

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
February Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 8, 2013
Maryland Department of Transportation
Hanover, Maryland

Members Present

Steve Carr
Richard Cushwa
Robert Gaston
Scott Hansen
Greg Hinchliffe
Beverly J. Malone
Michael Mason
(*Michael Jackson for*) Darrell B. Mobley
(*Dr. Maria Prince for*) Erin Penniston
Fred Shaffer III
Patrick Sheehan
Carol Silldorff
Jim Swift
Sgt. Michael Tagliaferri
The Honorable Jennifer R. Terrasa
John Z. Wetmore
Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
Marci Ross
James G. Titus
Cari Watrous

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

1. Approval of the December Meeting Minutes

Dick Cushwa moved and Fred Shaffer seconded his motion that the December meeting minutes be approved. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Legislative & Government Affairs – Subcommittee Chair Patrick Sheehan submitted a list of several bills affecting pedestrians and bicyclists and led a discussion of such. The members voted to support House Bill 160 which would allow riding on sidewalks unless prohibited and HB 445 which would remove the exception of lack of sufficient highway width to the legal requirement that drivers of vehicles pass bicyclists, motor scooters and EPAMDs (electric personal assistive medical devices) by a clearance of 3 feet. The members voted to oppose HB 339 which would require all bicyclists to wear protective headgear. The members briefly discussed but did not take a vote on HB 759 which prohibits a motor vehicle operator from engaging in specified preoccupying activities considered to constitute distracted driving and results in the unsafe operation of

the motor vehicle. Carol Silldorff requested a letter be written summarizing the MBPAC position on the issues voted upon. Michael Jackson agreed to do so.

B. Commuting and Transportation – Subcommittee Chair Greg Hinchliffe submitted a written report. There was discussion of several bicycle and pedestrian transportation plans being drafted at the county level as well as updates of the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and the Maryland Transportation Plan at the State level. Scott Hansen said he participated in these two State plan updates and provided input to the “community vitality component/goal of the 2035 Maryland Transportation Plan. Greg noted that he continues to develop criteria for bicycle friendly State government buildings and reviewing how Complete Streets policies are addressed in Maryland. Michael Jackson gave an update on the progress of bringing bikesharing to Maryland.

C. Education and Awareness – Subcommittee Chair Beverly Malone did not submit a written report. She provided an update on activities occurring at the University of Maryland at College Park to promote bicycling, noting that UMD is now offering non-credit bicycle education classes. Beverly also noted on-going efforts to install shared use lane markings (aka “sharrows”) on selected roadways within the campus. Bob Gaston discussed the need for mountain bicycle education classes. Michael Jackson provided an update on college/university level bicycle education courses and bicycle friendly campus initiatives at both the State and national levels.

D. Tourism and Product Development – Subcommittee Chair Dick Cushwa submitted a written report and elaborated on the topics that he reported on in the subcommittee report, including a rockslide along the C&O Canal towpath near the eastern entrance to the Paw Paw Tunnel that has resulted in the closure of that portion of the path. Steve Carr reported that the Department of Natural Resources is updating Maryland’s Land Preservation & Recreation Plan (LPRP). Addressing an omission in the current plan, DNR Secretary John R. Griffin has created a DNR Trails Committee to ensure the inclusion of a trails section in the next version of the Maryland LPRP.

Steve stated that the DNR trails committee will be focused only on trails within DNR owned lands but will coordinate with other agencies to ensure that this trail section has the benefit of their input. Carol noted that Bike Maryland had received complaints from bicyclists about not being able to access a State website soliciting input on the development of a new plan but wasn’t sure if it was the DNR or MDOT plan website. She later determined that it was the MDOT website and while she was able to gain access on her computer it was slow. Others opined that because it took awhile to open, some bicyclists may have assumed the website link was broken. Michael said he would bring this matter up with appropriate MDOT staff. Greg mentioned the upcoming Tour Dem Parks bicycle ride in Baltimore City will take place in June. There was discussion about the planned East Coast Greenway meeting scheduled for April in Baltimore. Michael mentioned that a meeting with Andy Hamilton of the East Coast Greenway, SHA and MDOT staff has been scheduled for February 25th to follow up on the ECG request that the greenway route alignment in Maryland be signed.

3. Other Business

Steve stated that the Excelon Generation Company, operator of the Conowingo Dam, is seeking renewal of operating license. The dam and powerhouse carries US Route 1 across the Susquehanna River, which provides the only legal access across the river for pedestrians and bicyclists but conditions for non-motorized travel across the top of the dam are undesirable. Steve felt it would be reasonable to propose that Excelon be required to improve pedestrian and bicycle access across the Susquehanna River as a condition of license renewal.

John Wetmore moved and Greg seconded his motion to recommend that DNR and MDOT send letters to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission supporting the provision of improved pedestrian and bicycle access across the Susquehanna River by Excelon as a condition of license renewal. The members voted in favor of the motion. Michael will follow up with Steve regarding this matter.

Steve distributed copies of the DNR 2013 calendar and the Winter 2013 issue of the Maryland natural resource magazine. Carol distributed announcements of the 16th Annual Maryland State Bicycle Symposium, sponsored by Bike Maryland and scheduled for February 27th in Annapolis.

4. Adjournment

Jim Swift adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM.