

BALTIMORE REGIONAL SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, May 25, 2023
10:00 to 11:11 A.M.
Virtual meeting

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Cindy Burch, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the new public participation policy that includes posting the recording of the meeting online. She then introduced Ms. Debbie Jennings from the Chesapeake Region Safety Council as the new Subcommittee Chairperson.

2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2023 MINUTES

Ms. Jennings asked for any comments or changes to the minutes from the February 23, 2023 Baltimore Regional Safety Subcommittee meeting. Receiving none, the minutes were accepted into the record.

3. URBAN AREAS SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI)

Ms. Kasey Thomas, Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management, shared information about the regional Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) and a subgroup of public information officers (PIO). She explained that partners aim to coordinate messaging to the public and welcomed any new partners (please contact her at emthom22@aacounty.org).

4. FEDERAL SAFETY UPDATE

Mr. Breck Jeffers, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), reviewed the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program. He [shared the website](#) and reminded the group of the July 2023 deadline for proposals. Last year six action plan grants and three implementation grants were awarded in Maryland.

A recent announcement of \$52 million in advanced technology grant funds to advance safety and reduce travel time was made available by FHWA. Maryland received \$12 million to focus on US 50. Other opportunities were shared by Mr. Jeffers for this committee through Ms. Burch.

Ms. Jennings noted the strong partnership between local agencies and FHWA and thanked Mr. Jeffers for that support.

5. STATE SAFETY UPDATES

Ms. Anna Levendusky, Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office (MHSO), shared that the state Safety Summit held in April 2023 had about 300 attendees and included the release of a fatal crash dashboard that is posted on the [Zero Deaths website](#). Please share any feedback on the dashboard with Ms. Levendusky at alevendusky@mdot.maryland.gov, or Mr. Doug Mowbray at dmowbray@mdot.maryland.gov. Ms. Levendusky then shared that a new video is being developed about the Move Over Law. She also noted that focus groups and other research approaches are being used to develop cannabis-focused safety messaging in advance of the legalization of recreational cannabis use on July 1, 2023.

Ms. Cynthia Spriggs, MHSO, shared information about a safety program based in Baltimore City named [BYKE Collective](#). She noted the extensive youth involvement and encouraged attendees to learn more about the Collective as well as the [Neighborhood Design Center](#). An event at the end of June, Crank Masterz, is coming up in Baltimore City and will have a safety outreach component. Ms. Spriggs also shared that the Neighborhood Design Center, which continues the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) Made You Look project, will be having a shareback session in June.

Dr. Jay Zheng, Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA), gave a presentation on the Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Assessment that is required by the federal transportation bill. He noted that participation by regional and local stakeholders as well as the public are part of this project.

In conjunction with the VRU Assessment, Ms. Molly Porter and Mr. Brian Lange, MDOT SHA, shared updates on the [Pedestrian Safety Action Plan](#) (PSAP). Check out the link for details.

Mr. Doug Mowbray, MHSO, asked about the criteria for the crashes used for the PSAP Areas of Need. Ms. Porter confirmed that one mile corridors were selected as the metric due to the crash volume on state roadways and the above average metric is MDOT SHA district-specific.

Ms. Burch asked about correlation between the Vision Zero Infrastructure Reviews and the VRU and PSAP. Dr. Zheng explained that, while separate requirements between the state and federal levels, all products will be used together for safety planning at MDOT SHA.

Mr. Michael Scepaniak, Strong Towns Baltimore, asked about the VRU survey questions and what new information is expected to be obtained. Dr. Zheng agreed that some of the VRU corridors may have been studied in the past and the survey will be a means to communicate with the public and gather current feedback, which may include something not previously considered.

Mr. Jeffers added that, while this VRU assessment is the first one, it is anticipated that future assessments will be incorporated into the state SHSP and updated concurrently.

[PowerPoint: MDOT SHA Vulnerable Road Users]

6. LOCAL STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLANS (SHSP)

Ms. Burch noted the SS4A proposals under development and the completion of the Safe System Approach (SSA) project at BMC with a consultant. There will be a presentation about those project deliverables at the next meeting. She also noted support available through BMC with the release of crash report data, federal equity data tools, and a crash data dashboard under development at BMC. She noted that an engineering group at Morgan State University is available to partner on SS4A proposals.

Ms. Burch shared an update on the Local SHSPs in the region:

- In Anne Arundel County, the Vision Zero team continued discussions about data dashboards and the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) funding.
- The Carroll County team held a leadership meeting to review the Safe System Approach (SSA) Workshop.
- The Harford County Traffic Safety Advisory Board continues to work towards a data-driven approach and tracking/monitoring the SHSP.
- The Howard County team continued working on the fatal and serious injury crash infrastructure reviews on county-maintained roadways.

7. OTHER/NEW BUSINES

Ms. Jennings noted the upcoming meeting dates for this subcommittee (September 28, and December 14) and that all will be conducted virtually.

Ms. Burch shared information about the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Titled *Resilience 2050*, there will be public meetings in each jurisdiction in the coming weeks. Information may be found at <https://www.publicinput.com/Resilience2050#1>.

Ms. Burch shared a safety video developed by MHSO and previously shown at the Safety Summit. She also sent a follow-up message to the committee with all of the links shared today.

No other discussion was had and Ms. Jennings adjourned the meeting at 11:11 A.M.

Next Meeting – September 28, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Attendance:

Daniel Allen – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation

Amy Beall – Harford County Department of Public Works

Jessie Bialek - Baltimore County Dept. of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T)

Angelica Daniel – Baltimore County DPW&T

Jerry Eaton – Harford County Sheriff's Office

Michael Farrell – Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Wellington Felix – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Brandan Glorioso – KCI Technologies

Lori Hippensteel – Baltimore County Police Department

Breck Jeffers – Federal Highway Administration

Debbie Jennings – Chesapeake Region Safety Council

Connor Jett – Howard County Office of Transportation

Bari Klein – Healthy Harford

Julie Kwedar – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Motor Vehicle Administration's (MVA) Highway Safety Office (MHSO)

Brian Lange – MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)

Anna Levendusky – MHSO

Peter Moe – MVA

Doug Mowbray – MHSO

Mitchell Phillips – Baltimore County DPW&T

Molly Porter – MDOT SHA

Fritzen Royer – Baltimore County DPW&T

Michael Scepaniak – Strong Towns Baltimore

Cynthia Spriggs – MHSO

Kasey Thomas – Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management

Jay Zheng – MDOT SHA

Staff:

Bala Akundi – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

Regina Aris – BMC

Cindy Burch – BMC

Anna Marshall – BMC