

**Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
February Meeting Minutes  
Friday, February 11, 2011  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
Hanover, Maryland**

**Members Present**

Richard Cushwa  
Sgt. Janet Harrison  
Greg Hinchliffe  
Michael Mason  
Kevin Racine  
Carl Rebele  
Jim Swift  
James G. Titus  
Michael Jackson (staff)

**Members Absent**

Steven H. Allan  
Vincent J .Browne, Jr.  
Judith Grillo  
Beverly Malone  
Marci Ross  
Fred Shaffer  
Patrick Sheehan  
Jeff Springer  
Beverley K. Swaim-Staley  
Missie Wakefield  
Cari Watrous  
John Z. Wetmore

MBPAC Chair Jim Swift called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

**1. Approval of the December meeting minutes**

Dick Cushwa moved and Jim Titus seconded a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**2. Remembering Neal Welch**

The Members acknowledged the untimely passing of MBPAC member Neal Welch in January. Carl Rebele led a prayer in Neal's memory. Other members expressed their gratitude for Neal's excellent representation of the Department of Natural Resources and services to MBPAC including reserving a room at DNR every February for the Annapolis MBPAC meeting. The attendees signed a sympathy card which was addressed to Neal's widow and family.

**3. Subcommittee Reports**

A. Commuting and Transportation – No written report submitted. Kevin Racine reported his attendance at the Perryville Greenways meeting sponsored by the Wilmington Area Planning Council (Wilmapco). While acknowledging the planned start of transit bus service across the Susquehanna River into Havre de Grace by Cecil Transit, Kevin wants to see similar service across the Susquehanna River by Harford County into Perryville. Michael Jackson noted that the planned Transportation Enhancement Program

planned for today was postponed due to the State Highway Administration's presenter's scheduling conflict. Greg Hinchliffe stated that he was pleased with SHA's alternative designs of the MD Route 170 undercrossing of I-695. In response to concerns that SHA did not consider bicycle accommodations on MD 450 Michael promised to send Jim Titus a copy of SHA's FY 2008-11 Business Plan and Maryland's Complete Streets Policies.

B. Education and Awareness Subcommittee – No written report received. Michael Jackson stated he was seeking to set up the next meeting of the Maryland Law Enforcement bicycle traffic safety video by the end of February and that Baltimore City representatives are interested in participating in this project. He also said that the Maryland Student Travel Policy Survey was nearly completed.

Michael Mason reported he was meeting with Maryland State Schools Superintendent Nancy Grasmick regarding a review of their Wellness Policy and the implementation of the Nutrition, Education and Physical Activity Program. Michael is working with Patrick McMahon and these programs are expected to be implemented by the end of the year and there is support from the Superintendent. Michael also mentioned that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene had alerted him to a national student bicycle education curriculum developed by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Michael Jackson mentioned that Maryland had already developed a pedestrian and bicycle education curriculum for Maryland schools.

C. Legislative & Government Affairs Subcommittee– No written report submitted. Michael Jackson provided an update on legislative proposals previously discussed in January including the 24 hour trail access proposal.

D. Tourism and Product Development – Subcommittee Chair Marci Ross submitted a written report. However Michael Jackson forgot to forward copies to the members and promised to e-mail copies of the subcommittee report after the meeting. Dick Cushwa distributed copies of the new Hub City Bicycle Network Route Map which features the Hagerstown city mascot, Little Heiskel, a pre-revolutionary war ranger, on his bicycle. The map can be downloaded at [http://www.hagerstownmd.org/Com\\_Affairs/LittleHeiskell.asp](http://www.hagerstownmd.org/Com_Affairs/LittleHeiskell.asp). Dick also reported on the following items:

- Snyder's Landing Road will be signed as an alternative bikeway to MD 34 between the C&O Canal and the Town of Sharpsburg. SHA District 6 will place the signs within the Sharpsburg town limits.
- The Antietam Velo Club is sponsoring the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Tour of Washington County, the only multi-day stage race in the mid-Atlantic region. This year's event will begin on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Over 400 racers are expected to participate.
- SHA District 6 has installed bike route signs on MD Routes 68 and 632 as an alternative route to US 11 between Hagerstown and the C&O Canal in Williamsport.

- Students at the Barbara Ingram School of the Arts in Hagerstown have completed a mural depicting the history of bicycling which will be placed in the bike parking area of the North Potomac Street parking deck during May (Bike Month). The City is hoping to display an antique bicycle on the building to attract bike parking patrons.
- The MBPAC-endorsed letter of support for the extension of the Western Maryland Rail Trail was signed by MDOT Secretary Beverley Swaim-Staley and sent to the National Park Service in December.
- The Safe Routes to Schools grant review team recommended either full or partial funding of 18 applications out of the 20 that were submitted.

Michael Jackson described his meeting with local officials and walking tour of the Indian Head Rail Trail in Indian Head, Charles County. Town officials are seeking ways to better serve rail trail visitors.

#### **4. Bicycle Friendly Building Checklist Proposal**

Greg described the C&T Subcommittee's proposal to create a checklist of amenities that would be used to gauge the degree of bicycle friendliness of State government buildings based on a point award system. The checklist would not only determine the degree of bicycle friendliness but could also be used to suggest areas of improvements. The checklist could be adopted for other public and private buildings as well. Greg promised to forward the checklist to Michael Jackson for later distribution to the members.

#### **5. Proposal to Eliminate Annual MBPAC Retreat**

Michael Jackson discussed a proposal to eliminate the annual MBPAC Retreat and replacing it with a regular two and half hour meeting based on comments made in previous months. Dick moved and Greg seconded a motion to convert the annual day long MBPAC Retreat to a regular meeting. The motion was approved with Michael Mason and Kevin Racine abstaining.

#### **6. Replacement Chair of T&PD Subcommittee**

Marci announced she was stepping down as T&PD subcommittee chair. Dick agreed to take on Marci's duties until the August meeting. Marci will remain on the subcommittee.

#### **7. Other Business**

A previously scheduled presentation by SHA staff on the topic of the Transportation Enhancements Program was postponed due to a scheduling conflict. The presentation will be sought for rescheduling at the April MBPAC meeting. In the interim Jim Titus moved and Carl Rebele seconded a motion on TEP. Greg provided a friendly amendment but a

vote on the motion was delayed until the TEP presentation is made by SHA. Michael was asked to circulate the following motion to the Members for their consideration and comment:

“Because the State is in a serious recession, local government revenues have declined, construction costs have declined, and there are considerable unspent transportation enhancement funds available that are vulnerable to potential rescission; therefore MBPAC recommends that MDOT temporarily reduce the local match required for transportation enhancement (projects) for the next two years.”

## **8. Adjournment**

Jim Swift adjourned the meeting at 11:54 AM.