

**Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
December Meeting Minutes
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland**

Members Present

Steven H. Allan
Vincent Browne, Jr.
Richard Cushwa
Judy Grillo
Janet Harrison
Greg Hinchliffe
Michael Mason
Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
Marci Ross (represented by Jennifer Jones)
Fred Shaffer
Patrick Sheehan
Beverley Swaim-Staley (represented by Harold Bartlett)
Jim Swift
James G. Titus
Ann Walsh
Cari Watrous
John Wetmore
Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Jeff Springer
Neal Welch
Elbert “Tee” Whiting

Visitors Present

- Larry Cole, Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission
- Peter Moe, State Highway Administration/Maryland Highway Safety Office
- Carol Silldorff, One Less Car

Chairman Jim Swift opened the meeting at 9:30 AM with an announcement that MBPAC member Susan Mele submitted her resignation, effective December 10th citing family conflicts. She recommended a replacement candidate to fill the vacancy which Michael Jackson said he would contact.

1. Approval of October Meeting Minutes – Greg Hinchliffe moved and Jim Titus seconded a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Education and Awareness Subcommittee – E&A Subcommittee Chair Vincent Browne described progress made to date with the subcommittee's review of MBPAC's website noting Judy Grillo's in-depth comments. Vince said the review is continuing and he invited other Members to submit recommendations to him.

Vince along with Sgt. Janet Harrison of the Maryland State Police said the MSP is looking for opportunities to provide on-line training materials regarding bicycle traffic law for law enforcement officers. Peter Moe of the Maryland Highway Safety Office noted that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has such materials. Michael Jackson stated he ordered a copy of their training video to review. Sgt Harrison noted she was able to get in contact with Sgt. Chris Davala of the MSP and they agreed to set up a meeting on this matter in the near future. Sgt. Davala is a noted expert on bicycle traffic issues. Greg Hinchliffe suggested the possibility of producing a hip pocket summary of bicycle related law for officers.

Michael Mason said a meeting is planned next week to discuss the status of the Maryland School Administrators study with Toole Design Group consultants, Michael Jackson and himself.

B. Legislative and Government Affairs Subcommittee – L&GA Subcommittee Chair Patrick began by giving a brief update on Quiet Car issues. He mentioned that one car manufacturer proposed creating a noise maker that a driver could turn on and off but thought this strategy would not be acceptable. Patrick noted the subcommittee intends to schedule a meeting during the following week to review and provide recommendations to the full Committee on proposed 2010 bicycle and pedestrian related legislative items per the request of One Less Car. Jim Titus and Greg Hinchliffe asked to be included in the L&GA Subcommittee meeting.

Patrick noted that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is facing a \$175 million budget shortfall and that fixed bus route system changes are anticipated as a consequence. John Wetmore asked if MDOT can voice its opinions to the federal government. Michael Jackson replied that there are MDOT staff who can convey departmental concerns to Maryland's congressional delegation.

C. Tourism and Product Development Subcommittee – Office of Tourism Development employee Jennifer Jones summarized the written report that absent T&PD Subcommittee Chair Marci Ross sent out earlier to the Members. Carl Rebele distributed copies of the latest State Highway Administration map. Dick Cushwa reported attending a recent Trail Towns meeting in Williamsport, Washington County. He passed out examples of the promotional brochures aimed at Great Allegheny Passage trail users in Pennsylvania. Dick said electronic visitor information kiosks have already been installed along the GAP in Cumberland and Frostburg. Greg noted progress in constructing a trail link between Robert E. Lee Park in Baltimore County and the Falls Road MTA Light Rail Station. Greg would

like to have Sylvia Ramsey, Community Enhancement Programs Manager at MDOT give a presentation on the Trails Strategic Implementation Plan at a future MBPAC meeting. Jennifer Jones and Carl Rebele noted that Hancock and Cumberland had provided bike parking facilities as part of making their communities more bike friendly. Jim Titus received confirmation that the WB&A trail bridge connection construction project over the Patuxent River is delayed indefinitely because Anne Arundel County lacks its share of funding for this project. Fred Shaffer responded to Jim Titus's concern over the lack of signing to Maryland destinations for eastbound Woodrow Wilson Bridge bicycle path traffic by stating that the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is working on this matter. Michael Jackson said he had provided M-NCPPC staff signing recommendations and that he has expressed desire to Marci Ross to learn more about the trail signage initiative that she reported on in the T&PD Subcommittee report.

D. Commuting and Transportation Subcommittee – Absent C&T Subcommittee Chair Jeff Springer prepared a written report that was distributed to the members electronically prior to the meeting. C&T member Greg Hinchliffe chaired the discussion in Jeff's absence. Greg moved and Fred seconded a motion for MBPAC to recommend that MDOT Secretary Beverley Swaim-Staley send a letter of congratulations to Washington Area Bicyclist Association Executive Director Eric Gilliland on his ten-year anniversary with WABA. Jim Titus offered to draft a letter for the Secretary's consideration.

Fred discussed M-NCPPC's difficulties with preservation of trail easements in Prince George's County, particularly along the Potomac Heritage trail and said this was the largest issue faced during the creation of the county's Master Plan of Transportation. Dick said the City of Hagerstown has completed a draft bicycle plan and a public hearing will be held on January 7, 2010. New bike lanes have been installed on South Prospect Street, Jonathan Street and new bicycle racks will be installed at appropriate locations downtown. Michael Jackson introduced Deputy MDOT Secretary Harold Bartlett to the attendees.

3. Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's ARRA Grant Applications

Ann Walsh, the DHMH representative to MBPAC, informed the Committee on her agency's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant applications to encourage bicycling and walking due to the physical fitness benefits. One of the grant applications is very competitive and the other grant is almost assured of being funded. Funding would be used in part to conduct follow up sessions to MDOT's Maryland School Administrators Study of biking and walking policies by local school districts and to create a student's guide to bicycling and walking to school. Anne thanked Michael Mason and Michael Jackson for getting letters of support from the state departments of Education and Transportation in support of these ARRA grant applications. She will be working with Steven Allan's section in the Maryland Department of Planning in the event the grant applications are funded.

4. MBPAC Plans for 2010 Annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Legislative Symposium

Michael Jackson asked MBPAC members to consider if they wanted to participate in the 2010 Annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Legislative Symposium in Annapolis on February 3rd and if so, how. Carol Silldorff, Executive Director of One Less Car, stated that OLC was not looking to showcase past accomplishments but rather future plans to make Maryland more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. She was particularly interested in plans that would include bicycling and walking as part of a Smart Commute program. She noted that many counties with ridesharing programs lack the guaranteed ride home component that pays for a ride home for registered ridesharing participants whose usual travel mode home is unavailable (e.g. bike got flat tire, weather turned bad, can't use carpool because need to leave early or stay late).

5. Miscellaneous Business

Michael Jackson announced that the annual James Mackay lecture series, usually held in DC would be hosted at MDOT on Friday, January 8th at 6 PM. Michael explained that Mr. Mackay is a noted bicycle expert, professional engineer, and experienced presenter. For 2010 his topic will be on pedestrian and bicycle design innovations in five European countries. Greg moved and John Wetmore seconded a motion that MBPAC be listed as an official sponsor of this lecture. The motion was unanimously approved.

Michael Jackson also mentioned that he had organized a Transportation Research Board panel presentation on Use of Social Marketing to Promote Bicycling that was taking place on Sunday, January 10th in Washington, DC and passed out materials with details. Greg noted that the National Bicycle Summit would again take place in DC in March and the bi-annual ProWalk/ProBike conference would take place in September in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He also gave details of a Baltimore City Council meeting he attended the previous evening. Agenda items included a bicyclist bill of rights, required parking for bicyclists, bike safe storm grates and adoption of Complete Streets principles. Greg also mentioned that Baltimore City is creating a regional bike map that would cover a distance from Towson down to BWI-Marshall Airport. Fred mentioned the need to complete trail missing links along the W&BA Trail and the Prince George's Connector Trail and described difficulties in accommodating a variety of user groups in the redevelopment of the Belcrest Center in Hyattsville, including providing improved pedestrian and bicycle access.

Michael mentioned that the Montreal Parking Authority gave a presentation the Baltimore Downtown Business Partnership on their innovative Bixi bicycle sharing program. Nate Evans, the Baltimore City bicycle and pedestrian planner attended along with Al Foxx, the city's transportation chief. Judy Grillo said Talbot County needs \$5,000 to create trail signs per their local trails plan and is seeking suggestions on finding these funds. One strategy is to raise funds as part of the Tour Talbot event schedule for next spring.

6. Public Comment

Carol Silldorff made a variety of comments including needing MBPAC's support for several legislative bills including the three foot width for passing bicycles proposal, setting aside one percent of the State's Transportation Trust Fund for bicycle and pedestrian projects and for adoption of Complete Streets principles in Maryland. She also mentioned that the Tour du Port was deemed a success, having attracted 800 participants, double the number from last year. However there were six crashes and future events needs volunteers to repair broken down bikes and perform related tour support tasks. OLC is involved with the development of the Baltimore City bike map but needs additional funding as a principal private sponsor dropped out. The term "Cyclovia" had been dropped in Baltimore in favor of "B-more Streets for People" which would close selected public streets to car traffic on weekends so pedestrians and bicyclists can enjoy said streets with contact with motor vehicles. The Terry Bicycle Company, founded by Georgina Terry, which builds bikes for women, has been sold to a woman who creates the Vermont Teddy Bears.

7. Adjournment

Jim Swift adjourned the meeting at 11:59 PM.