

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

July 15, 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 MAY MINUTES

The meeting minutes from May 20 were previously distributed to the group, and input from Ms. Asman and Ms. Molla Sarros (MDE) were incorporated. No other comments were received. Ms. Asman asked for a motion to approve, Mr. Chris Eatough (Howard County) motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Molla Sarros (MDE) seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

3. PRESENTATION: COMPLETE STREETS IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Ms. Asman, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner for the Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation presented an overview of the County's Complete Streets policy. Following an introduction to the County Council by Smart Growth America and the National Complete Streets Coalition, and the formation of local advocacy group Bike Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (BikeAAA), the 2013 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan recommended Complete Streets be incorporated into the County Code. A resolution was passed, and a workgroup of County staff and public members developed a policy and provided recommendations for incorporating Complete Streets design into County Code, Design Manual, and other comprehensive plans. The Anne Arundel County Bicycle Commission launched in 2015 with one short road with a bike lane, currently there are 10 bike lanes.

Additionally, Multimodal Bill 78-18 created a requirement for offsite pedestrian/bicycle facilities during development process, and the 2019 TFMP Move Anne Arundel (Resolution No 44-19) encouraged a Complete Streets approach.

While the County has a resolution, legislation is needed to gain more traction. An immediate fix to the Road Frontage Code is needed. A TIS workgroup is working on adjusted guidelines mitigation is achieved and increase cooperation between agencies. Also, the Landscape

Manual is currently being updated. Most importantly, the Design Manual will be updated in two phases.

Ms. Asman suggested a Complete Streets “Status Card” be prepared for all BMC jurisdictions to help share current activities and progress. It can include items such as Resolution, CS in Codes, Design Manual updates and the miles of Complete Streets in each jurisdiction.

Discussion:

- In Anne Arundel County, Complete Streets requirements cover new road construction and development review. Any measures to incorporate Complete Streets into resurfacing or restriping activities would need to be codified and would need cooperation to design the updates for DPW crews.
- Howard County policy changes that default. Rather than leaving roads as they are during maintenance activities, Complete Streets must be incorporated.
- Baltimore City now has the same requirement. Except for small local roads, maintenance work can no longer include replace in kind - all work must include Complete Streets, as referenced in Code.
- Requires working with DPW when more funds must be considered to pave or restripe the same length of roadway.

[PowerPoint: [Anne Arundel Complete Streets](#)]

4. REGIONAL BIKE MAP

Ms. Asman said it was brought to her attention that the advocacy group, BikeAAA, would like to provide suggestions to the BPAG regarding the Regional Bike Map.

Mr. Jon Korin (BikeAAA) suggested that the use of the Regional Bike Map was originally intended for planning with a secondary goal of public use. The public version shows only existing infrastructure, which is not always safe to bike under current conditions. BikeAAA suggests the following:

- Designated Signed Routes be removed from the public version of the map.
- MDOT SHA to reconsider the criteria for the Signed Routes.
- For planning purposes, bicycle feasibility study routes may be added to the map with links to the studies.

BPAG will consider these suggestions and discuss at the next meeting.

[PowerPoint: [BikeAAA on Bike Map](#)]

5. PRESENTATION: REGIONAL GOALS & STRATEGIES

Mr. Terry Freeland, BMC, provided a summary of BMC staff recommendations to update the Regional Transportation Goals. The Goals and Strategies are the guiding principles for the development of the Regional Short-Range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). An

action item for early FY 2021 is to adopt and goals and strategies for the next plan to help guide the next plan, adoption of which is anticipated in July 2023.

BMC staff considered examples of the strategies in action and made recommendations based on applicability (whether they should be revised or deleted) and whether additional strategies should be included. Mr. Freeland shared staff recommendations for strategies under three types of goals:

- Goals that address basic functions of transportation: Accessibility, Mobility
- Goals that address conditions or effects of transportation: Safety, Preservation, Environment, Security, Prosperity
- Goals that address transportation decision making process: Participation / Cooperation, Informed Decision Making

Currently the Technical Committee is reviewing staff recommendations, and other advisory groups have started weighing in. The goals and strategies can guide project submittals for the next plan.

Discussion:

- The target for goals to be in place is the first quarter FY 2021. There had been a discussion of changing to the TIP to a 3-year plan, however, given the uncertainty surrounding Covid, it was decided to continue with the current format of a 4-year plan through 2023.
- Ms. Mahoney will post the ppt to the BMC website, and she is asked BPAG to provide any comments in three weeks.
- Chair mobility as presented in the strategies includes services such as Lyft, Uber and employer sponsored shuttles.
- The goals presented are all regional goals, not just those related to BPAG.
- The focus of the goals is based on the 25 Federally required goals and strategies, where data can be collected and monitored. Once a region is accustomed to the current goals, an evaluation can be made to expand them.

[PowerPoint: [Regional Goals](#)]

6. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

Equity Discussion

- Ms. Sarros would like to examine BPAG's approach to bike and ped accessibility and equity in the region, particularly for Black and Latinx riders and communities with regards to concerns such as safety, access, barriers, and profiling. BPAG will consider starting a working group; ideas discussed are as follows:
 - Collaboration with other committees under BRTB
 - MHSO facilitates the Vision Zero plan – they also sit on the Safety Committee
 - BPAG is not a very diverse group, we should be collaborating with a diverse group
 - Some committees include law enforcement and safety professionals in the region

- Examine policies across MDOT and the jurisdictions to see if policies are similar or different and identify best practices
- For the last 25 years, MDOT MTA has considered connections to transit oriented development, concentrated around housing and job centers and getting those implemented for everybody. Now may be a time to do an inventory as a first step, then see what to change and what aspects of planning have had disparate impacts. A good source is the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center in Chapel Hill; they have recently released a document on this topic.
- Communications on infrastructure implementation is important to avoid misperceptions
- Baltimore City Complete Streets includes equity as a high factor in the project rating and prioritization process.
- Howard County Complete Streets has a lot of focus on equity and uses the Vulnerable Population Index that BMC has developed; they are also working on development of a project prioritization process.
- Beaufort County has a focus on wholesale visible sidewalks.
- Next Steps: Ms. Sarros and Ms. Mahoney will pull together some ideas based on discussion to form a new working group.

Anne Arundel County

- On the verge of seeing a wave of change with Complete Streets and Design Manual updates.
- Consultant on board for Poplar Trail Extension to South Shore Trail.
- Recently had a virtual public meeting on Vulnerability Study, and another coming up on the BWI to Odenton trail.
- Making progress WB&A bridge is getting traction with permitting, although there have been challenges getting through reviews from multiple jurisdictions. Working toward getting it out to bid.
- Design ongoing for Broadneck Trail for Phases 3,1B and 5. Working on leases with the State.
- Same consultant onboard for South Shore Phase 2 design. Applied for TAP grant, need to send responses to questions from the review team; will share the feasibility study to help answer the questions.
- Odenton to BWI trail existing and proposed conditions report will be shared with the public, DPW is the lead. Suggestions include low stress connection to BW&A trail.
- Preparing a draft scope to update the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.
- The County took over an inground counter from MDOT at the BWI trail.

Carroll County

- Gearing up to begin design for the next segment of the Patapsco Regional Greenway in Carroll County. BMC is currently reaching out to property owners and anticipates releasing a Request for Proposals in about a month.

Howard County

- Mr. Eatough introduced Ms. Molly Nur, new Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner at Howard County DOT. Welcome!

- The County is working toward implementing a policy based on a notification process for sidewalks in the public ROW that are in the Master Plan or located in a School Zone and will no longer require a 2/3 majority approval from property owners.
- Looking into parking and bike lanes. The State law leaves some ambiguity and other jurisdictions have cleaned the language up in their codes; Howard County is doing something similar this fall to make it clear that parking in a bike lane is illegal in the County.
- Electric scooters permit for companies to apply is now open. Deadline was extended due to a change in indemnification language, now due July 27. First scooters may be operational in August.
- Doing some bike lanes in the shoulder in conjunction with resurfacing. Remote public outreach is closing for two road segments currently.
- A shared use path was just completed from Wild Lake to Downtown Columbia put in by the Howard Hughes Development Company.
- Bike lanes have been installed from Deer Path Road to Dorsey MARC train station – currently signed for maintenance vehicles only. In discussion with MDOT MTA Real Estate to work out bike access at the station. MDOT MTA will follow through.

MD Department of Environment

- Encouraging her colleagues to do the Cycle September challenge on Love to Ride. Not much success yet, however September promo materials should help encourage riders.
- Encouraging staff to get involved in public comments for plans in the region, in particular on equity.

MD Department of Planning (sent via email)

- Continuing work on the development of the demographics and other transportation-related components for MDOT SHA's County Transportation Profile Map.
- Also reviewing Bikeways Grant Applications and recently reviewed the draft Dorchester County Comprehensive Plan.

MDOT TSO

- MDOT received 26 Bikeways grant applications by the June 5 letters totaling \$9.6M of \$3.8M available. Projects are under review; the review team meeting is in a couple of weeks. Final determinations for awards will be made in September.
- Bike and Pedestrian County Survey open until August 31, then will move into implementation details. MDOT SHA will lead the project once it is up and running.
- Shared Use Path GIS Map complete, determining how to incorporate One Maryland One Centerline.
- Continuing to build the Walktober campaign; will share the marketing and outreach plans in more detail at the September meeting.

MDOT MTA

- Finished a Feasibility Study for a pedestrian crossing from the Cherry Hill neighborhood to the Patapsco Light Rail Station, which was included in the Patapsco Regional Greenway Study, potential for two crossings so decided to use a phased approach. Submitted a TA

Grant for Patapsco Phase I to provide 100% design for crossing Patapsco Avenue would connect to new trail being constructed by the City.

- Will follow up on bike access at the Dorsey MARC station. MDOT MTA interested in continued evaluation and ongoing input of bicycle and pedestrian access and infrastructure needs, although Covid has caused a decrease in infrastructure funding at this time.
- Evaluating bike and scooter parking and investigating appropriate placement of shared mobility corrals in Baltimore City, currently working along locations along the North Avenue Rising corridor and continue to identify needs at stations throughout the City.

BMC

- Bike Cost estimator workgroup is not moving as quickly as the initial schedule, still working on evaluating different tools. Have been using the tool MDOT developed for cost estimates for Carroll County PRG.
- PRG Elkridge to Guinness public comment period opened July 6 and runs through July 17. Approximately 75 comments have been received so far.
- Bike to Work Day is being moved to a Virtual Bike to Work Week from September 21 – 27. BMC is contacting Bike Shops to serve as t-shirt pick up stops. Will be using the event to drive people to the Love to Ride site and encourage riders to use the app. Promo materials for Cycle September global bike challenge will be shared with the group this week.
- Reviewed TAP applications for the Baltimore Region and met with MDOT SHA and FHWA to discuss. The team had some questions for the applicants, MDOT SHA is following up.

Guest: Jon Korin, BikeAAA

- On behalf of Annapolis.
 - Pace is pulling out of the bikeshare program; the City and County are looking into other options.
 - Poplar Trail network study feasibility study is close to being wrapped up, filling the gaps in the system are important in terms of equity.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Asman adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Tanya Asman – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
Chris Eatough – Howard County Department of Transportation (Howard County DOT)
Matt Hendrickson – Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)
Dan Janousek – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Jon Mayer – MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)
Patrick McMahon – 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)
Marty Baker - MDOT
James Carter – FHWA Intern
Nate Evans – MDOT
Terry Freeland – BMC
Kathleen Hayes
Pushkar Kar – ATCS
Jon Korin – BikeAAA
Sheila Mahoney – BMC
Jaime McKay – MDOT MTA
Molly Nur – Howard County DOT
Francine Waters – MDOT
Graham Young – Baltimore City DOT