

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
April Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 10, 2009
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland

Members Present

Steven Allan
Richard Cushwa
Judith Grillo
Janet Harrison
Greg Hinchliffe
Michael Mason
Carl Rebele
Ann Kyle (for Marci Ross)
Patrick Sheehan
Jim Swift
James G. Titus
Cari Watrous
Neal Welch
John Z. Wetmore
Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Vincent Browne
Susan Mele
Kevin Racine
Jeff Springer
Beverley Swaim-Staley
Ann Walsh

Visitors Present

Barry Childress
Larry Cole, Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission- Montgomery County
Fred Shaffer, MNCPPC-Prince George's County

Chairman Jim Swift began the meeting at 9:30 AM with a round of introductions. He also announced the resignation of MBPAC Member Bill Burd.

1. Approval of February Meeting Minutes

Cari Watrous moved and Jim Titus seconded a motion to approve the February meeting minutes.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Tourism and Product Development – Anne Kyle of the Maryland Office of Tourism Development reported on behalf of Subcommittee chair Marci Ross as follows;

- A description of Southern Maryland Family-Friendly Trails appears on page 142 in the current issue of Destination Maryland magazine.
- The Office of Tourism Development intends to work with the East Coast Greenway in development of a map guide of the DC and Maryland portions of the ECG.
- OTD staff will be soon meeting with Rails to Trails Conservancy regarding development of their proposed Grand History Trail on-road bike tour covering DC, Annapolis, Frederick, Baltimore and Gettysburg, PA.
- Don Briggs of the National Park Service wants to get the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail alignment shown on the next edition of the Maryland bicycle map produced by the State Highway Administration
- Copies of the new Talbot County bicycle map were distributed along with a press release. Bike rides are scheduled and public officials will be invited to participate.

Greg Hinchliffe said the East Coast Greenway wrote a letter to Anne Arundel County Executive John Leopold urging the County to allocate \$1.5 million for their share of building the WB&A Trail bridge over the Patuxent River. Dick Cushwa described progress with the Trail Towns initiative. Trails Town organizational staff is conducting assessments of communities along the C&O Canal Trail such as has been done along the Great Allegheny Passage to determine whether changes are needed to improve their friendliness to trail users. Brunswick, Hancock and Williamsport in Frederick and Washington counties are being assessed.

B. Legislative and Government Affairs – L&GA Subcommittee Chair Patrick Sheehan, noting that legislation had been introduced to extend the Quiet Car Task Force that he serves on, expressed hope that it will pass. Patrick said he would ensure that MBPAC’s perspective would be represented on the Quiet Car Task Force should it be extended.

Patrick said the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) is in the process of installing Next Bus technology on 10,000 bus stops in its service area. Fifty bus stops will receive the first installations beginning in July. These will be major bus stops like Pentagon and Silver Spring. He also said WMATA is planning \$15 million in service cuts. Patrick also wondered about possible Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) service cuts. Cari Watrous had nothing to add about possible service cuts. She said MTA is focusing on providing Mobility Training for its customers who are disabled. The purpose of Mobility Training is to see if the persons who are disabled can learn to use standard transit services instead of paratransit services, which are much more expensive for a transit agency to provide. Therefore transit providers can accrue large cost savings in service provisions for patrons who are disabled if they can be switched from paratransit service to standard transit service. Patrick added that WMATA’s Travel

Training program is their version of Mobility Training. Finally, Patrick reported that SHA's Accessible Pedestrian Signal installations are on schedule and that he would provide an update in June.

Greg reported that legislative bills that would have required motorists to provide at least three feet of space when passing bicyclists and eliminate mandatory shoulder use rules were not passed in the General Assembly.

C. Education and Awareness – Michael Mason stated that the School Administrators Study had been given a notice to proceed by MDOT as of April 1st and that he would work with the consultants to coordinate the survey efforts with Superintendent Nancy Grasmick.

D. Commuting and Transportation – Greg Hinchliffe said that subcommittee chair Jeff Springer was unable to attend due to being out of town on business. Greg noted that the C&T subcommittee had been requested to modify its intended recommendation on rumble strips to SHA and that this recommendation was still a work in progress. Jeff and Kevin Racine were working on getting either Harford or Cecil County to provide transit service across the Hatem Bridge. Greg mentioned the publication of a Federal Highway Administration report titled, *An Evaluation of Pedestrian Safety Near Transit Stations*, last February. He noted that the Baltimore Regional Transit Board is working on a Maryland Bike Commuter's Guide and were soliciting suitable photographs of bike commuters.

Greg mentioned that the Baltimore Bike Summit scheduled for May 1st and displayed a new Baltimore City bicycle logo. He also reported that sections 2 and 4 of the Jones Falls Trail in Baltimore will be built with stimulus funds. Jim Titus mentioned past issues that MBPAC initially addressed that should be monitored including shoulder striping, the ICC Bikeway, the Georgetown Boat House issue along the Capital Crescent Trail and the Henson Creek Trail project. Barry Childress offered comments on various topics including bike access on the Hatem Bridge. Fred Shaffer reported that MNCPPC's Hydraulics and Hydrology Study for the Henson Creek Trail extension project had been completed.

3. Eastern Shore Advocacy Update

Judy Grillo provided an update on advocacy developments in Queen Anne's and Talbot counties. She said a Queen Anne's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Group had been formed last year and is working with QAC government to develop a bicycle and pedestrian plan. Issues include connecting existing trails on Kent Island and improving bike and pedestrian access across US 50 for children.

Judy is serving as the director of Bike/Walk/Talbot, a new advocacy group in Talbot County. It is composed of a core group of five people. Currently there are no bicycle lanes along county or Town of Easton roadways. Bike/Walk/Talbot recently drafted a bike/ped plan for the Town of Easton which has thrilled the town planners. The next step

is presentation to the Easton Planning and Zoning Commission. Increased bicycle tourism and trail expansion opportunities are logical goals that a bike/ped plan can help achieve.

Judy also launched a local recreational bike club to help residents overcome their fears of bicycling. She is also looking at encouraging bicycling and walking to schools. Judy noted that Mary Davidson, SHA's Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, is identifying local trail gaps. Finally Judy would like to hold a joint meeting between Bike/Walk/Talbot and the QAC Bike/Ped Advisory Committee as well as a joint county May Bike Month event.

4. New Organizational Member of MBPAC

Michael Jackson said he had been informed by MDOT staff that HB 1144 will be passed in an amended version resulting in the addition of the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission as the 22nd member of MBPAC effective October 1st. He extended a welcome to Larry Cole and Fred Shaffer, the two MNCPPC staff members present. While it is not known who would be designated as the official agency representative Larry and Fred said they would work together in ensuring a MNCPPC presence representing both Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Bicycle/pedestrian inclusion in Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activities in Bethesda and Henson Creek Trail culvert usage are among the issues MNCPPC wishes to bring to MBPAC.

5. Open Meetings Act

Michael Jackson stated that he had received notice from the State's Open Meetings Commission regarding a complaint filed alleging MBPAC was not operating in full compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act. Michael has responded to the alleged complaint and is awaiting resolution from the Open Meetings Commission.

6. Other Business

Greg and Cari agreed to work on recommendations for improvements to MBPAC's response time regarding matters with short deadlines, like legislative proposals. John Wetmore asked whether cutbacks in transportation programs are affecting bicyclists and pedestrians and also inquired about a list of stimulus projects for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Michael Jackson described the negative impact of a campus smoking ban at Montgomery College- Rockville on bicycle and pedestrian access. An inquiry was made regarding how Complete Streets principles were being carried out at SHA and whether their Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator was reviewing and signing off on design exceptions to these principles.

7. Adjournment

Greg moved and Cari seconded a motion for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11:54 AM.

