

## **BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP**

May 17, 2023  
1:03 to 2:55 P.M.

### **MINUTES**

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

Mr. Nate Evans (MDOT TSO) welcomed attendees and Ms. Charlene Mingus (BMC) held a roll call.

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

The minutes from the March BPAG meeting were previously distributed to the group. Mr. Evans asked for a motion to approve, Mr. Eric Leshinsky (City of Annapolis) motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Clare Stewart (Carroll County) seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

#### **3. PRESENTATION: BALTIMORE GREEN NETWORK PLAN AND ADDENDUM**

Mr. Eli Pousson (Baltimore City) presented about the Baltimore Green Network Plan Addendum. The Plan is a broad vision to bring new green space to Baltimore neighborhoods and create an interconnected system of natural and recreational spaces throughout the city. The Baltimore Greenway Trail Network is the centerpiece of the Community Corridors in the Baltimore Green Network Plan. The goals of the addendum are to build on existing plans, identify locations for future path and trail development, and document the city's design guidelines.

Mr. Pousson shared a history of trail planning in Baltimore City, beginning with the 1904 Olmsted Plan. More recently the 2015 Baltimore Bike Master Plan set out a goal to develop and improve off-road paths to create a more connected trail system. In developing the addendum, the Department of Planning built on these historical plans, as well as reviewing and incorporating neighborhood, area, and other plans.

Mr. Pousson described four categories that projects will fall under: planned new paths/trails, gaps to fill, right-of-way facilities, and trail concepts. The Plan includes shared-use paths including segments of the Greenway Trails Network and additional trail concepts, such as Carroll Park Heritage Trail. There are also regional trail connectors, which will connect Baltimore City's network to the larger regional network, such as the Baybrook Connector and the Middle Branch Trails.

The design guidelines are drawn for the most part from the Baltimore Complete Streets Manual, which is based on the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. Design guidelines are intended to ensure sufficient level of service in south and southeast Baltimore sections with private development partners.

#### **4. PRESENTATION: PHASE I PATAPSCO AVENUE BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

Ms. Virginia Olyniec (MDOT MTA) presented an update on the Phase I Patapsco Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge project. Ms. Olyniec shared that there has been a longstanding problem of Light Rail access for residents of Cherry Hill, and many pedestrians cross the Light Rail bridge, which creates safety and reliability issues. In addition to providing a safe crossing point, the Patapsco Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge will provide a key connection for the expanding trail network in this area.

The draft Environmental Site Assessment and Design Study Report for the bridge were completed in early 2023, with additional review and decision making completed throughout the spring. 65% design is expected to be completed by August 2023. The bridge will be a 120 foot, single span prefabricated truss bridge, with two abutments set at locations compatible with other proposed improvements along Patapsco Avenue. The bridge will be adjacent to the existing light rail bridge, but will be a separate structure. The bridge will have an aluminum finish because it is lighter, more corrosion resistant, and lower maintenance, and concrete decking. The final design element that will need to be selected is a pedestrian enclosure, which will protect pedestrians and cars. This decision will be deferred based on public input.

Next steps for the project are to complete soil borings, begin public engagement, complete design, acquire properties, and bid and build the project. The project at this time does not have dedicated funding.

While Phase I provides a bridge over Patapsco Avenue, Phase II of this project would extend from the top of the span over the railroad tracks to the Cherry Hill neighborhood. Phase II will be part of a future request for capital funding.

#### **5. PRESENTATION: CHANGE TO REGIONAL BICYCLE FACILITIES INVENTORY**

Ms. Mingus shared information about changes to the Regional Bicycle Facilities Inventory (RBF) data schema. BMC began coordinating the RBF in 2016. Jurisdictions submit updates annually on all bicycle and shared-use facilities in the region that are existing, under construction, programmed, or planned. This data is incorporated into an online map and a downloadable shapefile.

Ms. Erin Bolton (BMC) shared that BMC has coordinated extensively with MDOT and member jurisdictions to develop a new schema. This new schema will incorporate more bicycle facility types, align with MDOT's schema, and simplify the annual update process.

BMC has requested that member jurisdictions submit updated datasets by May 19. Updated RBFi will be sent to member jurisdictions, incorporated into BMC maps and web apps, and submitted to MDOT SHA to incorporate into the state bicycle facilities inventory.

Ms. Bolton shared that the former facility type categorizations were divided into five categories: bike lane, separated bike lane, signed designated bike route, sharrows or marked shared lane, and shared-use path or transportation trail. The new schema will involve two fields: facility type in four broad categories (shared-use path, protected bike lane, standard bike lane, and shared road lane) and facility subtype. BMC has also developed a set of definitions and examples for subtypes.

Ms. Mingus shared next steps. The updated RBFi will be completed in summer 2023, and will then be sent to member jurisdictions, incorporated into BMC maps and web apps, and submitted to MDOT SHA to be incorporated into the state bicycle facilities inventory. The updated RBFi will also be used in the Vision for a Regional Bicycle Network.

## **6. PRESENTATION: UPDATE ON RESILIENCE 2050**

Mr. Zach Kaufman (BMC) shared an update on the public comment period for Resilience 2050, the next long-range transportation plan (LRTP) for the Baltimore region. Resilience 2050 contains a list of major transportation projects the region expects to implement from 2028 to 2050, taking into account anticipated funding levels through 2050. The LRTP is updated every 4 years in non-attainment areas, and is financially constrained.

The LRTP planning process began in 2021, and is primarily done through the Technical Committee of the BRTB. This includes setting goals and strategies, developing a project scoring methodology, and socioeconomic and financial forecasts.

Projects are selected based on project scores, project costs, and anticipated revenues. In total, 98 candidate projects were submitted (62 roadway and 36 transit), and after project selection, 92 projects were included in the LRTP (56 roadway and 36 transit). Of these 92 projects, there were 79 expansion projects and 13 system preservation projects. The preferred alternative also includes \$250 million in funding set aside to support various strategies intended to improve air quality, including the regional active transportation priority projects identified by BPAG in 2022.

The public comment period for the LRTP will run from May 17 through June 20, 2023. This will include eight public meetings, including a virtual public meeting and an in-person public meeting in each jurisdiction. Mr. Kaufman also shared the [Resilience 2050 website](#) and [StoryMap](#).

## **7. PRESENTATION: BIKE TO WORK WEEK 2023 UPDATE**

Mr. Shane Sarver (BMC) shared an update on Bike to Work Week 2023. The event was held from Monday, May 15 through Sunday, May 21, 2023. Mr. Sarver shared current registration numbers for the region. There will be 16 events held throughout the region and 27 event t-shirt

pickup locations, which improves upon last year's numbers. Mr. Sarver shared that BMC is once again partnering with WBAL-TV to advertise the event, which includes ads on the WBAL website and other websites, and a PSA with Jason Newton.

## 8. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

**City of Annapolis** – Mr. Leshinsky shared that Annapolis is continuing to work on the West-East Express, College Creek Connector, and Hilltop Lane Connector, which are all at approximately 30% design. The Annapolis Bike to Work Week event was held on Thursday, May 18, at City Dock. The e-scooter and e-bike share program is still successful, and will soon be expanding into areas directly outside the city of Annapolis. They are applying to Maryland Bikeways and Safe Streets for All grants. The Bay Ridge Avenue Connector project is around 60% complete and is going well.

**Anne Arundel County** – Ms. Tanya Asman shared that Anne Arundel County has signed an agreement with the micromobility company Bird to expand the e-scooter and e-bike share program. The BWI Trail extension project is moving along, and the county has come to an agreement with the state to manage part of the project. The county has applied for a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant for this trail. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) feasibility study is still underway, and they have applied for SRTS funding for another study. They also applied for an additional TAP grant for design of a shared-use path on Shoreham Beach Road in South County. The Broadneck Peninsula Trail is still underway, with Phase III being bid. The South Shore Trail in Odenton will be in construction through fiscal year 2024. The WBNA trail bridge over the Patuxent River is underway.

**Baltimore City** – Mr. Patrick Patterson shared the city's Bike to Work events, which include a ride around with the Mayor. The city is wrapping up several projects, including the greenway, Wolf & Washington bikeway study, and are starting up several projects, including automated bike counters, the MLK Jr. Boulevard sidepath, and the Middle Branch segment.

**Baltimore County** – Mr. Mitchell Phillips shared that Baltimore County is having a Bike to Work event in Towson. They are working on three trail projects: the Six Bridges Trail in Towson, the Red Run Trail in Owings Mills, and the West-East Trail. The NCR trail is also going into design. Next year, they are doing a complete streets pilot on Old Court Rd from Liberty Rd to Reisterstown Rd, and a protected bike lane pilot on Old Pimlico Rd and Greenmount.

**Carroll County** – Ms. Stewart shared that the county has two SRTS projects, one of which is being closed out and the second moving from design to construction this year. The Town of Sykesville has submitted a TAP grant application for a portion of the Patapsco Regional Greenway in Sykesville.

**Harford County** – Ms. Deborah Price shared that the Harford County Bike to Work event will be held on Friday, May 19. They have announced the completion of the HGC study. The Route 40 study is nearly complete.

**Howard County** – Mr. Patrick Smith shared that Howard County is having a Bike to Work Day event in Downtown Columbia. Howard County’s Complete Streets policy received a score of 100/100 from Smart Growth America.

**QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY** – Mr. Steve Cohoon shared that Queen Anne’s County just held a kick off meeting for their Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which is the first the county has ever done. They are looking at Safe Streets for All grants for bicycle and pedestrian projects. They are talking to property owners to secure easements to extend the South Island Trail on Kent Island.

**MDOT MTA** – Mr. Patrick McMahon shared that MDOT MTA is adding more bicycle-friendly cars to the MARC and is adding bike racks to 29 different locations.

**MDOT TSO** - Mr. Evans shared that MDOT TSO is supporting Bike to Work events throughout the region. They are currently accepting applications for Bikeways grants. Applications were accepted through June 1. TAP and SRTS grant applications are currently being reviewed. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan is being updated, and the initial public outreach has been complete. July 28 will be the next Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (MBPAC) meeting.

**BMC** – Ms. Mingus shared that the [Pedestrian Infrastructure Assessment Toolkit](#) has been uploaded to the BMC website. Member jurisdictions have received those materials directly, as well as the Ecopia sidewalk data inventory.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 P.M.

## ATTENDANCE

### **Members**

Tanya Asman – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation  
Jesse Bialek – Baltimore County Department of Public Works  
Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne’s County Department of Public Works  
Nate Evans – Maryland Department of Transportation the Secretary’s Office (MDOT TSO)  
Tina James – Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)  
Eric Leshinsky – City of Annapolis Department of Planning and Zoning  
Barry List – MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)  
Patrick McMahon – MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)  
Lisa Nissely – Maryland Department of the Environment  
Patrick Patterson – Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)  
Deborah Price – Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning  
Patrick Smith – Howard County Office of Transportation (Howard County OOT)  
Clare Stewart – Carroll County Department of Planning

***Staff and Guests***

Dan Allen – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation  
Regina Aris – BMC  
Erin Bolton – BMC  
Zach Kaufman – BMC  
Kyle Leggs – Baltimore City Department of Planning  
Charlene Mingus – BMC  
Nick O’Gara – Baltimore City Department of Planning  
Virginia Olyniec – MDOT MTA  
Daniel Paschall – East Coast Regional Greenway  
Mitchell Phillips – Baltimore County Department of Public Works  
Eli Pousson – Baltimore City Department of Planning  
Fritzen Royer – Baltimore County DPW&T  
Shane Sarver – BMC  
Michael Scepaniak – Strong Towns Baltimore  
Dwight Tigner – BMC  
Francine Waters – MDOT TSO