

## **BALTIMORE REGIONAL SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Thursday, May 28, 2020

10:05 to 11:30 A.M.

Virtual meeting

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Denise Worsley opened the meeting at 10:05 A. M.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES**

Ms. Worsley asked for any revisions to the minutes from the February 2020 meeting. Noting none, the minutes were accepted.

#### **3. MEMBER ROUNDTABLE: NEW PROJECTS, EFFECTS AND EXPECTATIONS OF COVID-19**

Ms. Worsley initiated a roundtable discussion by identifying each member jurisdiction and partner agency separately:

- Anne Arundel County - they had no representative present to report.
- Baltimore City - Ms. Worsley described an ongoing Slow Streets Project that will close approximately 25 miles of Baltimore City roadways to vehicular traffic. This project was approved by the City Council and now awaits approval from the Mayor. The project plan is to affect 2-3 miles within each City Council District. She also reported about the ongoing automated enforcement program in the City, that it is still very busy during pandemic and has not shown any signs of traffic slowing down.
- Baltimore County - Ms. Jessie Bialek noted that the County is applying for three bikeways grants and moving forward with adding bike lanes as roadways are built or repaired during the pandemic. Mr. Kris Nebre noted that the County is continuing to work on developing a local Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) and is utilizing an on-call consultant for a pedestrian study in the Pikesville area.
- Carroll County - Mr. Chris Letnaunchyn reported there were no significant updates.
- Harford County - Ms. Bari Klein noted that the Traffic Safety Advisory Board meetings have been cancelled during the pandemic so there are no project updates. She did note concerns with excessive speed in the County and that partner agencies are working together.

- Howard County - Mr. David Cookson reported that the County is nearly done drafting an SHSP (known as the Strategic Road Safety Plan - SRSP) and has sent a final version to Steering Committee partners for approval. Discussions are underway for next steps including public involvement and County Executive endorsement. He also noted that Howard County is working on more bikeways projects.
- Queen Anne's County - Mr. Steve Cohoon shared that traffic counters placed at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and at the U.S. 50/301 interchange have shown interesting trends throughout this state of emergency. During the pandemic, based on data from those counters, the highway traffic dropped ~50% during the week and ~60-70% on the weekends. He also shared that the County Department of Public Works has developed traffic reports for the Board of County Commissioners and those are available online.
- Baltimore Metropolitan Council – Ms. Bala Akundi began with participation by Ms. Kenna Williams Swift from the Sherry Matthews Group. They presented information on the regional Look Alive pedestrian and bicycle safety program. They noted that some planned education and enforcement efforts for Look Alive were postponed due to the pandemic, but will resume in early June. This presentation also included information about the related pedestrian safety law enforcement training program conducted with the Baltimore County Police Department.

***[PowerPoint: 200528 LOOK ALIVE Campaign]***

- National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) - Mr. Jon Schermann shared how recent increases in traffic fatalities led to a safety study being conducted for the National Capital Region (Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties and Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia). Progressive presentations from the analytical consultant have been provided to the TPB for the past several months. Key findings from the study identified higher proportions of unrestrained occupants, intersection crashes, and crashes along major arterials among fatal and serious injury crashes. Noting those trends and after conducting additional analyses, countermeasure recommendations will be made to the Board in June 2020 to improve traffic safety in the region. It is anticipated that the first year may have approximately \$250,000 in funding from jurisdictional partners to begin implementing those countermeasures.
- Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office (MHSO) - Ms. Christina Utz shared that the review of grant proposals for FY 2021 have been completed. Ms. Utz also shared that a highway safety seminar series has been occurring throughout the two pandemic months and the office plans to continue that series for the remainder of the state of emergency and beyond. Information about those webinar is available from MHSO, please contact Ms. Cindy Burch at BMC if you would like to be added to the distribution list. Ms. Utz noted that the session next week will include presentations from the University of Maryland, Baltimore and Wake Forest University project teams for the Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network (CIREN) project. She also explained that MHSO is working with a new communications consultant to develop an all-encompassing campaign to address all SHSP Emphasis Areas. Finally, she reminded the group of the MHSO Law Enforcement Liaisons (LELs) and Partnerships, Resources & Outreach (PROs) program managers that are available and have been working locally throughout the pandemic. Mr. Doug Mowbray shared that the state is

updating the Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan as the current plan ends on December 31, 2020. He noted that the SHSP Emphasis Area Teams have been working with a consultant, Crash Core, using online means to stay on track to have a plan for Executive Council approval in the fall and be ready to implement in January 2021.

- Maryland Department of Health (MDH) - Ms. Tracy Whitman talked about the Kids in Safety Seats (KISS) program. Ms. Whitman shared a presentation about how they have transitioned a hands-on child passenger safety program to virtual platforms to prevent a lapse in education or safety. She also explained that, due to the MDH focus on COVID-19, most of the outreach has been done through grassroots efforts with partners and that is very much appreciated.

***[PowerPoint: KISS Program]***

- Ms. Debbie Jennings from the Chesapeake Region Safety Council (CRSC) reminded the group that June is National Safety Month. The National Safety Council promotes the campaign with free safety materials and supporting social media efforts will be done in the CRSC territory. In addition, CRSC is asking for supporting organizations to light their buildings/offices in green as a reminder to the general public. She noted that several major institutions in the state and region have already been approached to do so. Ms. Jennings shared that the CRSC is now offering three versions of training courses (Virtual, Live, and Online) with the first Virtual Alive at 25 course occurring on June 15, 2020. She shared that CRSC has also been conducting a free virtual webinar series throughout the eight weeks of the pandemic thus far and information about those and other training offerings is available on the website ([chesapeakeesc.org](http://chesapeakeesc.org)). Finally, she shared that the 31st Annual Chesapeake Region Safety Council Safety and Health Conference and Expo is still scheduled to be held in-person on Wednesday October 7, 2020 and will include vendors and safety presentations, including a discussion of and an outside demo on the DADSS (Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety) system that has been implemented as a pilot in some state fleet vehicles. DADSS will be voluntarily offered as a safety option in new vehicles – like automatic braking, lane departure warning and other advanced driver assist vehicle technologies (<https://www.dadss.org/>). Finally, Ms. Jennings shared that if organizations are interested, CRSC does offer free workplace safety-oriented in-person trainings on a regular basis, with more details shown on the training calendar section on the CRSC website. Most importantly, for any organization that is looking for support of safety programs, CRSC will share it with their contacts (safety professionals) that are in Maryland and surrounding states. Please send info to [Debbie@chesapeakeesc.org](mailto:Debbie@chesapeakeesc.org).
- Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) - Ms. Tina Register shared that the state has enhanced the use of social media posts and free PSAs on radio stations to promote pedestrian safety and bike safety messages. She also noted that a new statewide pedestrian safety campaign launch is expected to take place in August. This new campaign will include a mascot and MDOT SHA will be announcing a 'Name the Mascot' contest in the near future.

**4. OTHER BUSINESS**

Hearing no other business from the members, Ms. Worsley adjourned the meeting at 11:25 A. M.

**Next Meeting** – September 24, 2020, 10:00 A. M.

**Attendance:**

Kim Auman – National Study Center for Trauma & EMS  
Pam Beer – Cambridge Systematics  
Jessie Bialek – Baltimore County Department of Public Works (BCo DPW)  
Mike Bomgardner – MDOT MVA Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO)  
Summer Bowman – Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)  
Jim Brown – Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems  
Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne’s County Department of Public Works  
David Cookson – Howard County Office of Transportation (MDOT)  
Michael Farrell – National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)  
Dan Janousek – Maryland Department of Transportation  
Breck Jeffers – Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
Debbie Jennings – Chesapeake Region Safety Council  
Tim Kerns – MHSO  
Bari Klein – Healthy Harford  
Erin Kuhn – MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA)  
Julie Kwedar - MHSO  
Chris Letnaunchyn – Carroll County Department of Public Works  
Doug Mowbray – MHSO  
Kris Nebre – BCo DPW  
Walter Phillips – MDOT SHA  
Tina Register – MDOT SHA  
Mandy Remmell – MHSO  
Jon Schermann – TPB  
Marcia Simms – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Glen Sine – Washington College GIS Program  
Kenna Williams Swift – Sherry Matthews Group  
Eric Tang – VHB, Inc.  
Philip Thomas – FMCSA  
Cedric Ward – MDOT SHA  
Tracy Whitman – Maryland Department of Health - Kids in Safety Seats  
Myra Wieman – MHSO  
Tina Williams – MHSO  
Denise Worsley – Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)  
Mikah Zaslów - BCDOT

**Staff:**

Bala Akundi – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Regina Aris - BMC  
Cindy Burch - BMC  
Todd Lang – BMC