

**Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
October Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 11, 2013
Maryland Department of Transportation
Hanover, Maryland**

Members Present

Richard Cushwa
Robert Gaston
Scott Hansen
Greg Hinchliffe
Beverly J. Malone
Michael Mason
Jon Morrison
Erin Penniston
Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
Fred Shaffer
Patrick Sheehan
Carol Silldorff
(Michael Jackson for) James T. Smith
1st Sgt. Michael Tagliaferri
Honorable Jennifer R. Terrasa
James G. Titus
John Z. Wetmore
Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Steve Carr
Marci Ross
Cari Watrous

Visitors Present

Mr. Andy Hamilton, East Coast Greenway
Mr. Dustin Kuzan, State Highway Administration (SHA)
Mr. Jim Swift
Mr. Steve Whetstone

Acting Chair Dick Cushwa called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

1. Approval of the August Meeting Minutes

Greg Hinchliffe moved and Patrick Sheehan seconded the motion to approve the August meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Commuting and Transportation – C&T Subcommittee Chair Greg Hinchliffe submitted an electronic report. Jim Titus mentioned the continuing dialogue with SHA regarding the Bicycle Policy and Design Guidelines. He said that he was very pleased that in a recent project on MD 193, SHA District 3 had responded to MBPAC's concern that right-turn lanes are often striped so that cyclists in the shoulder must cross a diagonal solid white line simply to continue straight on the highway. In Glenn Dale, SHA started the pocket lanes before the diagonal line where the shoulder gives way to the right turn lane, so that a cyclist does not have to cross a solid white line. Jim added that it is not clear whether SHA will adopt this improvement statewide, or what (if anything) this means for MBPAC's related concern over figures in the Guidelines that require bicyclists to cross solid white lines at the beginning and ending of marked bike lanes. Michael Jackson asked Dustin Kuzan if SHA had responded to these concerns. Dustin replied that he is unaware that a final decision has been made.

Jim noted that 1st Sergeant Michael Tagliaferri, of the Maryland State Police, provided him with contacts within the Prince George's County Police Department which has led to a meeting with county police regarding bicycle traffic matters. Jim also noted that he is still awaiting an earlier requested meeting with MTA officials regarding impacts of planned light rail lines on bicyclists sharing the same space within roadway rights-of-way. Michael Jackson said no MTA officials were available to attend the October MBPAC meeting. John Wetmore felt an educational component can be introduced explaining how bicyclists should ride around light rail tracks in the roadway.

Scott Hansen discussed submitting comments on the draft Maryland Transportation Plan. Greg introduced a resolution requesting that MDOT and SHA follow the guidance issued in August by the Federal Highway Administration urging transportation agencies to be flexible in considering engineering designs designed to benefit bicyclists and pedestrians, particularly those in publications by the National Association of City Transportation Officials and the Institute of Traffic Engineers, that do not conflict with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Greg moved and John Wetmore seconded a motion to approve this resolution. The vote was 14 for, none against and 2 abstentions. Michael Jackson summarized a survey Bike Maryland conducted regarding cycling and motoring habits of its members. It indicated the vast majority of the 131 survey respondents had driver's licenses, owned cars and had automobile insurance. Michael felt the significance of this survey is that bicyclists and motorists are often one and the same rather than separate subspecies of human beings.

Jon Morrison mentioned a meeting he had with MDOT and Maryland Department of Transportation Authority officials earlier in the year regarding opening the shoulders of the ICC to bicyclists. There was a question whether the Hatem Bridge is ever opened to bicyclists by special permits. Michael Tagliaferri said no such permits have been granted. Erin Penniston noted that MdTA has issued a permit for a charity 10K running event across the William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial (Chesapeake Bay) Bridge. Carl Rebele urged MBPAC to keep up efforts to open the Hatem Bridge to bicycle traffic. Greg announced that Michael Jackson, Andy Hamilton

of the East Coast Greenway (ECG) and himself would be meeting that afternoon to develop plans to install signage along the ECG alignment in Maryland.

B. Education and Awareness – E&A Subcommittee chair Beverly Malone submitted an electronic report. Erin discussed a program called, “Let’s Ride” which lays out elements of bikeable communities. She passed out copies of a graphic from Let’s Ride. Beverly announced that the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education (AORE) is hosting a “*bicycle programmers*” symposium at the University of Maryland’s College Park campus on November 7th. Apparently a bicycle “programmer” is another way of describing bicycle “coordinators”. She provided an update on bringing Capital Bikeshare to the College Park campus next spring. Beverly also mentioned several bicycle related activities the university is involved in including having 5 bicycle repair shops, hosting bicycling clinics and bike rides, looking into electric bike sharing and “branding” UMD’s bicycling efforts.

Carol Silldorff discussed upcoming Bike Maryland sponsored bicycle friendly workshops to be held in Hyattsville, Wheaton and at Hood College in Frederick. Michael Jackson reported that he participated in Montgomery College –Rockville’s annual Bike To College Day event on October 8th.

C. Legislative and Government Affairs – L&GA subcommittee chair Patrick Sheehan submitted an electronic report. John Wetmore mentioned that the end of the current transportation funding bill was less than one year away. Carol said Bike Maryland is working with Delegate Jon Cardin on introducing legislation for the 2014 legislative session that would increase the distance required to pass bicyclists from 3 to 4 feet and allow vehicles to cross the double yellow line when safe in order to pass bicyclists at the minimum distance legally required. She asked that MBPAC endorse the concept of this legislation as soon as possible in order to ensure once bill language is drafted, specific MBPAC endorsement can be done quickly to accommodate legislative timetables. Carol moved and John seconded a motion that MBPAC support these conceptual legislative proposals. There were 12 ayes, 1 nay and 3 abstentions so the motion carried.

Carol reported that she was concerned that Baltimore County was not supporting Complete Streets and asked that MBPAC urge the county to do so. However she was reminded that the purpose of MBPAC is to advise State agencies on matters affecting pedestrians and bicyclists and she withdrew her request. She said that Baltimore County received Bikeways grant funding for several projects. Carol thanked Erin for referring her to the University of Maryland’s School of Law Legal Resource Center for Public Policy. Law students and faculty as part of the school’s public service program are now conducting research into bicycling laws of other states for Bike Maryland. There was general discussion on the benefits of utilizing student interns to help promote bicycling. Beverly offered a caveat that students can be unreliable as well as helpful. Carol said that Bike Maryland needs additional volunteers to help carry out its mission ranging from interns to board members and asked the members to pass the word out.

D. Tourism and Product Development – T&PD Subcommittee chair Dick Cushwa distributed a written report. Carl passed out paper table mats from the Penn Alps Restaurant and Crafts Shop in Grantville, Maryland. The mats show a regional map ranging from Washington, DC to Pittsburgh, PA and Wheeling, WVA which Carl says illustrates the trail opportunities which abound. He also distributed Garrett County State Parks adventure guides from the Department of Natural Resources. Dick discussed the status of proposed US bicycle routes 11 and 50 and mentioned that the Adventure Cycling Association was organizing a meeting in Shepherdstown, WVA on October 22 to look at ways of promoting the Great Allegheny Passage/C&O Canal (GAPCO) corridor in the event Maryland's application to designate its section of GAPCO as US Bicycle Route 50 is approved by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) at their Fall meeting in October. Michael mentioned that DC had prepared a US Bike Route 50 nomination for their portion of the C&O Canal Trail that would be submitted for review at AASHTO's spring 2014 meeting.

3. Honoring Jim Swift

Acting Chair Dick Cushwa and Michael Jackson presented former MBPAC chair Jim Swift with a framed governor's citation from the people of Maryland thanking Jim for his leadership of and service to MBPAC. He received applause and thanks from the members.

4. The Law Enforcement Role in Bicycle Safety

Michael Jackson showed the completed Maryland law enforcement bicycle safety video and thanked MBPAC members Carol Silldorff, 1st Sgt. Michael Tagliaferri and Beverly Malone for their role in making this video possible. The video was applauded by the members. Carol asked about arrangements to post the video on-line. Michael Tagliaferri had reservations about doing so as this was official training material and such is generally not posted publically. He said he would check with Maryland State Police legal counsel. Michael Jackson gave out copies of the video but asked that they not be posted on-line at this time.

Michael Tagliaferri noted that the video has been approved for one credit hour of in-service training by the Maryland Police Training Commission. A lesson plan and learning objectives will be posted electronically and the Maryland Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs' Association will be notified of this training video.

5. Public Comment

Steve Whetstone was introduced by Jim Swift as a candidate for MBPAC membership from Southern Maryland to fill the vacancy created by Jim's retirement. Andy Hamilton of the ECG introduced himself.

6. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 AM.

