

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

November 20, 2019

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

1:03 to 2:47 P.M.

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Tanya Asman welcomed attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Ms. Molla Sarros pointed out a typo at the top of page two. No other member offered edits or correction, so after a motion by Mr. Jon Leishman, which was seconded by Mr. Dan Janousek, the minutes were approved.

3. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Ms. Asman called for discussion on the three priority work plans developed during the past year. These priority-areas are:

- Developing a cost-estimate tool for use on bike projects regionwide.
- Promoting and developing Complete Streets planning in each jurisdiction.
- Creating a baseline of bicycle and pedestrian counts throughout the region.

Representatives from the priority area groups all reported that their plans were as tuned as they could be and they were looking forward to implementing them in January.

4. DISCUSSION: STATUS OF PROJECT IDEAS FOR THE FY 2021 UPWP

Ms. Regina Aris thanked members for their participation over the past year in developing ideas to share with the Technical Committee to support bicycle and pedestrian planning. The recommendation to develop a cost-estimate tool for use on bike projects was well received and one of the only topics to be submitted by a subcommittee. During discussions with the BRTB, MDOT agreed to take on this project for statewide application. Once the state determines who will lead they will share a timeline with BPAG.

5. AIR QUALITY 101-A REVIEW OF AIR QUALITY FACTS & FIGURES IN OUR REGION

Ms. Sarros, MD Department of the Environment, briefed members on air quality trends in the region. First, she gave an overview of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria pollutants, which are determined by U.S. EPA. She then mentioned that the Baltimore region is still nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS. Ground-level ozone is commonly referred to as "smog." Also, parts of the Baltimore area (specifically, parts of Baltimore County and Anne Arundel County) are nonattainment for the sulfur dioxide (SO₂) NAAQS. The Baltimore region is "attainment" for the fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) NAAQS.

She cited the findings of MDE's monitoring stations showing that although the region's air quality has improved dramatically over the last 20 years, there is still much work that needs to be done. Among the major challenges for greater-Baltimore are geography and meteorology. It's location between mountains to the west and the Chesapeake Bay to the east, being downstream from a number of major pollution sources, coupled with usually hot, sunny summer weather make conditions perfect for the formation of ozone.

[PowerPoint: Air Quality 101 - A Review of Air Quality Facts & Figures in the Baltimore Region]

6. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

- **Annapolis** - is updating its Comprehensive Plan and is also working on design of the Poplar Trail into Downtown.
- **Anne Arundel** - Move Anne Arundel was adopted, the County is writing a bikeways grant, the Broadneck Trail Phase II innovative paving has begun, the SRTS project is caught up in a review by the Board of Education's legal department, the BWI to Odenton study is underway (funded with a Bikeways grant), and there is an upcoming public meeting for the Patuxent Bridge project.
- **Carroll County** – The Planning Commission approved the County's first Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Staff intends to bundle it with the Comprehensive Transportation Plan before presenting it to the County Commissioners for final approval. The Washington Road SRTS project is at MDOT SHA for approval to move ahead, and the Johnsville Road SRTS project is in SWM design.
- **Harford County** – Have sent design documents for Segments 2 & 3 of the MA and PA Trail to MDOT SHA for review and comment. The County is filing necessary permits for construction of Segment 2 and hopes to advertise in either December or January, pending MDOT SHA approval. Staff are working on the new Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and hope to have it complete by Bike to Work Day 2020.
- **Howard County** – The Complete Streets initiative was passed by the County Council in October. They are now working on a Design Manual that will likely take 2 years to complete. The Pedestrian Master Plan is expected to get approval in December 2019 or January 2020. The County will be hosting a Transportation Forum on December 2 in the evening.
- **MDE** – Staff are continuing to promote alternatives to driving alone to colleagues.
- **MDOT** - No updates at this time.
- **MDOT SHA** - Reported that Adventure Cycling has been in contact with staff, which has been hired by AASHTO, to help designate a system of U.S. National Bicycle Routes. These

routes, which basically would only appear on maps—signing is optional, would be used by long-distance cyclists. Since USBR1 is currently envisioned as going through the region, MDOT SHA is encouraging local jurisdictions to support the effort.

- **BMC** – Staff and local partners continue planning for Bike to Work Day 2020. There will only be two sponsorship levels for next year--\$1,000 (Enthusiast) and \$500 (Believer), so garnering support should be easier. The agency has also advertised for a micro-mobility planner who will take on the bike and pedestrian role, including providing staff support to BPAG.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Asman adjourned the meeting at 2:47 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Tanya Asman – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
Eric Borchers – City of Annapolis Department of Planning & Zoning
Albert Engel – Howard County Office of Transportation
Dan Janousek—Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Jon Leishman – Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning
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

Nate Evans – MDOT
Regina Aris—Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Russ Ulrich—BMC
Morgan State University student