

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
April Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 8, 2011
Maryland Department of Transportation
Hanover, Maryland

Members Present

Richard Cushwa
Janet Harrison
Greg Hinchliffe
Michael Mason
Carl Rebele
Patrick Sheehan
Jim Swift
James G. Titus
Cari Watrous
Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Steven H. Allan
Vincent J. Browne, Jr.
Judith Grillo
Beverly Malone
Erin Penniston
Kevin Racine
Marci Ross
Fred Shaffer
Jeff Springer
Beverley Swaim-Staley
Missie Wakefield
John Z. Wetmore

Visitors Present

Keith Kucharek, State Highway Administration

MBPAC Chair Jim Swift called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM.

1. Approval of the February meeting minutes

Michael Mason moved and Dick Cushwa seconded the motion that the February meeting minutes be approved. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Half Hour Period Before MBPAC Meetings

Michael Jackson explained that prior to MBPAC meetings he is typically busy in his office responding to overnight and early morning email and phone messages from MBPAC members (*e.g. will not attend, will be late, here is my written subcommittee report*), making last minute copies and taking care of miscellaneous other details before the meeting starts. Although he tries to lay out all of the meeting materials the night before there is invariably last minute issues prior to the meeting. Because of this Michael made the following requests:

- Please refrain from coming to his office in the 30 minutes prior to the meeting unless it is urgent. Otherwise he cannot give you his full attention and might be distracted from completing other urgent tasks.

- Subcommittee chairs should avoid submitting subcommittee reports the night before the meeting or the morning of the meeting because Michael must make copies for the attendees at the last minute. This can delay the actual meeting from starting on time as he needs to be there to record the meeting minutes.

Michael said he will be pleased to speak to Members individually after the meeting adjournment or by phone or email either before or after the meeting.

3. Anticipated Eastern Shore Vacancy

Michael Jackson said that Judy Grillo, MBPAC's Eastern Shore representative, announced her plans to resign her position. Her resignation will become official once she submits her letter of resignation. Members were asked to forward the names of any prospective candidates to Michael. Carl Rebele recommended that Michael contact State elected officials from the Eastern Shore to solicit names. Michael replied he had already requested permission to do from his superiors and was awaiting a response. He noted the Eastern Shore citizen's position has been traditionally the most difficult to fill and that Judy would be missed.

4. Subcommittee Reports

A. Commuting and Transportation Subcommittee – The C&T Subcommittee report submitted by its Chair, Jeff Springer was distributed. Greg Hinchliffe provided a summary of bicycling activities in Baltimore City including a Complete Streets resolution and contracts for new on-street bikeways. Jim Titus expressed concerns regarding the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission –Prince George's County's designation of MD Route 564 as a bikeway was not recognized by the State Highway Administration. Michael stated that because MD Route 564 is a State highway SHA was not bound to accept M-NCPPC-PG's designation but recommended that Jim contact SHA staff about his concerns.

B. Education and Awareness Subcommittee – No written report. Michael Jackson discussed the release of the Maryland Statewide Student Travel Survey. He also mentioned that he had met with the new MBPAC representative from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Erin Penniston and her supervisor Audrey Regan, about their interest in forming a partnership with other parties interested in implementing the recommendations of the travel survey. He also noted that the Maryland Safe Routes to Schools Partnership had scheduled a meeting for April 13th regarding the study and addressing the recommendations. Michael Mason discussed the 2011 Healthy Kids Act and his upcoming role in reviewing wellness plans submitted by all 24 Maryland school district to the Maryland State Department of Education. Michael would look out for opportunities to recommend that these plans include provisions for student travel by bicycle or by walking during his review regarding how well are those plans being implemented. Michael Mason noted the upcoming retirement of State School Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick, who played a key role in encouraging the 24 district school superintendents to cooperate with the survey questions that were submitted during the development of the Maryland Statewide Student Travel Survey.

Janet Harrison and Michael Jackson gave a report on the status of the development of the Maryland Law Enforcement Bicycle Traffic Safety video. Jim Swift asked if bicycle and pedestrian traffic related questions could be included in police promotional written examinations. Michael Jackson said he would look into it. Michael Mason said the International Police Mountain Bicycle Association offered an 8 hour optional bicycle training program that was accredited by the Maryland Police Training Commission.

C. Legislative and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee – L&GA Subcommittee Chair Patrick Sheehan gave a summary of the L&GA written report. He mentioned that the fate of HB 363, which would provide enhanced penalties for vehicle or vessel operators who injure or kill others, had not yet been determined in the Legislature. Patrick also reported the SB 226 which would eliminate the need for MBPAC to meet at least once a year in Annapolis had been passed by both houses in the Legislature. Jim Swift recommended that MBPAC send letters of thanks to Delegate Maggie McIntosh and Senator Roy Dyson for their support of SB 226.

Jim also mentioned that Delegate McIntosh recommended that MBPAC prepare a folder for the Motor Vehicle Administration to distribute in driver license renewal notices on sharing the road with bicyclists. Jim distributed a draft folder. Michael Jackson said he would pass this request and material on to MVA staff. Jim will inform Delegate McIntosh and Senator Dyson about this action.

D. Tourism and Product Development Subcommittee – T&PD Subcommittee Chair Dick Cushwa summarized the T&PD subcommittee written report which included updates on the Canal Towns program and bicycling events in the City of Hagerstown and Washington County. Carl announced that SHA was planning to reprint the Maryland Bicycle Map and asked if anyone sought any changes to the map they should submit these changes to Marci Ross. He noted he will meet with SHA District 6 staff and local police in Friendsville about increasing enforcement of parking violations occurring when Youghiogheny River water enthusiasts are parking their vehicles along the shoulders of MD Route 42. These parking violations are interfering with bicycle traffic. SHA is working to create scenic river takeouts along US 219 and MD Route 495 in the Grantsville area.

5. Maryland's Transportation Enhancement Program

Keith Kucharek, Assistant Division Chief of SHA's Regional and Intermodal Planning Division gave a power point presentation on Maryland's Transportation Enhancement Program, accompanied by handouts and later answered questions about the program. His presentation was received with great interest.

6. Other Business

Greg discussed the C&T Subcommittee's model bicycle buildings checklist and asked members to once again review the checklist and be prepared to vote on a resolution at the

June meeting that the checklist proposal be sent to the Governor and be posted on MDOT's website. A draft resolution will also be considered regarding the MVA folder on sharing the road with bicyclists. Janet requested a copy of the MBPAC comments that were sent to MVA this fall.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 AM.