

**Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
December Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 9, 2011
Maryland Department of Transportation
Hanover, Maryland**

Members Present

Scott Hansen
Greg Hinchliffe
Beverly Malone
Michael Mason
Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
Jennifer Jones for Marci Ross
Fred Shaffer
Patrick Sheehan
Jeff Springer
Michael Jackson for Beverley Swaim-Staley
Jim Swift
Sgt. Michael Tagliaferri
James G. Titus
Cari Watrous
John Z. Wetmore

Members Absent

Steve Carr
Richard Cushwa
Erin Penniston

Visitors Present

Dustin Kuzan, Maryland State Highway Administration
Michael Middleton, Cherry Hill Community Coalition
Michael Sonnefeld, Bike Maryland

MBPAC Chair Jim Swift called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. He informed the Committee that Vincent Browne had submitted his resignation from MBPAC, effective December 9th due to continuing scheduling conflicts. Jim will serve as interim Chair of the Education & Awareness Subcommittee until a permanent subcommittee chair is named. Jim also welcomed new MBPAC member E. Scott Hansen, who is representing the Maryland Department of Planning.

1. Approval of the 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. Commuting and Transportation – C&T Subcommittee Chair Jeff Springer distributed their December subcommittee report. The report discussed Kevin Racine’s activities in promoting public transportation issues in Washington, DC, metropolitan Baltimore and northeastern Maryland, Greg Hinchliffe’s development of a guide to bicycle friendly office buildings and Jim Titus’s work on getting a bridge built across the Patuxent River for the W&BA Trail. It was noted in the C&T report that Kevin had been appointed to the Harford County Transportation Management Area committee charged with exploring redevelopment options along the US Route 40 corridor.

Jim Titus introduced a motion for the Committee to send a letter to MDOT Secretary Beverley Swaim-Staley requesting that MDOT conduct a comparative analysis of two different alignments favored by Prince George’s and Anne Arundel counties respectively for extending the W&BA Trail across the Patuxent River., as well as possible compromise options. Jim said that such a study would move the project forward by helping to create a consensus about the best way to proceed. Fred Shaffer pointed out the Prince George’s County has long believed that the best alignment would be along the former railroad corridor. Michael Jackson noted that Anne Arundel County has previously supported citizen opposition to routing the W&BA Trail along the former railway alignment on the east side of the Patuxent River and a comparative analysis study favoring the former railway alignment would be unlikely to sway opponents. Michael suggested that Jim, wearing his non-MBPAC hat, work on mobilizing citizen political support as a more effective way of persuading Anne Arundel County to support extending the trail along the railroad alignment. Greg countered that the study combined with the passing of a key opponent and a different AA county executive could result in the county reversing its previous position. He also emphasized that MBPAC’s job is to provide MDOT with advice, not to develop lobbying strategies. Jeff Springer emphasized that this analysis would be similar to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) so that the ultimate alignment can be based on facts. John Wetmore also spoke in favor of the resolution. The Committee voted to approve the motion with Michael Mason abstaining. Michael Jackson did not vote on behalf of MDOT.

Greg Hinchliffe summarized comments received on his draft bicycle friendly office checklist. Most of comments were against inclusion of rating the quality of bicycle access to the building on the grounds that building managers did not have the authority to affect bicycle access on roadways leading to the building site. Michael Jackson suggested the inclusion of bicycle access questions be considered extra credit items. Greg said he would divide the checklist questions into two sections, one section being items building managers could impact and the other section being items beyond the control of building managers.

B. Education and Awareness – Interim E&A Subcommittee Chair Jim Swift summarized the subcommittee’s current workplan and noted that Michael Jackson had recommended that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene could collaborate with MBPAC regarding implementation of several health issues out of a list of 39 critical health issues identified by DHMH.

C. Legislative and Government Affairs – L&GA Subcommittee Chair Patrick Sheehan distributed a list of Bike Maryland 2012 Legislative Priorities, dated 11/14/11 and inquired when the L&GA subcommittee should meet to take positions on this list. Michael Jackson said that Carol Silldorff, Bike Maryland’s Executive Director, was trying to set up a public meeting to discuss legislative proposals and he would ask Carol to invite interested L&GA subcommittee members to this meeting. Afterwards L&GA could hold a separate meeting to discuss its’ position on whatever legislative proposals that emerge out of the Bike Maryland legislative discussion. Michael Sonnefeld noted that Carol had been meeting with Maryland General

Assembly delegates about possible 2012 legislative initiatives. Patrick also provide a status update on the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) and a national pedestrian safety and access disability conference in which Maryland State Highway Administration staff have been invited to participate in a panel discussion on their work in promoting accessible pedestrian access along State highways.

D. Tourism and Product Development – T&PD Subcommittee Chair Dick Cushwa previously submitted their T&PD report which was distributed electronically. Dick was out of town and his designee for delivering the report, Steve Carr was also absent due to undergoing emergency shoulder surgery. Copies of Steve Carr’s portion of the T&PD subcommittee report were distributed. John Wetmore brought up opposition by the Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) to a proposal to build a trail along one of its power line right-of-way corridors, citing liability and security concerns. Michael Jackson said this issue is one of national interest and recommended that he bring this up during next month’s Bicycle Committee meeting at the Transportation Research Board as a research topic proposal. Jeff Springer thought that was a great idea. Jennifer Jones, from the Maryland Office of Tourism Development, discussed a planned Cycle Maryland meeting scheduled for the upcoming week.

3. R4-11/Bicycles May Use Full Lane Signs Status Update

Michael Jackson reported that SHA finalized their guidelines for use of the R4-11/Bicycles May Use Full Lane signs and had begun compiling a list of roadways for consideration for sign installation. Their initial list consists of arterials leading out of the District of Columbia and Taneytown in Carroll County. SHA is open to receiving other recommendations and anticipates installing the first signs next spring.

4. Law Enforcement Bicycle Training Video Update

Michael Jackson said revisions on the Law Enforcement Bicycle Training video would resume following authorization of additional funding, an issue that he is currently working on. He said he wished to schedule a meeting with traffic safety experts and bicycle advocates regarding the importance of enforcement as it relates to changing unsafe behaviors associated with traffic crashes prior to resumption of the video revisions. Jim Titus said that the Washington Area Bicyclist Association does not have a problem with police officers ticketing bicyclists for riding on the wrong side of the road, riding at night without lights, failing to yield, or failing to stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk, but that enforcement should be even-handed. He recommended that officers target the most serious violations that cause crashes and injuries. Beverley Malone and Greg Hinchliffe also supported citing bicyclists who violate traffic law.

5. Maryland Bikeshare Program Announcement

On November 4th Governor Martin O’Malley announced that Maryland would be funding eighty percent of the costs of the acquisition of materials needed to start bike station programs in Maryland or eighty percent of the costs to conduct feasibility studies for bike station programs according to Michael Jackson. He passed out Maryland Bikeshare Program brochures and said it is his understanding that Maryland is the first state to fund bikeshare programs at a statewide level. He said the deadline for applications is December 15, 2011.

6. Promoting Bicycling and Walking in Cherry Hill

Michael Middleton, Chairman of the Cherry Hill Community Coalition, gave a presentation describing the Baltimore City neighborhood of Cherry Hill and his vision of encouraging bicycling and walking, particularly bicycling, to address a number of obstacles. Mr. Middleton said the population of Cherry Hill was predominately African-American and low income with forty percent of the housing being public housing. Cherry Hill is located along the southern central city boundary with Baltimore County and is bounded by highways, railroads and the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. It is a food desert, meaning one cannot purchase fresh fruits and vegetables within the community's boundaries. He noted that there were several public schools within Cherry Hill and that he first learned of the Safe Routes to Schools program because Lt Governor Anthony Brown mentioned it in a television show. Mr. Middleton has a vision of bringing Safe Routes to Schools to Cherry Hill and teaching/encouraging adults to bicycle as well. He asked for assistance in developing programs where residents could acquire subsidized bicycles in exchange for money or volunteer service. At the end of his presentation the audience gave a round of applause.

Afterwards individual members offered advice and assistance including Cari Watrous's offer of assistance in grant writing. Michael Jackson was asked to electronically send Mr. Middleton's contact information to the members.

7. Other Business – Greg asked Michael to provide him with the Rail with Trail resolution MBPAC earlier passed. Greg thought this resolution was passed at the December 2009 meeting.

8. Adjournment – Jim Swift adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.