

## **BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP**

September 15, 2021

Online Meeting

1:02 to 2:51 P.M.

### **MINUTES**

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

Mr. Chris Eatough (Howard County) welcomed attendees and Ms. Charlene Mingus (BMC) held a roll call.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES**

The minutes from the July BPAG meeting were previously distributed to the group. Two comments were noted by Ms. Molla Sarros (MDE). Mr. Eatough asked for a motion to approve, Ms. Sarros (MDE) motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Nate Evans (MDOT TSO) seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

#### **3. PRESENTATION: HARFORD COUNTY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN**

Mr. Joel Gallihue, Harford County Government, shared the draft Harford County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan which is currently open for review and comment through the end of October 2021. Feedback can be given by the public through a survey.

Level of Traffic Stress methodology, an approach that quantifies the amount of discomfort that people feel when they bicycle on a facility, was used to develop the plan. Access to locations such as schools, grocery stores, libraries, etc. on a low stress network was analyzed, as well as, if a project would increase the connectivity of the low stress network.

The draft plan focused analysis on seven corridors identified in the 2013 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The draft plan refines the corridors in [seven story maps](#).

The final plan will become the policy of the Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning. Learn more information and provide [feedback on the plan](#).

Mr. Eatough asked for more information about the pedestrian element of the draft plan. Mr. Gallihue shared that the county currently has a dataset with a partial inventory of the sidewalk network, however, the County is focusing on developing a complete dataset of the sidewalk network. The draft plan does identify pedestrian projects including areas where there is a gap

in the sidewalk network. Though a more comprehensive dataset of the sidewalk network will allow for additional identification of gaps and opportunities to increase connectivity.

***[PowerPoint: Harford County Bike Plan]***

#### **4. PRESENTATION: MARYLAND WALKTOBER**

Ms. Francine Waters, MDOT TSO, discussed Maryland's annual WALKTOBER, a month where the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and other partnering agencies will promote and host events and webinars spotlighting Maryland pedestrian safety, health, and commuting options in current walk programs and Initiatives.

The WALKTOBER initiative builds on agency partnerships to help celebrate Walk Maryland Day (October 6, 2021) while reflecting broader planning and advocacy concerns identified as part of Maryland's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Agency partners and the public are invited to schedule or join a walk on Walk Maryland Day. Registration for [Walk Maryland Day is now open](#).

The [WALKTOBER Walkinar series](#) features panelists in 90-minute webinars held every Thursday from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm Eastern through the month of October. Walkinar titles include; Taking Fresh Steps to a More Walk Friendly Maryland, Walking toward a Healthier Maryland, Pedestrian Safety: Trends, Measures, and Solutions, and Great Partners and Creative Approaches for Promoting Safe Walk Opportunities. Recordings of the Walkinars will be available for those not able to attend.

Objectives for WALKTOBER 2020 include developing and strengthening new and current relationships, expanding the understanding of key issues facing pedestrians in Maryland, establishing communications with pedestrian advocates and enthusiasts and expanding the current pedestrian database, and raising pedestrian safety awareness with the objective of developing a shared understanding for all users.

Visit the [WALKTOBER website](#) to view resources, partners, news, and events in counties throughout Maryland.

BPAG members and the public are encouraged to attend Pedestrian Subcommittee meetings which occur quarterly. The subcommittee is part of the [Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#). The next meeting will be held December 9, 2021 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. MDOT has also recently launched a pedestrian focused newsletter which will be released twice a year.

***[PowerPoint: WALKTOBER 2021]***

#### **5. DISCUSSION: DEVELOPING LIST OF TOP REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

Ms. Regina Aris shared that as a follow up to the July BPAG meeting, Ms. Mingus sent a PowerPoint to BPAG members which outlined previous initiatives to develop top active transportation priorities for the region. Ms. Aris asked for feedback on member interest in

identifying to regional active transportation projects for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and suggested that if members are interested, a workshop could be organized to develop the list.

Mr. Eatough expressed his support for developing a list of top regional projects and for a workshop. Mr. Eatough also expressed that regional bicycle inventory data base organized by BMC every year will likely be a useful resource for the workshop and development of the top regional projects. Ms. Aris stated that BMC will follow up and send the 2020 regional bicycle facility inventory to members in the coming weeks. Mr. Eric Leshinsky also expressed support for developing an updated list of top projects.

## **6. DISCUSSION: BMC BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COUNTS**

Ms. Mingus shared with members that she presented the proposal for a pilot project of bicycle and pedestrian counts to be conducted during October 2021 to the BRTB Technical Committee on Tuesday, September 14. Lessons learned from this pilot project would inform the development of a regional bicycle and pedestrian count program which is proposed to launch in spring 2022. Technical Committee approved the pilot project and counts will be conducted in eight locations during the month of October. BPAG members were asked for their feedback on the draft count locations for the pilot project. These locations were selected from the list developed in collaboration with BPAG members and jurisdiction partners.

Outcomes from the pilot project include directional bicycle and pedestrian volumes; RAW video files which can potential be used in future safety assessments; exploration of any challenges with implementation, technology, and data; coordination with jurisdictions on data analysis and identification of resources needed; and lessons learned to guide recommendations for the regional program.

The regional bicycle and pedestrian count program which is currently being developed is proposed to include weeklong counts conducted throughout the region on a repeating and project specific basis. The development of the program will include a 5 to 10 year plan, a list of count locations, achievable program goals, data management and sharing plan, and exploration of resources required for data analysis and use.

Mr. Patrick McMahon, MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA), asked if there was a possibility of scaling the weeklong short duration counts to continuous count locations to provide annual data. Ms. Mingus responded that the current contract with the consultant only includes short duration counts. BMC and the region can explore the possibility of contracting for continuous counts in the future. BMC will continue to work with partners in the region who are completing continuous counts to coordinate and share data. MDOT is also working to create a central database of bicycle and pedestrian counts. Ms. Mingus stated that continuous counts provide the advantage of providing data which assists in calculating annual average bicycle traffic or annual average pedestrian traffic, as well as, seasonal adjustment factors. Mr. McMahon stated that this regional count initiative is an exciting opportunity and builds on goals discussed in the region. He suggested considering grants for jurisdictions to purchase count equipment and for staffing to monitor continuous counts.

**[PowerPoint: Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts]**

## **7. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SUMMARIES**

Ms. Mingus updated members on regional active transportation events. [Cycle September 2021](#) a Love to Ride Central MD challenge occurs from September 1 – 30. The event is free and open to anyone who lives or works in the Baltimore region. Participants log bicycle rides that they take for the chance to win prizes, gift certificates to their local bicycle shop of choice, and participants can compete in a friendly workplace challenge.

BMC staff and partners have begun planning for Bike to Work 2022, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event in the Baltimore region. The event will include a weeklong celebration with event t-shirt pickup at local bike shops. Local jurisdictions are encouraged to host Bike to Work Day and events such as family friendly bike rides. These events will be listed on the Bike to Work website.

## **8. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**City of Annapolis** – Mr. Leshinsky shared that the City has a contract finalized with a consultant to focus on five priority connectors of the bicycle network. This is an MDOT funded project that will be kicking off soon. The City is also supporting Anne Arundel County on the feasibility study to extend the Poplar Trail west to meet the South Shore Trail, which should finish this fall. The City is working to release shared micro mobility RFP this fall.

**Anne Arundel County** – Mr. Evans shared that the WB&A trail bridge construction RFP was released this week.

**Baltimore City** – Mr. Matt Hendrickson shared that the City has awarded a contract for specific Vision Zero and bicycle projects which is anticipated to help streamline construction of projects. The City added three new engineering staff who will assist with the design of active transportation projects. The City also added another staff member to the bicycle program. The City is beginning the process to update the bicycle master plan.

**Carroll County** – Ms. Clare Stewart shared that two Safe Routes to School projects for the County should be moving from design to construction phase in the next six months. The 30% design of the Patapsco Regional Greenway Sykesville to McKeldin is underway with public input on the alignments provided in June. Public feedback informed selection of the preferred alignment. A public meeting on the preferred alignment will be held virtually Thursday, September 30, 2021 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. The consultant is currently completing the geotechnical and utilities surveys.

**Harford County** – Mr. Leishman shared the Harford County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan which is open for public comment until October 2021. The plan can be viewed at, <https://harford-county-bike-ped-plan-harfordgis.hub.arcgis.com>.

Email [jkleishman@harfordcountymd.gov](mailto:jkleishman@harfordcountymd.gov) for questions and feedback.

**Howard County** – Mr. Eatough shared that the County is currently working on a countywide bicycle wayfinding system which includes a sign design that the County is requesting

experimental approval from FHWA. The sign design is a modification of the bicycle wayfinding signs found in the MUTCD with the additional of a color coding system for bicycle routes similar to a metro rail system. The Oakland Mills Road Diet project is currently underway which will result in the reduction from four lanes to three lanes with a two directional protected bicycle lane. Construction is estimated to begin this fall with the goal to finish in spring 2022. There is a public meeting on October 28 for the shared use path on Dobbin Road. There are public meetings in October for the Complete Streets design manual updates.

**Queen Anne's County** – Mr. Steve Cohoon shared that a new parking area and restroom facilities are under construction to serve the Cross Island Trail which runs from through the Chesapeake Bay from the Canton area to Grasonville. The developer of the Four Seasons project is building the facilities and will dedicate them to County. The construction should be completed in a month. Also, the Bay Bridge Run is October 31, 2021.

**MD Department of Environment** - Ms. Sarros shared that MDE is continuing to promote Cycle September and expressed their support of the function of the Love to Ride platform that displays the reduction in carbon emissions and the number of transportation trips by participants in the challenge. Ms. Sarros expressed her support of bicycling as transportation. MDE has resumed their efforts to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety at the Washington Boulevard and Monroe Street intersection near the MDE office.

**MDOT MTA** – Mr. McMahon announced that MDOT MTA is releasing a new customer experience enhancement project that will include additional funding for bicycle parking at rail stations around the region. MDOT MTA added new staff in the project development division which will assist with this new initiative. MDOT MTA is starting on a pedestrian and bicycle project at 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Baker Street. MDOT MTA is completing shared bus bicycle lanes on North Avenue in the next few weeks. MDOT MTA is also working on signage and signal timing fixes to the North Ave cycle track which Baltimore City's first bicycle signals.

**MD Department of Planning** –Mr. Hansen announced that the Department of Planning will officially launch the Snapshot Maryland: Transportation Planning dashboard in approximately a week.

**MDOT SHA** – Ms. Tina Register stated that she did not have any new information to share.

**MDOT TSO** - Mr. Evans shared that the consolidated transportation planning process is underway and the state is meeting with jurisdictions through the fall. The project list can be reviewed on the MDOT website. The 2022 Bikeways awards should be announced in the next week or so. Mr. Evans thanked everyone who applied. Mr. Evans announced that the next Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (MBPAC) meeting is October 22. The event will be a hybrid meeting with the ability to meet in person at the MDOT Hanover office or attend virtually. More information about the meeting can be found on the [MDOT website](#). Mr. Evans also encouraged participation in WALKTOBER.

## 9. LRTP UPDATE: GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Mr. Zach Kaufman, BMC, provided an update on the [goals and strategies for the Long Range Transportation Plan \(LRTP\)](#) currently underway. BMC is using PublicInput which is a tool that increases public feedback opportunities including live streaming meetings, interactive

surveys, and more. The draft goals and strategies have been developed with input from BRTB and the Technical Committee. The public comment period for the draft goals and strategies is open until Tuesday, October 12, 2021. These goals and strategies are the basis of the criteria used to score projects for the plan, as well as, for the Transportation Alternatives program. Goals include; improve accessibility, increase mobility, improve system safety, improve and maintain the existing infrastructure, create an environmentally responsible transportation system, improve system security, promote prosperity and economic opportunity, foster participation and cooperation among stakeholders, and promote informed decision making. BMC will respond to all public comments by mid-November and will present to the Technical Committee at the Tuesday, November 30 meeting.

Mr. Hendrickson, Baltimore City DOT, asked if the metrics are tied to Resilience 2050 goals. Mr. Kaufman shared that there are performance measures and targets associated with the goals. Ms. Sarros asked the impact that public comments can have on the LRTP process at this point. Mr. Kaufman stated that comments from the public and committees can and have altered the goals and strategies.

## **ADJOURN MEETING**

Mr. Eatough adjourned the meeting at 2:51 P.M.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### ***Members***

Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne’s County

Chris Eatough – Howard County Office of Transportation (Howard County OOT)

Nate Evans – Maryland Department of Transportation The Secretary’s Office (MDOT TSO)

Scott Hansen – Maryland Department of Planning

Matt Hendrickson – Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)

Eric Leshinsky – City of Annapolis

Jon Leishman – Harford County Department of Planning

Patrick McMahon – MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)

Molla Sarros – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)

Clare Stewart – Carroll County Department of Planning

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

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

Joel Gallihue – Harford County Department of Planning

Victor Henry – BMC

Zach Kaufman - BMC

Charlene Mingus - BMC

Ines Nizeye – Tindale Oliver

Molly Nur – Howard County Office of Transportation (Howard County OOT)

Tina Register - MDOT SHA  
Ed Stylc – BMC  
Francine Waters – MDOT TSO