

## **BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP**

March 17, 2021  
Online Meeting  
1:02 to 3:02 P.M.

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

Mr. Chris Eatough (Howard County) welcomed attendees and Ms. Regina Aris (BMC) held a roll call. The meeting took place remotely in accordance with Maryland social distancing protocols.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES**

The minutes from the January BPAG meeting were previously distributed to the group. No comments were received. Mr. Eatough asked for a motion to approve, Mr. Nate Evans (MDOT TSO) motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Matt Hendrickson (Baltimore City) seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

#### **3. PRESENTATION: VULNERABLE ROADWAY USER SAFETY EXPOSURE DASHBOARD**

Ms. Carole Delion (MDOT SHA) presented a project which focuses on developing a dashboard to display crash risk statewide for vulnerable roadway users (pedestrians, bicyclists, e-scooter users). Crash risk is the predicted frequency of pedestrian/bicyclist/e-scooter user crashes at a location in a year. The end product is an online interactive map which will be publicly available by summer of 2021. The project team includes MDOT, University of Maryland at College Park and Baltimore, as well as the U.S. Department of Transportation (Safety Data Initiative).

As well as crash risk, the dashboard can display pedestrian/bicyclist/e-scooter user volumes at intersections and road segments, pedestrian/bicyclist/e-scooter user crashes, and customized exposure and risk analytics (e.g. crash/volume ratio).

The data for the tool includes:

- Pedestrian/bicyclist/e-scooter user/motor vehicle volumes sourced from anonymized mobile device location data and calibrated with MODT volume counts
- Pedestrian/bicyclist/e-scooter user crashes from MDOT
- MDOT counts to calibrate volumes from mobile device location data

- Intersection/link geometry
- Land use and build environment variables
- Level of Traffic Stress (the amount of discomfort felt while using a facility) for pedestrians/bicyclists

The discussion also considered that the tool can be used by planners to identify areas where safety interventions and infrastructure improvements may be needed. The anonymized mobile device location data does not include data on people who do not own a smart device. The research team is analyzing census data to address this. E-scooter travel patterns and crash data are difficult to capture.

***[PowerPoint: SDI Dashboard]***

#### **4. CURRENT AND PROPOSED UPWP TASKS**

- **Patapsco Avenue Crossing**

Mr. Patrick McMahon (MDOT MTA) introduced this project and Ms. Ginger Dadds (MDOT MTA) provided details on progress. This addresses a long standing pedestrian issue since there is no good connection between the Cherry Hill neighborhood and the Light Rail station. Over 300 pedestrians have been observed walking on active tracks on the bridge to reach the station. This area is also a key connection for an expanding rail network in the area. CSX is also a key partner in this area. The 30% design work is complete, an additional TA grant will allow for 100% design.

MDOT MTA is coordinating with Baltimore City as they are working on Patapsco Avenue improvements. Still need to coordinate since it is not a good place for pedestrians or bicycles. Ongoing coordination is critical to meet the need of all users. Design should be complete by Fall 2022.

Several members offered comments on nearby projects. In response to a question about the City alternatives, there was a recent community meeting with a decision on an alternative coming in May. Also, folks will check with the Maryland Port Administration on sufficient access for truck traffic doing business at the Port. MDOT MTA found it necessary to put in a traffic signal at the entrance to the Light Rail station due to the amount of traffic, in fact a bus driver was killed at the location.

***[PowerPoint: Patapsco Avenue Ped Bike Bridge Phase I]***

- **Patapsco Regional Greenway**

Mr. Keith Kucharek (BMC) presented an update of the Patapsco Regional Greenway (PRG) project from Sykesville to McKeldin area of the Patapsco Valley State Park. This section would provide a connection from downtown Sykesville to Freedom Park as well as a connection from Freedom Park to the McKeldin Area.

The downtown section of the trail will consist primarily of a hard surface trail and on-road sections with signing and pavement markings denoting the trail. The section from Freedom Park to the McKeldin area, will consist primarily of a natural surface trail with signage and possible other amenities such as benches.

The Sykesville to McKeldin section has just gotten underway and most of the work to date has been gathering existing data such as local planning documents, county GIS data, cultural and natural resources, and developing the Steering and Advisory Committees. The project team held a kick-off meeting with the Steering Committee on February 5, 2021 to provide an overview of the project and obtain any initial thoughts or suggestions with development of proposed alignments. The project team also held a site visit with the Steering Committee to walk the downtown portion of the trail. Subsequent to the BPAG meeting the project team met with the Advisory Committee on March 18, 2021 to provide an overview of the project and obtain suggestions, ideas and obtain any information that may be useful in the development of alignments.

The project team anticipates holding a site visit for the Patapsco Valley State Park section by the end of March. This will help to identify two alignments within the park area. Once alignments are established, a technical memorandum will be produced outlining existing conditions, proposed alignments and cost estimates for each alignment. The team will also begin developing materials to be used to obtain public input. It is anticipated that the team will reach 30% design completion by the end of 2021. Following the presentation, Mr. Eatough provided two additional names he recommended to be added to the Advisory Committee.

***[PowerPoint: PRG: Sykesville to McKeldin]***

- **Pedestrian Infrastructure Assessment**

Mr. Victor Henry (BMC) shared that BMC is working on an FY 2021 consultant project to research and develop a Pedestrian Infrastructure Assessment Tool for the Baltimore region. The online tool will evaluate pedestrian mobility, assess pedestrian facilities, and identify and prioritize improvements for implementation.

The consultant, Toole Design, will conduct literature review and identify variables to determine pedestrian level of comfort and estimation of potential for pedestrian activity. Toole Design will also identify best practices for collecting information on pedestrian infrastructure volume, and safety data throughout the region.

Mr. Henry finished by describing the project team and detailed the scope and schedule of the project.

Ms. Asman expressed interest in the project and asked to receive related materials.

***[PowerPoint: Pedestrian Infrastructure Assessment]***

- **Online Crash Data Dashboard**

Ms. Cindy Burch (BMC) shared information about a new crash data visualization project that is included in the draft FY 2022-2023 UPWP. Based on projects from the Denver Regional

Council of Governments (DRCOG) and the Prince George's County Vision Zero team, this project aims to present regional crash report data in meaningful graphs, charts, and maps. This online tool will support local and regional planning. As this project rolls out, ideas and feedback will be solicited from BPAG.

***[PowerPoint: UPWP Crash Data Dashboard]***

## **5. WORK GROUP SUMMARIES**

### **• Bicycle and Pedestrian Baseline Counts Work Group**

Ms. Tanya Asman (Anne Arundel County) noted that BMC released an RFP for multi-modal traffic counts, five proposals were received. BMC invited Ms. Asman, as a representative of BPAG, to assist with the review. Previously, BMC put together a map and spreadsheet of 30 possible county locations based on the Regional Bike Map. Members are asked to review and suggest edits in the jurisdiction. Mr. Nate Evans shared that MDOT is also looking at how to collect and share bike data, MDOT SHA has an online traffic monitoring database that includes a variety of count types, including: bikes, pedestrians, and school children. Protocols are being put in place to include more bike and pedestrian data. MDOT is looking at various tools such as Eco-counter or Miovision. Members are invited to that discussion.

### **• Equity and Inclusion Work Group**

Ms. Molla Sarros (MDE) discussed training provided by the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights through BMC called Race in America. It was a 2 session course that first looked at the history of the social development of race and then second at systemic racism that has been institutionalized. Examples of methods that prevented Black Americans from achieving success include housing and lending institutions and a score of negative stereotypes.

The outcome is to look at recommendations to improve equity in society. This work group is also looking for the names of speakers for BPAG on how to address equity issues around bicycling and walking. If anyone has ideas please contact Ms. Sarros.

Mr. Eatough noted that he also participated and echoed the value of the training.

### **• Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Grants Work Group**

Ms. Clare Stewart (Carroll County) is working with other members to look for additional grant funding opportunities. This includes potential grant sources beyond FHWA's Transportation Alternatives (TA) and Maryland's Bikeways grants such as the East Coast Greenway Alliance and others. The work group will also identify priority projects and create a spreadsheet that includes current phase, sponsor, etc. Ms. Asman asked if anyone has raised issues about the grant process and streamlining it some. Ms. Stewart had not heard this issue but will talk with the other work group members about it.

## 6. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SUMMARY

Ms. Nicole Hebert (BMC) gave a presentation summarizing current active transportation public outreach activities, which include potential pilots of Scavify, Bicycle Benefits, and Walk With a Doc, as well as continued Love to Ride and Bike to Work Week programming.

- BMC plans to incorporate *Scavify*, a scavenger hunt app, to engage Love to Ride users this coming fall.
- *Walk With a Doc* is also planned to be incorporated this fall with MDOT's Walktober programming.
- Several jurisdictions are considering starting localized *Bicycle Benefits* programs, including in downtown Columbia and Annapolis.
- Love to Ride programming will be continued through May 2022. BMC staff will continue to support Love to Ride with monthly newsletters and by engaging users with prize drawings.
- BMC, with the assistance of BRTB members, is actively organizing a 2021 Bike to Work Week program set for May 17 to 23. Both Love to Ride and Bike to Work Week efforts are being generously supported by over 15 sponsors.

Ms. Sarros asked if there would be competition through Love to Ride. Ms. Hebert will need to check on that.

### ***[PowerPoint: Active Transportation Summary]***

## 7. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

### **Annapolis**

- Mr. Eric Leshinsky said Annapolis is working on an RFP to focus on connectors that are long overdue to assist with their network, this is available through a Bikeways grant. Several pop up installations will be included to test some concepts.
- The City is a stakeholder on the Poplar Trail project with Anne Arundel County in the lead.
- The City is also participating on the BMC's Pedestrian Assessment Tool project.
- All of the efforts and more are feeding into the upcoming Comprehensive Plan to elevate the bike network.

### **Anne Arundel County:**

- Ms. Asman noted they are close to securing a contractor for the County's update to their Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.
- The County is wrapping up several grants for projects such as the Poplar Trail and BWI to Odenton Trail. The Parole Mobility study is also complete, and will be presented to the BRTB Technical Committee in April 2021.
- The County Office of Transportation is helping with an update to the county's Design Manual. The Department of Public Works is managing the effort, however the OOT has a lot to say about Traffic Impact Study guidelines and Level of Traffic Stress.

- The County is also writing a bill on Complete Streets.
- Progress is being made on the Vision Zero Action Plan and have a stakeholder group that meets monthly.
- Ms. Dawn Thomas said the County is wrapping up reviews with MDOT SHA on the WB&A Bridge over the Patuxent River that connects Anne Arundel to Prince George's County with hopes to go to bid in the Fall.
- The Broadneck Peninsula Trail Phase 3 has arrived at PS&E review with MDOT SHA/RIPD and hopes to go to bid also in the Fall.
- Broadneck Trail Phase 1B to Sandy Point State Park is at approximately 95% design.
- South Shore Trail Phase 4 design will kick off this week with R-O-W will being an issue.
- South Shore Trail Phase 2 is near 95% design, and kicked off the TAP award process in January.

### **Baltimore City**

- Mr. Matt Hendrickson said the City was moving forward with public outreach for the Wolfe and Washington Street project for design.
- Similar outreach has started for the Baltimore Greenway Trail Network, 6 mile northern segment, it is the largest gap and will connect Lake Montebello to Leakin Park.
- Consultants are working on network prioritization for the City's separated bike lane network. The process will evolve as more data becomes available.

### **Carroll County**

- Ms. Stewart commented on two Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grants. The RFP for Johnsville Road is going out soon, with construction to be complete by December 2021. The Washington Road grant is waiting for one approval from MDOT and then the RFP can go out with construction to be complete by January 2022.

### **Harford County**

- Ms. Aris reported for Mr. Jon Leishman. Segment 2 of the Ma & Pa Connector Trail will begin construction in April and take 12 months is to be finished.
- Segment 3 is at 60% design. The County will be meeting with MDOT SHA surrounding the how the trail will navigate the Bypass. This segment is expected to submit 60% design documents and draft invite to bid in April for review.
- The County's Bike and Pedestrian Plan will be released later in March (2021).

### **Howard County**

- Mr. Eatough commented on the permit process for electric scooters. One company has requested a permit to serve the downtown Columbia and Maple Farms areas. The 1-year permit begins 3/15, however the company won't start for some time due to COVID-related restrictions.
- The Annual Active Transportation Open House was held at the end of February and included Complete Streets topics. Due to COVID an in-person workshop was replaced with a week of activities online. There were opportunities to offer comments and respond to surveys. Office hours with staff were made available (OOT, DPW, consultants). 700 people visited the Open House website.

- The county is starting an update to the Bike Master Plan since the current is five years old. Many sections do not need an update since the county is still working on some projects. Proposed updates will rely on input from the Bicycle Advisory Group.
- Bike lane resurfacing will be on three locations this year. When this will occur the county always initiates community outreach in advance.

### **MD Department of Environment**

- Ms. Sarros stated that MDE is increasing work efforts at reducing air pollution from diesel engines as well as addressing emissions from peak electric generation during the summer.
- On February 19 MDE sent the [Greenhouse Gas](#) Emissions Reduction Act 2030 GGRA Plan to the Governor and Maryland General Assembly. The Climate Group did a significant amount of work with many stakeholders. Of interest, the document includes considerable work from MDOT around bike and pedestrian and transit modes. Page 103 identifies bike and pedestrian priorities to reach GHG goals.

### **MDOT MTA**

- Ms. Jaime McKay was excited to share shortly the results of bike and pedestrian amenities reviews at Metro and LRT facilities in the near future. This effort is part of the implementation of the Regional Transit Plan and seeks to identify outstanding needs and improve amenities at these locations.
- Statewide, MDOT MTA is incorporating potential opportunities to enhance amenities into ongoing planning projects, and continues to work closely with local jurisdictions to enhance bicycle connections to transit facilities.
- MDOT MTA continues to identify ways to assist MARC riders with bikes.

### **MDOT TSO**

- Mr. Nate Evans reminded members that MDOT is accepting [bikeways letters of intent \(LOI\)](#) through April 9<sup>th</sup>. Bikeways applications will be accepted from May 3 – June 3, 2021. The Kim Lamphier bikeways network program is transitioning to the one stop application portal, which is used by the Transportation Alternatives program, Safe Routes to School and Recreational Trails program.
- MDOT is making progress with developing a bike/ped count data base. [MDOT SHA's traffic monitoring system](#) currently supports bike and pedestrian traffic counts. Protocols and practices are being developed to further expand the system.
- the next Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting will be on Friday, April 23 at 9 A.M. and people can [register in advance](#) to participate.
- The level of traffic stress effort is an ongoing process that will be integrated into the traffic count platform using the One Maryland One Centerline GIS system. MDOT SHA has released [a preliminary version](#) produced by the University of Minnesota Accessibility Observatory based on open streets map.
- Ms. Francine Waters announced the inaugural meeting of the pedestrian ad hoc group on March 18 at 10 A.M. This ad hoc group emerged from planning activities for the inaugural Walktober event in 2020.

- The Walk Maryland Day committee has started meeting. Ms. Waters will share details as they become available.
- MDOT has filled all speaker slots for the 2021 [walktober](#) campaign. MDOT is hoping many of the partners return this fall.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Mr. Eatough shared that a new Active Transportation Planner, Ms. Charlene Mingus, will start on March 22. All of us wish Ms. Sheila Mahoney success in her new endeavor and thanked her for her work while at BMC.
- Mr. Jon Korin shared a comment that he submitted on the draft 2022-2023 UPWP. His comment is that grants are a challenge for BRTB members with delays, complexity, and interagency coordination. His suggestion is that BMC, as an independent partner, assess how members are doing with executing grants. The review should also include ways to improve access to federal resources. The goal is to try to complete projects faster and bring in additional money. This effort should also include a best practices guidebook. The SRTS grants present a big challenge.
- Ms. Sarros also mentioned the call for applications by EPA for air quality & environmental justice grants near the port. MDE is looking to partner with a community group as the grantee and is asking the members if they have an interest in the topic. There is the possibility for a research and education focus. Ms. Asman expressed an interest in talking to MDE.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Eatough adjourned the meeting at 3:02 P.M.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 19, 2021.



## **ATTENDANCE**

### ***Members***

Tanya Asman – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation  
Marty Baker – Maryland Department of Transportation – Secretary’s Office (MDOT TSO)  
Chris Eatough – Howard County Department of Transportation (Howard County DOT)  
E. Scott Hansen – Maryland Department of Planning  
Matt Hendrickson – Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)  
Eric Leshinsky – Annapolis Department of Planning  
Jon Leishman – Harford County Department of Planning  
Patrick McMahon – MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)  
Molla Sarros – Maryland Department of the Environment  
Clare Stewart – Carroll County Department of Planning

### ***Staff and Guests***

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Cindy Burch - BMC  
Ginger Dadds - MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)  
Carole Delion - MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)  
Lindsay Donnellon – Federal Highway Administration  
Nate Evans – MDOT  
Kathleen Hayes – Toole Design  
Nicole Hebert – BMC  
Victor Henry - BMC  
John Hillegas – Greater Washington Partnership  
Tristan Jackson – Burgess & Niple  
Dan Janousek - MDOT  
Jon Korin - BikeAAA  
Keith Kucharek - BMC  
Jaime McKay - MDOT MTA  
Ines Nizeye – Tindale Oliver  
Molly Nur – Howard County DOT  
Daniel Paschall, East Coast Greenway Alliance  
Dawn Thomas – Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation & Parks  
Francine Waters – MDOT  
Chenfeng Xiong - Maryland Transportation Institute  
Jianyang (Jay) Zheng - MDOT SHA