

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
April Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 13, 2012
Maryland Department of Transportation
Hanover, Maryland

Members Present

Dick Cushwa
Robert Gaston
Scott Hansen
Greg Hinchliffe
Michael Mason
Erin Penniston
Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
(Jennifer Jones for) Marci Ross
Fred Shaffer
Patrick Sheehan
Carl Silldorff
Jeff Springer
(Michael Jackson for) Beverley Swaim-Staley
Jim Swift
Jennifer Terrasa
James G. Titus
Cari Watrous
John Z. Wetmore
Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Steve Carr
Beverly J. Malone
Sgt. Michael Tagliaferri

Chairperson Jim Swift started the meeting at 9:30 AM.

1. Approval of the February meeting minutes

Greg Hinchliffe moved and Jim Titus seconded his motion to approve the February meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved once Greg was assured that the minutes included Resolution 2012-1, the revised Rails with Trails resolution.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Tourism and Product Development – T&PD Subcommittee Chair Dick Cushwa summarized the subcommittee written report previously distributed to the members. Dick mentioned that Michael Jackson and he attended the March Canal Towns meeting in which they discussed the proposed US Bike Route 11 controversy between long distance bicycle advocates and the Appalachian Scenic Trail unit of the National Park Service regarding the desire to designate the Goodloe Byron Memorial Pedestrian Bridge as part

of this proposed US bike route. Dick announced that the 2012 Bike Virginia tour would include the eastern panhandle of West Virginia and will pass through Williamsport, MD and the Antietam Battlefield in late June. Carl Rebele discussed the Western Maryland Bicycle Summit that took place last October in Cumberland.

B. Commuting and Transportation – C&T Subcommittee Chair Jeff Springer gave a summation of their previously distributed subcommittee report. He described the public input meeting of the Harford County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and stated he serves on that county's Built Environment Subcommittee of the Harford County Obesity Task Force. Jeff acknowledged Kevin Racine's successful advocacy toward the newly established Harford County Transit service across the Hatem Bridge to Perryville six times a day. Greg Hinchliffe met with Andy Harris, Mid-Atlantic Coordinator of the East Coast Greenway and Michael Jackson to discuss ECG's request to sign Maryland's portion of the ECG. Greg is continuing work on the proposed State building bike parking guidelines.

Jim Titus discussed his concerns with differing guidelines between the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation and the State Highway Administration regarding the width of bike lanes on Virginia Manor Road. He also introduced a motion that MDOT increase the funding eligibility for bikeway projects from a distance of one half mile to two miles from a rail transit station if the bikeway provides a connection to that station. Scott Hansen seconded and the motion was approved with three abstentions.

Bob Gaston noted that Cecil County Transit is also providing bus service across the Hatem Bridge and that he is serving on the Cecil County Bicycle Plan committee. Bob also submitted a proposal to the Department of Natural Resources for a 1.4 mile natural surface trail re-routing of an existing trail within Elk Neck State Forest for their review. This proposal is intended to help close one of the gaps in a planned natural surface trail alignment connecting Elkton, North East and the Turkey Point Light House within Cecil County.

C. Education and Awareness Subcommittee – Interim E&A Subcommittee Chair Jim Swift summarized the E&A subcommittee written reported previously distributed. He provided a status update on the Maryland Law Enforcement Bicycle Traffic Safety Training Video project. Jim mentioned that St. Mary's County school superintendent, Dr. Michael Martirano had taken a leadership role in promoting bicycling among school district students. Jim noted Michael Jackson's efforts urging community colleges to support bicycling through holding bicycle education classes, encouraging bicycle commuting and making their campuses more bicycle friendly. Jennifer Terrasa announced that Howard County was planning a Bike To School Day event on May 17th.

D. Legislative and Government Affairs – L&GA Subcommittee Chair Patrick Sheehan submitted a report on the fate of bills of interest to MBPAC and discussion ensued on this matter. MBPAC asked for MDOT's position on all of the bills on L&GA's list. Michael Jackson mentioned that he had been asked to provide testimony on SB 977/HB 1278

which would require public institutions of higher education to include bicycle and pedestrian transportation planning in their facility master plans at the House Appropriations Committee and that Dr. Maria Prince from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene also provided supportive testimony.

Greg asked if Transportation Article §21-301 applied to vehicle drivers crossing double yellow center lines to pass bicyclists. John Wetmore provided an update on pending Congressional transportation spending bills regarding their impact on non-motorized transportation funding. He said the two year Senate proposal was okay but the five year House proposal was awful. John noted that there was a three month extension of the current funding law.

3. Other Business

Greg moved and Carl seconded a motion that MDOT provide a family-friendly trail spur between the BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Terminal and the BWI Trail. The motion carried with three absentions. Michael Jackson noted such improvements are contemplated in the BWI Trail Improvements Conceptual Plan currently being finalized. Carol Silldorff asked that members provide bicycle news items to her for inclusion in Bike Maryland's newsletter. She noted that the 2012 Bicycle Friendly States survey response had been submitted to the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) and gave credit to Michael Jackson for coordinating the inclusion of the bicycle advocates in the process. Carol also noted that Bike Maryland had submitted reviews of Bicycle Friendly Community applications to LAB that were submitted by the cities of Annapolis and Frederick. Jim Titus mentioned he was awaiting the installation of the R4-11/Bicycles May Use Full Lane signs along State highways.

John noted the upcoming Velo Mondial Bicycle Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia in June and the ProWalk/ProBike Conference in Long Beach, California in September. Michael Jackson mentioned a new partnership between the City of Cumberland, MDOT, the Western Maryland Medical Center, the Allegany County Health Department, and Allegany College of Maryland to plan for bicycle and pedestrian improvements at the Willowbrook Road campuses of the latter organizations. Erin Penniston stated that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Community Transformation Grant designed to reduce obesity, tobacco use and hypertension could be used to help fund this effort.

4. Adjournment

Chairman Jim Swift adjourned the meeting at 11:53 AM.