

**Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
April Meeting Minutes  
Friday April 11, 2014  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
Hanover, Maryland**

**Members Present**

Janice Arnold  
Stephen Carr  
Richard Cushwa  
Robert Gaston  
Gregory Hinchliffe  
Jon Morrison  
Erin Penniston  
Carl Rebele  
(*Jennifer Jones for*) Marci Ross  
Carol Silldorff  
(*Michael Jackson for*) James T. Smith, Jr.  
James G. Titus  
Cari Watrous  
John Z. Wetmore

Michael Jackson (staff)

**Visitors Present**

Deborah Borza, September 11<sup>th</sup> National Trail Alliance

Acting Chair Dick Cushwa began the meeting at 9:30 AM.

**1. Approval of the March Meeting Minutes**

Jim Titus moved and Carl Rebele seconded Jim's motion to approve the March meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

**2. Subcommittee Reports**

A. Commuting and Transportation – C&T Subcommittee chair Greg Hinchliffe provided updates on efforts to provide a grade separated crossing over MD 122/Security Blvd for an extension of the Gwynns Falls Trail in connection with the planned Red Line transit project, changes to Baltimore City's prohibition on bicycling on sidewalks relating to shared use trails and plans to introduce a MBPAC resolution supporting bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on the Amtrak railroad bridge over the Susquehanna River. He also discussed changes of leadership at Baltimore City DOT which provided hope that staff adherence to the city's Complete Streets policies would improve. Greg said he was encouraged following attendance at a meeting the previous day with Maryland Transit Administration officials regarding efforts to provide roll on/roll off full sized bicycle carriage on MARC trains.

Jim Titus mentioned he had a telephone conversation with Melinda Peters, Administrator of the State Highway Administration, regarding House Bill 52, commonly referred to as the “Bicyclist Duty Bill.” Bob Gaston has been meeting with Cecil County and Wilmington Planning Council staff along with other stakeholders to promote shared use paths in Cecil County.

B. Education and Awareness – Erin Penniston submitted a written report which discussed an anticipated US Surgeon General’s Call to Action on Walking and the availability of technical assistance to promote and support improved bicycling and walking to school to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene from the Safe Routes to Schools National Partnership as part of the implementation of a Community Transformation grant. Erin also reported that May 7<sup>th</sup> has been designated as National Bike to School Day. Janice Arnold said the Carroll County Health Department had donated bicycle helmets in Carroll County. Cari Watrous noted the Brain Injury Association of Maryland had received a Safe Routes to Schools grant to distribute bicycle helmets. Their cost was \$4.99 per helmet. Michael Jackson said he had received a phone inquiry from Cunningham Falls State Park staff looking for funding to provide free helmets for children without helmets who bicycle on park roadways. Carol Silldorff expressed interest in free helmets to support Bike Maryland bicycle safety programs.

C. Tourism and Product Development – T&PD Subcommittee chair Dick Cushwa submitted a written report. He reported that the City of Hagerstown has hired a consultant to develop a Complete Streets policy, has a full slate of May Bike Month activities and is promoting bicycle tourism. Dick also noted that the planned extension of the Western Maryland Rail Trail will stop at the Potomac River for now because West Virginia does not have the necessary funding to extend the trail across the river. Carl reported meeting with Garrett County stakeholders about rails to trails proposals there. Jennifer Jones said Marci Ross had given a presentation in Frederick on marketing without dollars. The Office of Tourism Development participated in a Destination Awareness webinar sponsored by the American Automobile Association in which they marketed Maryland tourism opportunities to travel professionals in Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Jennifer noted that following the webinar presentation she received 4 or 5 orders for printed materials.

Steve Carr reported that the Department of Natural Resources continues to improve their mapping capabilities. He met with John Wetmore and Delegate Aruna Miller to discuss the prospects of using electric utility line rights-of-way to construct shared use paths in a demonstration project. The Public Service Commission was not excited about this proposal. DNR is tasked with coming up with a prospective trail alignment and two alternative projects are being considered. John is conducting research to determine examples of shared use paths being built along utility line corridors. Carol recommended checking in with the University of Maryland Law School for research and technical assistance. Jim noted that Montgomery County, PA had condemned trail easements.

There was discussion on the status of the placement of East Coast Greenway signs along the designated route in Maryland. Baltimore County officials have raised objections to the designated alignment along county roads, preferring that it be relocated along US 40, a State highway. Greg noted that former MBPAC member, Jeff Springer, had convened a group of bicyclists to determine the best route through Baltimore and Harford counties.

D. Legislative and Government Affairs – New L&GA subcommittee chair Carol Silldorff submitted a written report. She raised several issues; asking for recommendations on which legislator should become the next chair of the Maryland General Assembly’s Bicycle Caucus, whether law enforcement

agencies should require mandatory viewing of Maryland's bicycle traffic safety training video by their sworn officers, and wishing to see quicker action regarding SHA's Traffic Safety Awareness Campaign. Carol noted it had been nearly four years since Baltimore City adopted a Complete Streets policy and expected that by November, 2014 a report on Complete Streets should be finished. Jim discussed impacts of HB 250/SB 378 which would define electric bicycles, including that they would not be classified as mopeds no longer. Michael and Jim gave a brief summaries on the differences between the three bills that passed the legislature which involve mopeds.

### **3. BWI Trail Automated Bicycle and Pedestrian Counter**

Michael gave a presentation on the installation of the newly installed automated bicycle and pedestrian counter along the BWI Trail and described how it works and why it was purchased. He passed out printouts of the traffic counts taken so far.

### **4. Other Business**

Bob attended a "Heels and Wheels" summit with bicycle and pedestrian advocates from Delaware government agencies along with Delaware DOT traffic engineers regarding bicycle and pedestrian issues. He reported that the interaction "turned the lights on" regarding the perspective of the DeDOT traffic engineers in attendance. Jim moved to introduce a resolution to extend the W&BA Trail westerly across I-95/I-495 to connect with the New Carrollton rail station which received a second from Greg. During the following discussion there was a consensus to table the motion at this time so no vote was taken.

### **5. Public Comment**

Debbie Borza from the September 11 National Trail Alliance described efforts to develop and promote a series of shared use paths which would link the Pentagon, Shanksville, PA and World Trade Center sites where hijacked planes crashed in 2001. She wanted to attend a MBPAC meeting to observe its deliberations and to urge support of efforts to build a pedestrian and bicycle shared use path in conjunction with either a new or renovated Amtrak railway bridge over the Susquehanna River.

**6. Adjournment** – Dick adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.