

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

May 20, 2020

Online meeting

1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Tanya Asman (Anne Arundel County) welcomed attendees and Ms. Sheila Mahoney (BMC) held a roll call. The meeting took place remotely in accordance with Maryland telework and social distancing protocols.

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

The meeting minutes from March 18 were previously distributed to the group, and input from Mr. Nate Evans (MDOT) and Mr. Scott Hansen (MDP) were incorporated. No other comments were received. Ms. Asman asked for a motion to approve, Ms. Molla Sarros (MDE) motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Chris Eatough (Howard County) seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

3. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MEMBER APPLICATION

Ms. Mahoney provided a summary of previous discussions and decisions regarding the status of public members. It was determined that the current bylaws calling for two public members would remain, and that the members could represent pedestrian, bicycle, accessibility or transit rider interests, or any combination thereof. The application for public voting members was updated accordingly and distributed for comments, which were incorporated.

It had not been determined how to solicit for new members. According to the bylaws, the BPAG is to review applications, then make recommendations to BRTB. Ms. Regina Aris (BMC) shared that BMC has prepared a press release in the past and will post openings on social media as well as include in the BMC newsletter.

Ms. Asman also suggested members could ask for recommendations at commissions and board meetings in their jurisdictions. Ms. Dawn Thomas (Anne Arundel County) suggested Recreation and Parks could reach out to their lists as well. A link posted to the BMC website can be shared with advocacy groups.

Ms. Jaime McKay (MDOT MTA) stated the solicitation should also be shared with the MD Department of Aging, which manages senior centers. MD Department of Disabilities has also hired a new transportation planner, and the solicitation can be shared with the new planner as well.

Meeting during the day has been an issue for members of the public in the past; though the application is clear that regular attendance is expected. The application will be further clarified that virtual attendance is acceptable. BRTB is currently discussing a policy change to allow for virtual meeting attendance, with considerations given to an over-reliance on virtual attendance in the future when coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

Ms. Sarros would also like the application to be shared with the Maryland Federation for the Blind.

Ms. Aris said that Queen Anne's County should be included in this process so potential candidates who reside there know they are also eligible.

4. PRESENTATION: COMPLETE STREETS IN BALTIMORE COUNTY

Ms. Jessie Bialeck, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for Baltimore County DPW, presented a policy overview of Complete Streets in Baltimore County. As one of the duties of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Baltimore County introduced a Complete Streets policy to provide safe and convenient access for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders and motorists in 2013. The Baltimore County Council approved resolution (Res. 126-13) to adopt the "Recommendations for a Comprehensive Complete Streets Policy."

The policy encompasses: County constructed roads and site design for public facilities; County supportive education programs – Education, Encouragement and Enforcement; and privately constructed roads and site design. It also includes exceptions and waivers from the policy. Examples of exceptions may include not requiring a bicycle facility in the development review process if the facility is not identified in the Master Plan, or a bicycle facility exemption if a roadway is less than 30' in width. In such a scenario a sidewalk could still be implemented. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities may be used to fulfill open space requirements.

In addition to the policy, Baltimore County Complete Streets includes Design Guidelines for site design; off-road site planning; site design for transit; road design; pedestrian facilities; and bicycle parking.

[PowerPoint: Complete Streets Policy Overview]

5. PRESENTATION: COMPLETE STREETS IN BALTIMORE CITY

Mr. Graham Young, Complete Streets Manager for Baltimore City DOT, provided an overview of the Draft Complete Streets policy and guidance on implementing the policy. A 2012 resolution that recommended Complete Streets did not have enough teeth to change policy,

however with an Ordinance passed in 2016 Complete Streets became law in Baltimore City (Article 26 in the City Charter).

Baltimore City hired an experienced consultant team and invited an advisory committee and working groups to provide input into the preparation of the Complete Streets Manual, which is currently in Draft form. In accordance with the law, the groups established a modal hierarchy prioritizing pedestrian activities above all other modes, as well as the following guiding principles:

1. Safety First
2. Be Accessible by Everyone
3. Improve Mobility
4. Ensure Equity
5. Reflect Unique Communities

The manual was prepared to guide a simple project prioritization process; a project delivery process that leverages existing and planned work to implement Complete Streets; and to provide design guidance for street types, bicycle facilities, space allocation within the right-of-way, signal timing, and a number of other related items. The guidance also includes a robust public outreach plan with a focus on equity.

[PowerPoint: BALTIMORE Complete Streets]

6. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

Anne Arundel County

- Working on Complete Streets and looking at guidance from other jurisdictions. A recent change requiring road frontage improvements as part of development review process will impede new sidewalk development, however DOT is looking to address that through Complete Streets.
- Broadneck Trail Phase 2 is officially open via conditional acceptance contingent upon completion of roadway improvements. Phases 3, 1B and 5 are currently in design.
- Applying for TAP grant for South Shore Phase 2 this cycle.
- WB&A bridge is getting traction with permitting, although there have been challenges working with another jurisdiction.
- Applying for Bikeways grant to extend existing spur off BWI Loop to Nursery Road light rail station to complete design to 100%.
- Preparing to update the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.
- Annapolis is applying for a Bikeways grant for design of several low stress bike network connectors. SHA is studying the area from the bike lanes on Rt 450/USNA Bridge to King George St and the existing trail at the USNA Stadium. Some of the property is owned by the Naval Academy.
- Poplar Trail extension to South Shore Trail study is currently underway.

- A Hawk signal recently installed at the new library on West Street will go live within the next couple of weeks.
- Please email Ms. Asman the location in your jurisdiction's code where it vests the authority to require road frontage improvements.

Baltimore City

- Bike program operations have been on hold due to Slow Streets Pilot Program to allow closures and local access roads for social distancing while walking and biking. Pilot started with Lake Montebello and Druid Hill Park. Legislation was passed to ramp up the program Citywide. Working on community engagement to gather input from neighborhoods.

Carroll County

- Design of Johnsville Road and Washington Road Safe Routes to Schools projects are underway and construction is scheduled for completion at both locations by the end of the year.
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was approved in November 2019. Ms. Clare Stewart (Carroll County) is working with individual municipalities to help implement their pieces if there is an interest.

Harford County

- Continuing to work on Bicycle Master Plan, pushed back a few weeks due to COVID.

Howard County

- Sidewalk policy discussion from the last meeting, and contributions to the subsequent survey indicated that Howard County is the only jurisdiction that requires a formal 2/3 approval from property owners to install new sidewalks within the right-of-way. The County is working toward implementing a policy that is instead based on a notification process for sidewalks that are in the Master Plan or located in a School Zone.
- Electric scooters permit process is underway. Following legislation passed to allow operation of eScooters in select areas, a public hearing was held on the permit terms and conditions document. Hoping to release the document and open application submissions for up to two companies to begin operations in July.
- Continuing to work on the development of the Complete Streets Design Manual.
- A new Bicycle and Pedestrian planner will start next week.

MD Department of Environment

- Collaborating with other states and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on strengthening heavy duty standards for truck emissions.
- Locally focusing on walking and bicycling encouragement while many are teleworking. Also promoting May Bike Month.

MD Department of Planning

- Have been reviewing MDOT MTA's Central Maryland Transit Plan to submit comments with a focus on land use and transit supportive density. The comment period is currently open and runs through June 18.
- Also working with MDOT SHA to update the County transportation profile maps to develop two dashboards in a web based map application over the next year. Will include a look at how people get to work by industry.

MDOT

- The Walk Summit initially scheduled for June, then rescheduled for August, will now take place in October to coincide with Walktober. It is anticipated the event will be virtual with a series of "walkinars" that highlight speakers and topics on walkability.
- Bikeways grant applications are currently being accepted through June 5. MDOT received 22 project letters totaling \$8.4M of \$3.8M available. Projects for design, construction and retrofits will be reviewed through the summer. MDOT will contact applicants in June and July with any questions and make final determinations for awards in September.
- Moving forward with Statewide Level of Traffic Stress – using One Maryland One Centerline. Mr. Evans presented at the last MBPAC meeting; slides and recording are available at http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/Planning/Bike_Walk/MBPAC.html
- Developing statewide count program for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Reviewed best practices from around the country. Will send out a survey to gather how local jurisdictions collect this information.
- It is not anticipated any grant funding changes will occur this year as a result of pandemic related budget cuts, however there may be impacts to funding next year.

MDOT MTA

- Encourages review of Central Maryland Transit Plan; comments will be accepted through June 18 at <https://rtp.mta.maryland.gov/>
- There has been interest from the group regarding Statewide Transit Innovation grants; applications are not yet open. Current projects should continue to report as usual.
- Submitting a TAP Grant for Patapsco Phase I to provide 100% design for crossing Patapsco Avenue and getting people to stop using light rail bridge as a pedestrian facility.
- Evaluating bike parking and investigating appropriate placement of mobility corrals with help developing the plan from stakeholder groups.

MDOT SHA

- New pedestrian and bicycle program, StreetWise, rolled out for May Bicycle Safety Month. Most outreach is via social media. Activity sheets for kids and families are available on the website. There is a spending freeze on advertising, however MDOT SHA secured some pro bono PSAs that have been running on two stations. The Orioles have approved free advertising on their website in June.
- Most bike and pedestrian safety programming coincides with back to school time, so looking at options based on what phase of reopening the state will be in at that time.

BMC

- Bike Cost estimator workgroup will be evaluating different tools to provide input via a survey toward the development of a standard regional tool.
- PRG Elkridge to Guinness public outreach will be moved to a virtual format.
- Due to an approved reallocation of Metro Rideshare funds, BMC is partnering with Love to Ride – Central MD and will have a license for a 4 month cycling encouraging program beginning from June and running through the September Global Bike Month challenge. More info to follow once website is set up.
- The 30 day comment period for the 2021-2024 TIP and associated air quality assessment will begin soon, there are bike and pedestrian elements if anyone would like to provide comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Asman adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting will take place on July 17, 2020.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Tanya Asman – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
Jessie Bialek – Baltimore County Department of Public Works
Chris Eatough – Howard County Department of Transportation
E. Scott Hansen – Maryland Department of Planning
Matt Hendrickson – Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT)
Dan Janousek – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Jon Leishman – Harford County Department of Planning
Jon Mayer – MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)
Jaime McKay – MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)
Molla Sarros – Maryland Department of the Environment
Clare Stewart – Carroll County Department of Planning
Dawn Thomas – Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Nate Evans - MDOT
Margaret Kaii-Ziegler - Anne Arundel County Department of Planning
Jon Korin – BikeAAA
Sheila Mahoney – BMC
Veronica McBeth – Kittelson & Associates
Brian Ulrich – Anne Arundel County, Office of Transportation
Graham Young - Baltimore City DOT