

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

July 17, 2019
Maryland Department of Transportation
1:08 to 2:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Ms. Clare Stewart, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order. Ms. Stewart thanked MDOT for use of space during renovation at BMC.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

The minutes of the May meeting were presented. Ms. Molla Sarros requested two minor corrections to the draft minutes. Mr. Russ Ulrich told the group that he had spoken with Ms. Sarros earlier in the week and the minutes had been so changed. Mr. Chris Eatough made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Mr. Jon Leishman seconded the motion. The amended minutes were approved unanimously.

3. STRATEGIC PLANNING STATUS REPORT

Mr. Ulrich told the members that the draft plans submitted at the last meeting all looked good but that they needed to be refined. He asked that Groups 2 (Complete Streets) and 3 (Walking and Biking Baseline) continue to work together over the next two months and complete their respective plans in time for the September meeting. He told Group 1 (Cost Estimate Tool) that its plan will be submitted to the BRTB for funding consideration this fall and asked that the group develop bullet points supporting that submission.

The groups were advised to answer the following questions:

- What is the project?
- Why is it needed?
- Who needs it?
- How will it help?
- How will it be done?

- How much will it cost?(Group 1)
- When can it be completed?

Ms. Sarros said that the timelines for action steps in her group's (Group 3) plan had already slipped. Mr. Ulrich stated that all of the plans needed to be revised for CY 2020.

There were no further questions.

4. CARROLL COUNTY'S FIRST BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

Ms. Stewart presented information on Carroll County's first-ever Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which has been under development since 2015, and was recently accepted by the County's Planning Commission.

The goals of the plan are as follows:

- Identify existing infrastructure and key connections and destinations.
- Support healthy, safe, and livable communities.
- Bring economic benefits to our community.
- Emphasize the importance of walking and biking in all planning and development processes.

Staff conducted two surveys, in January and November 2016, receiving over 900 responses. The surveys led to two outreach efforts in March and December 2017. This in turn led to the development of individual chapters of the plan, which were circulated within county government for agency review and ultimately Planning Commission acceptance.

As a result of its review of infrastructure, Carroll County found that it has 71.6 miles of existing facilities, 6.6 miles under construction, and 55.5 miles that have been planned and adopted.

Recommendations in the plan include the following:

- Consider additional connections which are not adopted in master/comp plans.
- Support economic development through tourism.
- Promote a positive quality of life through improved bike and pedestrian infrastructure as well as safety education.
- Improve and enhance transportation options.

Planning staff intend to present the Plan to the County Commissioners this fall.

Members offered Ms. Stewart their congratulations and there were no further questions or comments.

5. BIKE TO WORK DAY 2019 RECAP

Mr. Ulrich summarized the latest Bike to Work Day effort. Highlights included the following:

- 1,930 riders registered

- 46 pit stops throughout the region welcomed cyclists
- \$36,000 in sponsorships was raised

He also mentioned that for 2020 (and beyond) the workgroup will consider a number of new ideas, including:

- Partnering with an advocacy group or a coalition of advocacy groups to share the workload
- Working directly with more employers
- Reducing the number of pit stops in Downtown Baltimore
- Expanding the appeal of the event by encouraging potential participants to *Bike to Work and Everywhere Else*

He told that group that the kickoff meeting for Bike to Work Day 2020 was set for Monday, July 22.

6. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

Anne Arundel County – Ms. Dawn Thomas reported the following:

- Broadneck Peninsula Trail, Phase II - construction continues with completion by end of calendar year.
- Broadneck Peninsula Trail, Phase III - design around 95% with TA grant applied for construction funding
- Broadneck Peninsula Trail, Phase Ia and V - design continues with Bikeways grant applied for construction funding for Ia
- South Shore Trail, Phase II - design will proceed with new consultant
- Feasibility studies for South Shore Trail, Phases III and IV as well as Crossing Route 3. Studies will be routed for comments when funding has been approved for next steps. BUILD grant may be considered for Crossing Route 3 bridge.

Baltimore County – Mr. Kris Nebre introduced the County's new transportation planning manager Mr. Sam Snead. Mr. Snead reiterated the new county executive's commitment to providing bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Baltimore Metropolitan Council – Mr. Ulrich reported that *Look Alive* launched in early June and that its office renovation appears to be on schedule.

Harford County – Mr. Leishman stated the County is developing a new Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and is currently working on three segments of the MA & PA Trail:

- Segment 1, from Williams Street to the southeast side of Main Street, is under construction and should be completed in the next four weeks.
- Segment 2, from Main Street to North Avenue, is currently under review by the State Highway Administration. The County expects to award a contract in September, with construction beginning in October. Construction is expected to take between 8-10 months. TAP funding is being used.

- Segment 3, from North Avenue to the trailhead at Blake's Venture, is currently under review by MDOT SHA and the County is working with the Maryland Department of the Environment on permits. The public comment period has closed and all comments have been addressed. The County expects to award a contract near the end of 2019 and expects to begin construction in early 2020. Construction is expected to be finished in one year. TAP funding is being used.

Howard County – Mr. Eatough that its Complete Streets Policy is finalized, endorsed by the Howard County Multimodal Transportation Board, and will be submitted to Council for adoption in August.

The policy addresses safe accommodations for all street users and also establishes county policy for transportation project prioritization, equity and transparency.

Maryland Department of the Environment – Ms. Sarros mentioned the following:

- The MDE's Alternative Transportation Group (ATG) celebrated its first Clean Transportation Week (CTW) May 14-17, encouraging staff to walk, bicycle, ride transit, carpool, and telework. The week went well overall, especially the reception on May 17.
- Fewer cyclists participated in the reception than during Bike to Work Day in past years, but cyclists were still well represented at the bike rack onsite. The ATG will consider how to encourage more cyclists again in 2020.

Maryland Department of Planning – Mr. Scott Hansen informed the group that the Department's Station Area Profile Tool was announced on July 1. This tool, which is available online at tod.planning.maryland.gov, provides data on demographics, median housing sales, employment, transit use, land use land cover, generalized zoning, station area development projects, as well as TOD policies, programs, plans and implementation efforts within one-half mile of a rail transit station.

MDP also completed work on Maryland's State Development Plan, called *A Better Maryland*, which has been under development for over two years. The website for this initiative launched on July 1 and may be found by visiting abetter.maryland.gov.

Maryland Department of Transportation – Mr. Peter Sotherland reminded members that the grant season is in high gear.

7. IMPROMPTOU WORK SESSION

Because all agenda items were completed in just over an hour, Ms. Sarros asked if the priority area work groups could assemble for 20-30 minutes and discuss their respective work plans. Ms. Stewart agreed that it was a good idea and asked for a group consensus. All members agreed and reformed into their respective workgroups. Group discussions lasted for approximately 25 minutes.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Stewart adjourned the meeting at 2:30 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Eric Borchers – City of Annapolis
Christopher Eatough – Howard County
Scott Hansen – Maryland Department of Planning
Jon Leishman – Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning
Kris Nebre – Baltimore County Department of Public Works
Clare Stewart – Carroll County Department of Planning
Molla Sarros – Maryland Department of the Environment
Peter Sotherland – MDOT State Highway Administration
Dawn Thomas – Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation & Parks

Staff and Guests

Cynthia Burch – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Dan Janousek – Maryland Department of Transportation
Sam Snead – Baltimore County Department of Public Works
Sara Lipkin Sularz – Maryland Department of Planning
Russ Ulrich – BMC