

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
June Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 10, 2011
Maryland Department of Transportation
Hanover, Maryland

Members Present

Vincent Browne, Jr.
Greg Hinchliffe
Beverly Malone
Michael Mason
Erin Penniston
Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
Marci Ross
Fred Shaffer
Patrick Sheehan
Jeff Springer
Jim Swift
James G. Titus
Cari Watrous
John Z. Wetmore
Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Steven Allan
Richard Cushwa
Janet Harrison
Beverley K. Swaim-Staley
Missie Wakefield

Visitors Present

Gail Adams
Lee Goode
Adam Howell, Maryland Department of Transportation
Dustin Kuzan, State Highway Administration
Peter Moe, State Highway Administration
Christine Shenot, Maryland Safe Routes to Schools Partnership
Carol Silldorff, Bike Maryland

MBPAC Chairperson Jim Swift began the meeting at 9:30 AM.

1. Approval of April Meeting Minutes

The April meeting minutes were not approved as it was mistakenly thought the draft minutes were not previously sent out for review. Michael Jackson said he would re-send the April meeting minutes after the meeting for review and approval.

2. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Tourism and Product Development – Absent T&PD Subcommittee Chair Dick Cushwa submitted a written report that Carl Rebele presented. Carl also distributed a news article discussing plans to link the three September 11, 2001 terrorist plane crash sites in Shanksville, PA, Arlington, VA and New York City by trails. The T&PD written report included news on bicycling events in Hagerstown and an announcement from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources of the planned hiring of a Trails Planner who would work under John F. Wilson, DNR’s Statewide Trails Coordinator.
- B. Education and Awareness – E&A Subcommittee Chair Vince Browne reported that he had been contacted by a teacher at Gorman Elementary School in Laurel about bicycle safety matters. Michael Jackson suggested that Vince should refer the teacher’s request to the Maryland Department of Transportation. Vince also discussed an editorial written by Don Gagnon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Automobile Association’s Mid-Atlantic region in the May/June issue of AAA World magazine. Mr. Gagnon announced AAA’s support of bicycle safety education for both children and adults and stated that his organization had been working with the League of American Bicyclists, the Philadelphia Mayor’s Bicycle Task Force and the Washington Area Bicyclists Association. The article also stated that Mid-Atlantic AAA also supports Bike To Work Day in both cities. The Committee members decided it would be a good idea for MDOT to work with AAA on publicizing bicycle safety messages. Greg Hinchliffe volunteered to draft a resolution recommending that MDOT work with AAA and similar organizations regarding bike safety.
- C. Legislative and Government Affairs – L&GA Subcommittee Chair Patrick Sheehan submitted a written report which discusses the passage of House Bill 363, *Manslaughter by Motor Vehicle*, and that the US Access Board will seek public comment on proposed guidelines for accommodating persons with disabilities within the public right-of-way. Comments are due by June 27th. There was a discussion of the “Naked Streets” concept, where no physical barriers separate pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists on a public right-of-way. Patrick noted that Maryland’s Quiet Car Task Force was not reauthorized but participants will continue to follow federal government efforts to require noisemaking devices on vehicles with engines that otherwise run silently. Patrick also noted that SB 226 had been signed into law by the Governor. This bill eliminates the requirement that MBPAC schedule at least one meeting per year in Annapolis and permits MBPAC to determine how often they will meet.
- D. Commuting and Transportation – C&T Subcommittee Chair Jeff Springer submitted a written report. He said that C&T subcommittee member Kevin Racine’s efforts in seeking transit service across the Hatem Bridge/US 40 which connects Cecil and Harford counties had achieved initial success. Cecil Transit and Harford County Transit will each provide once per day roundtrip service

beginning in July. The members gave Kevin a round of applause. Kevin discussed the need for public transportation for veterans who have disabilities who are treated at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Perryville.

Jim Titus will be meeting with other bicycle advocates and SHA staff on June 29 regarding sharrow pavement marking placement and other traffic recommendations designed to reinforce the message to motorists that bicyclists are legally allowed to use roadways. The C&T Subcommittee drafted resolutions to urging MDOT to allow pedestrian and bicycle access on bridges and to provide funding for a five year period for the purpose of educating traffic engineers and other transportation professionals employed by government agencies on the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians. In regard to the education proposal Michael Jackson suggested that Jeff contact the Maryland Technology Transfer (T2 pronounced as T-squared) program regarding past response to bicycle and pedestrian transportation offerings which Jeff agreed to do before seeking further action.

Greg reported that he is still fine-tuning the subcommittee's recommendations on bicycle friendly State buildings. Jeff continues work with Kevin on compiling a list of photos illustrating transit accessibility problems.

3. Bicycle Safety Message on Drivers' License Renewal Envelopes

Peter Moe, Special Programs Coordinator, with SHA's Maryland Highway Safety Office responded to MBPAC's recommendation that the Motor Vehicle Administration insert bicycle safety messages inside of driver license renewal notices. MVA has instead recommended that a bicycle safety message be printed on the outside of driver renewal notice envelopes. Peter described the parameters of MVA's proposal and asked the members and guests for recommended safety messages. Peter wrote down the suggestions and they will be evaluated by staff. It is anticipated that a safety message will be selected along with a website address readers can check out for more bicycle safety information in the near future.

4. Maryland Safe Routes to Schools Partnership Update

Christine Shenot, Maryland Safe Route to Schools Network Organizer, provided an update on the efforts of the Maryland SRTS Partnership to promote increased K-8th grade student travel by walking and bicycling. Among other items she stated that a State Policy Action Team had been formed as a result of MDOT's Maryland Student Travel Policy Survey report to review and implement the 42 recommendations listed in the survey report. She stated that Maryland SRTS is looking for opportunities to work with MBPAC's Education and Awareness Subcommittee to promote active transportation to school. Christine distributed an update sheet listing the 16 points she discussed.

5. Public Comment and Other Business

Carol Silldorff announced that she would be sharing the podium with Governor Martin O'Malley on June 18th marking the launch of Cycle Maryland, an initiative to promote bicycle tourism. Dustin Kuzan, the SHA Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, provided information on an on-line survey being distributed to the public regarding bicycling. He also noted that SHA's on-line bicycle map undergoes continuous improvements. John Wetmore said he intended to discuss with his State delegate a legislative approach to use utility right-of-ways for non-motorized access.

6. Adjournment –The meeting was adjourned at 12 Noon.