which were published online. Among the highlights, a consideration of contributory negligence versus comparative negligence—an important factor when determining fault in crashes, accurate collection of crash data, and a better analysis of Short Trip Opportunity Areas.

Ms. Baker explained that the recommendations provide a road map for improving practices throughout the state and illustrate a need for regional focus. The final plan is due in December of 2018.

Ms. Aris commented that specific recommendations for the Baltimore region could be discussed at future BPAG meetings.

[PowerPoint: Maryland Bicycle Safety Task Force (2017) and MDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Funding Programs]

5. PRESENTATION ON THE MARYLAND BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

Mr. Thomas Sullivan, Transportation Planner/Bicycle and Pedestrian Specialist at MDOT, briefed the group on the State's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which is required to be updated every five years. Initial outreach for the plan began in March 2017. A draft is scheduled to be released for public comment sometime in September and a final plan will be completed by the end of the year. The overarching themes are Plan, Invest, and Evaluate. The results of this study will be incorporated into the Maryland Transportation Plan, which is also under development. Major considerations include Mode Choice, Multi-Modal Connectivity, Safety, Innovation, Partnerships, and Active Transportation & Community Health. User level-of-comfort is also an important area of interest.

Since different regions of the state have different needs, special attention is being given to regional concerns and accomplishments, as well as improving and enhancing Short Trip Opportunity Areas (STOA). STOAs encourage trips other than commuting, such as social visits, shopping, and running errands, trips that are often overlooked by transportation planners. STOAs offer a potential for creating practical bike/pedestrian infrastructure, and the Master Plan is meant to provide a framework for local planning efforts.

[PowerPoint: Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan]

6. BALTIMORE GREEN NETWORK

Mr. Jeff LaNoue, Planner in the Baltimore City Department of Planning, presented details on [Baltimore City's Green Network](#). The network is envisioned as a way to connect all seven of the City's largest parks, making them friendlier and more accessible to cyclists and pedestrians.

In addition, Rails-to-Trails has plans for a 35-mile loop around Baltimore, one of Rail-to-Trails top six national projects. At this point, 23 of the 35 miles actually exist with 5 major gaps in the loop. This loop, if completed, could become both economically and regionally important. Connections could be made to other trails in the region, such as the Baltimore and Annapolis and the Torrey C. Brown Trails. The Planning Department is taking the recommendations to the City Planning Commission later this summer.

Mr. LaNoue also mentioned that the City is considering a plan to connect the West Baltimore MARC station with Downtown and on to Johns Hopkins Hospital.

[PowerPoint: Baltimore Green Network]

7. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- **Harford County** – Mr. Rawls described the County’s efforts to complete the final three segments of the MA & PA Trail based on consultation with SHA. He also mentioned a Safe Routes to School project adding sidewalks to South Hampton Middle School as well as a partnership with the Town of Bel Air planning future bicycle/pedestrian facilities.
- **State Highway Administration** – Mr. Southerland stated that SHA has updated implementation their Pedestrian Roadway Safety Audit process and could speak about it at the next BPAG meeting. Starting Phase II of bike spine network and map, beginning to put together a scope with the Office of Tourism.
- **Maryland Department of Planning** : Mr. Scott Hansen stated that the first round of outreach for *A Better Maryland* has concluded. Mr. Hansen has been adding to the state’s TOD map with information on access and egress from WMATA and MTA stations.
- **Carroll County**: Ms. Ford said that design for the Washington Road SRTS project are being finalized now that the county has responded to comments from SHA. Bids are coming in for the SRTS project at Johnnycake. The county has been exploring Best Practices for Complete Streets and continue to work on chapters for their Bike and Pedestrian Plan.
- **Howard County**: Mr. Eatough reported that the County is very close to receiving the US 1 safety report from the consultant. The county is expecting to approve an update to their 2007 Pedestrian Master Plan this summer. The county will be collecting bike and pedestrian counts in June, particularly in the Columbia area. Try to have the same locations to provide year-over-year trends.
- **Baltimore County**: Mr. Kris Nebre mentioned that because of the retirement of the county’s bike planner, he expected the county to receive no new grants in the short-term. While there are no major projects at this time the county continues to pursue ADA and audible signal activities.
- **Baltimore Metropolitan Council**: Ms. Aris asked the members to start thinking about what could be included in the upcoming UPWP for staff as well as regional activities supported by consultants.
- **Baltimore City**: The City is in a transition period with new staff so a report will be provided at the next meeting.
- **Bike to Work Day Update**: Mr. Russ Ulrich told the group that because of inclement weather and very hazardous conditions on area roadways, this year’s Bike to Work Day effort, initially planned for Friday, May 18, has been postponed until Friday, June 1. Current registration for riders stands at just over 1500 and \$23,500 in sponsorships has been raised. This year’s ridership goal is 2600, and Mr. Ulrich feels that the postponement affords an excellent opportunity to reach the goal of 2600 registered riders. Mr. Ulrich also told the group that BMC has been recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Business at the Silver Level by the League of American Bicyclists. Mr. Sotherland suggested contacting Mr. Jeff Dunckel at MHSO who supports a Bike/Pedestrian Emphasis Area Team.

Adjournment - After a motion was carried, Ms. Ford adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Marty Baker – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Chris Eatough – Howard County

Nokomis Ford – Carroll County (Chair)

E. Scott Hansen – Maryland Department of Planning

Jessica Herpel (for Molla Sarros) – Maryland Department of the Environment

Kris Nebre - Baltimore County

Jessica Pimentel – Baltimore City Department of Transportation

Alex Rawls – Harford County

Peter Southerland – State Highway Administration (SHA)

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

Jeff LaNue – Baltimore City Department of Planning

Clare Stewart – Carroll County Planning

Dan Janousek – MDOT

Tom Sullivan – MDOT

Russ Ulrich – BMC