

**Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
December Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 14, 2012
Maryland Department of Transportation
Hanover, Maryland**

Members Present

Steve Carr
Richard Cushwa
Robert Gaston
Scott Hansen
Greg Hinchliffe
Beverly Malone
Michael Mason
(*Michael Jackson for*) Darrell Mobley
Erin S. Penniston
Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
(*Jennifer M. Jones for*) Marci Ross
Fred B. Shaffer III
Carol Silldorff
Jim Swift
James G. Titus
Cari Watrous
John Z. Wetmore

Michael Jackson (staff)

Visitors Present

Jon Korin
Kate Sylvester, Maryland Department of Transportation

Chairperson Jim Swift called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM

1. Approval of the October Meeting Minutes

Carl Rebele moved and Dick Cushwa seconded his motion to approve the October meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Commuting & Transportation – Former C&T Subcommittee Chair Jeff Springer submitted his resignation from MBPAC in November because he accepted a two year job

assignment in Japan. There was no written report submitted. Greg Hinchliffe was named C&T Subcommittee chair effective December 14th. Michael Jackson and Kevin Racine discussed an incident where two bicyclists traveling from New York to the southern US were given warning tickets by Maryland Transportation Authority Police for cycling across the Hatem Bridge, where bicycling is prohibited because it is a toll bridge. Michael reported a follow up discussion with an MdTA police officer who stated that approximately 12 to 20 bicyclists annually cross the Hatem Bridge illegally and that he did not feel that bicycling on the Hatem Bridge posed a significant safety issue.

Jim Titus moved and Greg seconded a resolution commending MDOT for agreeing to use Maryland Bikeways program dollars to fund an analysis of the alignment choices for a planned extension of the WB&A Trail across the Patuxent River between Anne Arundel and Prince George's County. The motion was unanimously approved. Michael Jackson mentioned that draft county bicycle and pedestrian master plans have been drafted and available for public comment in Allegany and Harford counties.

Interim C&T Chair Jim Swift said the subcommittee had prepared comments to the draft State Highway Administration's Bicycle Policy and Design Guidelines as requested by SHA. Jim Titus moved that the comments be approved. This motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 8 in favor, 3 opposed, and 5 abstentions. A subsequent vote that a cover letter be prepared to accompany the comments was approved by a vote of 13 in favor, none opposed, and 3 abstentions.

B. Education and Awareness - E&A Subcommittee chair Beverly Malone submitted a written report that stated the subcommittee is updating and finalizing the E&A Subcommittee work plan. She then provided an update on bicycling activities at the University of Maryland at College Park including plans to develop a GIS system for bicycle racks in order to ensure sufficient provision of bike parking facilities, getting quotes for the installation of shared lane pavement markings (sharrows) along campus roadways, and bicycle helmet giveaways.

Beverly announced that two non-credit bicycle safety classes had been approved by the school administration and a bike lease program for students was being developed. The lease program included bike lights, with a slogan "Bikes Be Bright" and air pumps. Their various bicycling initiatives are branded as "Bike UMD". This is part of an effort for the College Park campus to become a smart and sustainable. Michael Jackson asked Beverly if she would be willing to again present a power point presentation on the various bicycling initiatives, this time to staff from various Baltimore area universities who are interested in creating bicycle friendly campuses. Beverly agreed to do so.

C. Legislative & Government Affairs – No written report submitted. John Wetmore noted that a Texas court decision affirmed that sidewalks are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This was prompted by the placement of telephone posts within sidewalk right of ways that hindered sidewalk usage by pedestrians with disabilities. He asked if MDOT had control of the positioning of public utilities within sidewalks. Kevin noted that there are similar instances of utilities restricting pedestrian

sidewalk usage in Maryland. A request was made to extend an invitation to SHA to have someone address this issue at a future MBPAC meeting.

Carol Silldorff said she attended a meeting on December 12th with state legislators and MDOT state legislative officer Martin Harris to discuss pending legislative items including changes to the current 3 foot passing law. Cari Watrous stated for the record that the Department on Disabilities supports the wearing of bicycle helmets. Jim Swift told of a bicycle rider who was ticketed by a law enforcement officer in Southern Maryland for riding two abreast on the roadway after receiving complaints that bicyclists were riding two abreast and blocking motor vehicles from passing them. The ticketed bike rider stated at the time she received the ticket no motor vehicles were behind her. She went to court and the judge dismissed the ticket. However Jim Swift says the issue left unaddressed is whether bicyclists may ride two abreast in locations where a single bicyclist may ride in the middle of the lane, thus effectively blocking approaching motorists from passing in that lane. Carol requested assistance in identifying speakers for the annual Bicycle Legislative Symposium in Annapolis.

D. Tourism and Product Development – T&PD subcommittee chair Dick Cushwa submitted a written report with contributions from himself and fellow T&PD members Carl Rebele, Bob Gaston, and Steve Carr. Dick provided updates on proposed US Bicycle Route 11 planning, and news that the City of Hagerstown received an Honorable Mention from the League of American Bicyclists as a result of submitting an application to their Bicycle Friendly Communities program and that Hagerstown is investigating alternatives to a planned 0.7 mile shared use path, south of the central business district. He also reported that repairs to the Big Slackwater portion of the C&O Canal trail are completed and he attended a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 13th. This makes the entire towpath open to hikers and cyclists.

Carl Rebele provided a history of the development of the Great Allegheny Passage trail from a personal perspective. He also distributed a Cumberland Times-News article about the draft Allegheny County trail plan. Bob provided updates on his involvement in trail development and maintenance and community planning activities in Cecil County. Steve Carr provided 38 updates on various activities of the Department of Natural Resources related to bicycling and walking.

3. MDOT 20-Year Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update

Kate Sylvester, a community planner with MDOT, gave a presentation on the status of MDOT's plan to review and update MDOT's 20-Year Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Master Plan, required by law whenever the Maryland Transportation Plan is updated. She distributed a handout which summarized her presentation.

4. Other Business

Jim Titus announced that he would recuse himself from participating in discussions or voting on legislative matters before MBPAC while the General Assembly is in session to avoid conflicts of interest as a director with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. He said that as a member of the Maryland Bar Association he has an ethical duty to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. Kevin noted professional relationships he has developed with Maryland elected officials as a result of his activities outside of MBPAC. Carol requested members send her timely tips on bicycling matters suitable for publication in the Bike Maryland newsletter.

5. Public Comment

Mr. Jon Korin, with Leadership Annapolis, discussed a proposal by fellow Leadership Annapolis team members to establish a bicycle advocacy group for Anne Arundel County as their team project proposal. Members requested that Mr. Kroin's contact information be sent to them.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 PM