

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

May 15, 2024
1:02 to 1:20 P.M.

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Mr. Eric Leshinsky (City of Annapolis) welcomed attendees and then Ms. Charlene Mingus (BMC) held a roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

The minutes from the March BPAG meeting were previously distributed to the group. Mr. Leshinsky asked for a motion to approve, Mr. Chris Eatough (Howard County) motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Cynthia Spriggs (MDOT MHSO MVA) seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

3. PRESENTATION: MONTGOMERY COUNTY PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

Mr. Eli Glazier presented on the Montgomery County Pedestrian Master Plan, which is Montgomery Planning's first comprehensive vision to create safer, more comfortable experiences walking or rolling around the county, and to make getting around more convenient and accessible for every pedestrian.

Approved in October 2023, the Plan is part of a series of plans the County is working on to reimagine the multi modal future of Montgomery County, and pivot from automobile-oriented suburb into a community of 15-minute neighborhoods.

The existing conditions report portion of the Plan was published in March 2022 and included a Countywide Pedestrian Survey, Pedestrian Level of Comfort Analysis, Student Travel Tally and a 2015-2020 Pedestrian Crash Analysis.

The Plan also includes design, policy and programming recommendations. These include changing signal timing, improving driver education, shifting to a data-driven sidewalk construction and maintenance approach, changes to the streetscape to mitigate climate impacts, and a conversation about the transfer of some state highways to county control. The plan also designates Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas (BiPPAs), and helps facilitate the transition from the traditional roadway functional classifications to Complete Streets Design Guide.

In response to a question, Mr. Glazier shared that the County Council is very supportive of the plan, and before it was adopted the County Council approved the Safe Streets Act, which includes measures that were recommended in the draft plan.

Regarding a question about maintenance of sidewalks, Mr. Glazier shared that there is a recommendation in the plan about improving education on this topic. In addition, there is a plan to systematize the County's reconstruction of sidewalks, which is currently request-based.

Regarding a question about the involvement of MDOT State Highway Administration in the Plan development progress, Mr. Glazier shared that there was an interagency working group, and there were multiple opportunities to review the document. He also welcomes opportunities to work together in the future.

Regarding a question on how to gather data on Pedestrian Level of Comfort, Mr. Glazier shared that the data collection took a lot of time and effort. Street view data was used, but ideally they would have worked with an asset manager who had the information. Mr. Leshinsky shared he felt that the Level of Comfort analysis seems user friendly. Mr. Glazier shared there is a plan to update the data schema to make updates easier in the future, and a plan to integrate this into MDOT's One Maryland One Centerline. He feels this analysis helps with prioritization of projects.

[PowerPoint: Montgomery County Pedestrian Master Plan]

4. PRESENTATION: SAFE AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO MONTGOMERY PARKS

Mr. Kyle Lukacs presented on the Safe and Equitable Access to Montgomery Parks project which was awarded a \$7.5 million implementation grant through the federal program Safe Streets for All (SS4A). Including the local match of \$2.6 million, the total project budget is \$10.1 million.

This project will improve the safety of trail crossings and implement educational safety programs for pedestrians and bicyclists throughout Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The implementation grant covered safety issues along Sligo Creek Trail, the Matthew Henson Trail, and in and around Wheaton Regional Park. The project will implement effective behavioral safety countermeasures paired with proven engineering countermeasures at approximately three sites based on crash data and high-injury network locations. Mr. Lukacs went into further technical detail on included projects.

Mr. Lukacs highlighted that a benefit of a SS4A project is that project details can be refined after the grant is awarded. Currently 10% design, cost estimate, and an open house style public meeting have been completed. The project team is currently working on right-of-way agreements.

[PowerPoint: Montgomery Parks SS4A Grant]

5. PRESENTATION: UPDATE ON BIKE TO WORK WEEK 2024

Ms. Marium Sultan (BMC) provided an update on Bike to Work Week 2024, taking place May 13 - 19. Ms. Sultan shared that as of May 13, 1,440 people had registered for Bike to Work Week. This year there are 21 celebratory events planned throughout the region, an increase from 16 in 2023. There are 24 t-shirt pickup locations around the region, all at local bike stores.

Ms. Sultan noted that 145 people have been participating in Bike to Work Central Maryland for over a decade. Ms. Sultan also shared the advertising campaign for Bike to Work Week, which included radio, websites, magazines, and social media.

[PowerPoint: Bike to Work Week 2024]

6. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

City of Annapolis – Mr. Leshinsky shared that the City is working on a number of grant-funded projects that are moving forward, with the West-East Express and the Hilltop Lane Connector hoping to break ground in late fall. The College Creek Connector is slated to break ground in early 2025. The City has been meeting with the micromobility company *Bird* to maintain a program in the City. The City received a Safe Streets for All Grant to create a citywide mobility plan, including addressing Complete Streets standards. Demonstration projects are taking place on Forest Drive. Mr. Leshinsky added that their Bike to Work Week event will be at the Annapolis City Dock on Friday. Mr. Leshinsky highlighted two projects that Ms. Tanya Asman from Anne Arundel County is managing that relate to the City of Annapolis. One focuses on making key intersections at the edge of the City more multimodal through a community engaged process and the other is targeting Forest Drive.

Baltimore County – Mr. Mitchell Phillips shared that the County is getting ready for a Bike to Work Week Pitstop in Towson on Friday. The County is currently acquiring funds for a Safe Streets for All Grant, wrapping up a feasibility study for the NCR trail extension, working towards full design on Six Bridge Trail (west, east, and northeast), and working on bike lanes.

Carroll County – Ms. Clare Stewart shared that in coordination with BMC they are kicking off the Finksburg Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning and Feasibility Study which is funded by the Transportation and Land-Use Connection program.

Howard County – Mr. Eatough shared that the County's Bike to Work Day event will be in Downtown Columbia at Colorburst Park from 3:00 – 5:30 P.M. The County is working on public input web-map tools. One is to take requests for sidewalks and crosswalks, and the other is related to the neighborhood traffic-calming program, for which they are working with the Department of Public Works to be more inclusive. The County is also working on the operating budget process, including acquiring new smaller equipment for snow clearing, tailored to protected bike lanes and shared-use paths. Mr. Eatough shared that a traffic garden, which is a place for kids to safely learn street navigation skills, will be opened in Huntington Park this summer.

Queen Anne's County – Mr. Steve Cohoon shared that the County is continuing to work on the South Island Trail extension, with each segment at various stages. The County received a

Transportation and Land-Use Connections grant through BRTB to plan an extension of the Cross Island Trail. Mr. Cohoon said that he is working to narrow the focus of their Safe Streets for All grant, inspired by the presentation earlier in the meeting.

Maryland Department of the Environment – Ms. Catherine Solano reported that they had no updates at this time.

MDOT MHSO – Ms. Spriggs thanked everyone for their attendance at the Highway Safety Summit, and asked that those who attended fill out the survey that was sent out. This Friday Ms. Spriggs plans to be at the Bike to Work Week Baltimore County event, the Howard County event, and MDO SHA's Pit Stop in Hanover, which includes a group ride. Ms. Spriggs highlighted the upcoming Bike Month events 'Spring Around Downtown' in Colorburst Park, Bicycle Advocates For Annapolis And Anne Arundel County's Bike Safety Lessons for kids in Lindale Middle School, and the Bike Collective youth summit on June 15.

MDOT TSO – Ms. Francine Waters shared that there will be a bike safety talk as part of the Hanover group ride that Ms. Spriggs discussed. Ms. Waters invited all to a Sidewalk Data Collaboration demonstration on May 23 from 12:30– 2:00 P.M.

BMC – Ms. Mingus shared that the second comment period for the [Patapsco Regional Greenway: Stoney Run segment](#), which runs from Elkridge to the BWI Trail, is opening May 22 and is looking for feedback on four potential trail alignments. The [Bikeable Baltimore Region project](#) comment period will run from May 21 to July 26. It will include eight in person meetings and two virtual meetings in the month of June.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 17th, 2024. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works
Chris Eatough – Howard County Office of Transportation (OOT)
Tina James – Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
Jon Leishman – Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)
Eric Leshinsky – City of Annapolis Department of Planning and Zoning
Catherine Salarano – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Clare Stewart – Carroll County Department of Planning

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Steve Chandlee – Queen Anne's County Recreation and Parks
Eli Glazier – Montgomery County Planning Department
Barry List – Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)

Kyle Lukacs – Montgomery County Parks Department

Charlene Mingus – BMC

Mitchell Phillips – Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T)

Patrick Smith – Howard County OOT

Cynthia Spriggs – MDOT Maryland State Highway Office Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MSHO MVA)

Marium Sultan – BMC

Francine Waters – MDOT The Secretary's Office (MDOT TSO)