

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Draft June Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 12, 2009
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland

Members Present

Vincent Browne
Judith Grillo
Greg Hinchliffe
Michael Mason
Kevin Racine
Marci Ross
Patrick Sheehan
Jeff Springer
Beverley Swaim-Staley (*represented by Heather Murphy*)
Jim Swift
James G. Titus
Ann Walsh (*represented by Stephen Trageser*)
Neal Welch
John Z. Wetmore
Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Steven H. Allan
Richard Cushwa
Janet Harrison
Susan Mele
Carl Rebele
Cari Watrous

Visitors Present

Barry Childress, *Baltimore Bicycling Club*
Martin Harris, *Maryland Department of Transportation*
Jim Hudnall, *Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club*
Peter Moe, *State Highway Administration*
Fred Shaffer, *M-NCCPC-PG*
Carol Silldorff, *One Less Car*
Adiva Sotzsky, *One Less Car*

Chairman Jim Swift began the meeting at 9:30 AM with a round of introductions. Michael Jackson announced that John D. Porcari had resigned from his position as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation to join the US Department of Transportation as Deputy Secretary. Michael also reminded members to submit their expense statements by the end of June or risk not getting reimbursed.

1. Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Barry Childress noted that his name was missing from the attendance list. Michael Mason moved and Greg Hinchliffe seconded a motion that the April meeting minutes be

approved on condition Barry's name be added to the attendance list. With that condition the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Tourism and Product Development – T&PD Subcommittee Chair Marci Ross reported that the Maryland Trails Strategic Implementation Plan was nearing completion. It calls for government partners and communities to make connections through trails. The Office of Tourism Development (OTD) submitted its fifth and final grant request to the Recreational Trails Program for the inclusion of regional Family Friendly Trails on the Eastern Shore. There are plans to place Family Friendly Trails information on the web as well.

Anne Kyle is representing OTD as part of a joint effort with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and others to publish an East Coast Greenway bicycling and walking guide map for Maryland and Washington, DC, similar to other ECG bicycling and walking map guides. There are plans to submit a grant request to the Recreational Trails Program to fund this project. Marci announced that MDOT has revised its Transportation Enhancement Program criteria to allow funding of public art expenditures as part of transportation enhancement projects. She continues to work with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in making towns along the Allegheny Highlands Trail friendlier to trail users as part of the Trail Towns program. Work is proceeding on developing cue sheets for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad trail on the Eastern Shore. Travelers will be able to access Maryland tourism information on-line at computer terminals when the renovated South Mountain Welcome Center along I-70 reopens.

Marci said OTD has hired a new Director of Sports Marketing and he is considering a Tour de Maryland professional bicycle racing proposal intended to promote tourism and economic development. A Tour de Maryland would require \$4 to \$5 million sponsorship. This would be modeled after the Tour de Georgia, Tour de California, and Tour de France events, consisting of seven to nine separate race stages. Carol Silldorff wants One Less Car to be included in this proposal consideration. Barry suggested that the Trails Town concept be applied to the North Central Trail to spur spending in Baltimore County. John Wetmore recommended that information on town attractions and services be placed along adjacent trails. The Maryland State Highway Administration should be encouraged to preserve obsolete highway bridges for non-motorized usage after they are replaced by new structures.

Greg said the North Central Trail should be extended southerly from its present terminus. Neal Welch recalled political opposition killed a more southerly alignment of the NCT years ago but felt the Department of Natural Resources would be open to hear proposals to extend the trail now. He said West Virginia Senator Robert Byrd had secured \$1 million in grant funding for the westerly extension of the Western Maryland Rail Trail across the Potomac River into his state.

B. Legislative and Government Affairs Subcommittee – L&GA Subcommittee Chair Patrick Sheehan reported that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has moved up the timetable for recommendations regarding Quiet Cars and that the Maryland Quiet Car Task Force will be reconstituted. He said the Washington Area Bicyclists Association gave an impressive 20 minute presentation to the Riders Advisory Committee of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) advocating increased usage of bicycles to get patrons to transit stations. The Riders Advisory Committee reports to the WMATA Board of Directors. Patrick chairs the Riders Advisory Committee.

Patrick said WMATA's bus stop inventory has been completed and that a 20 percent growth in paratransit services has prodded WMATA to seek ways to make the fixed transit system more accessible to patrons who are disabled. Increasing accessibility of the fixed route system to disabled transit patrons would save money by reducing the need for paratransit usage. Proposed huge cuts in fixed transit service did not occur and Patrick says an infusion of federal stimulus funds may have helped stave off the proposed cuts. Patrick's wife, Jane Sheehan, who is visually disabled, was featured in a recent *Washington Post* article regarding sighted Metrorail patrons who fail to inform visually disabled riders when vacant seats are available, particularly during rush hours. This causes blind passengers to unnecessarily stand and is inconsistent with Metro's policy of offering seats to persons who are elderly or disabled.

Patrick also announced that a joint meeting between the L&GA subcommittee and One Less Car will occur in the near future for the purpose of better coordination of advocacy and legislative proposals between the two organizations. Michael Jackson mentioned a need to work more effectively with the law enforcement community regarding bicycling. Peter Moe said NHTSA has a law enforcement training video and confirmed there is a need for more outreach to law enforcement. A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of grant funding to the International Police Mountain Bicycle Association to train police officers in bicycling matters. Patrick will make an inquiry to WMATA regarding designating one of their staff persons as the WMATA bicycle and pedestrian coordinator. Carol requested that Jim Swift and Patrick represent MBPAC on One Less Car's Advocacy Task Force.

C. Education and Awareness Subcommittee – E&A Subcommittee Chair Vincent Browne said MDOT was reviewing the Scope of Work proposal for the School Administrators Study and is expected to issue a Notice to Proceed to their consultants in the near future. The Toole Design Group will take the lead and will meet with the E&A Subcommittee for input shortly after the Notice to Proceed has been received. Michael Mason had arranged for Maryland State Department of Education School Superintendent Nancy Grasmick to send memos to local school districts advising them of the upcoming School Administrators Study and urging their cooperation. He distributed handouts of this memo

D. Commuting and Transportation Subcommittee – C&T Subcommittee Chair Jeff Springer announced he had signed up for a Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle

Professionals sponsored webinar on developing master bicycle and pedestrian plans scheduled for June 17th. He extended an invitation for others to join him at the Booz Allen Hamilton office in Aberdeen and received several positive responses.

Kevin Racine and Jeff met with Harford County transit staff to discuss proposals for improvements in bus stops and extension of bus service across the Hatem Bridge to Perryville, in Cecil County. Jeff also reported a teleconference meeting with MBPAC members Judy Grillo and Patrick Sheehan and MDOT staff Don Halligan and Michael Jackson regarding recent interactions with SHA and provided an update on last month's Bike To Work Day (B2WD) in Harford County. Jim Titus asked what the State's role is in Bike To Work Day. Michael said MDOT and SHA staff often either speak at Bike To Work Day pit stops, or ride in B2WD convoys. Jim Titus discussed the use of variable message signs to alert motorists for possible increased presence of bicyclists on B2WD.

3. Maryland's Legislative Process Presentation

Martin Harris, MDOT's State Legislative Officer, provided an overview of how Maryland's legislative process works, and strategies used to get legislation passed such as identifying core Maryland General Assembly (MGA) supporters of target issues, expanding support by identifying legislators who support issues related to these target issues, using the time between sessions to meet with MGAs, responding quickly to requests for legislative input, and understanding MGA collective attitudes and relationships within the General Assembly. He advised advocates not to become visibly upset if favored bills fail to get enacted and to remember that despite disagreements over individual bills, MDOT remains the best ally of the bicycling and walking community. Members and guests asked Martin numerous questions which sparked a robust discussion. He distributed handouts including the results of 2009 bicycle and pedestrian bills.

4. Woodrow Wilson Bridge Trail Grand Opening

Jim Hudnall gave a power point presentation on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Trail grand opening ceremony on June 6th.

5. Other Business

Greg reported that Baltimore City held a successful B2WD event and that new bicycle racks have been installed throughout the city. A draft has been completed for a Maryland bicycle commuting guide. There was discussion regarding the agenda for the upcoming August Retreat with suggestions for a review of MBPAC's purpose. Michael Jackson will set up a pre-Retreat planning session and solicit input in particular from Jim Titus and Carol Silldorff.

6. Adjournment - Jim Swift adjourned the meeting at 12:30 PM

