

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
June Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 14, 2013
Maryland Department of Transportation
Hanover, Maryland

Members Present

Steve Carr
Richard Cushwa
Scott Hansen
Beverly J. Malone
Michael Mason
(*Michael Jackson for*) Darrell Mobley
Jon Morrison
Erin Penniston
Kevin Racine
(*Jennifer Jones for*) Marci Ross
Fred Shaffer
Patrick Sheehan
Carol Silldorff
Sgt. Michael Tagliaferri
James G. Titus
Cari Watrous
John Z. Wetmore
Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Robert Gaston
Greg Hinchliffe
Carl Rebele
Jim Swift
Jennifer Terrasa

Visitors Present

Ms. Kenniss Henry

Acting Chairperson Dick Cushwa called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

1. Approval of the April Meeting Minutes

Jim Titus moved and Cari Watrous seconded the motion to approve the April meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Legislative and Government Affairs – Subcommittee Chair Patrick Sheehan submitted a written report. The L&GA subcommittee report focused on three general areas, updates from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), announcements regarding the planned Red Line light rail line in Baltimore and comments to the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board by members of the

blind community. WMATA awarded contracts to five vendors that will provide MetroAccess transportation services to persons with disabilities totaling \$86 million annually for five years. WMATA will upgrade lighting within Metrorail stations in order to improve safety and ease of access for transit patrons. WMATA and its member jurisdictions will jointly plan upgrades to bus stops, along with adjacent sidewalks and intersections, in order to improve accessibility to Metrobuses. Funding is being sought to pay for these upgrades with an emphasis on improving conditions in Prince George's County.

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is targeting 2015 as a construction start date on the planned 14.1 mile Red Line light rail transit route between Woodlawn, MD and Johns Hopkins Bayview campus in Baltimore City. Citing lack of adequate data for determining when volume of traffic on shared use paths would justify separating pedestrians from wheeled users, the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board declined to impose a requirement in their Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that separated paths be provided. Members of the blind community recommended such a requirement be imposed to improve the level of safety for persons with disabilities who utilize shared use paths.

B. Education & Awareness – E&A Subcommittee Chair Beverly Malone submitted a written report which discussed a meeting that had occurred regarding the future of the current Maryland Highway Safety Office funded bicycle education program operated by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. There was an announcement of a program called Kids in Parks-Track Trails, which utilizes a group of trails in several states including Maryland, which feature brochure-led self guided adventures. The purpose of this program is to encourage youth to get “unplugged” and become physically active by exploring trails within parks. There was also an announcement of an upcoming 2013 Walking Summit that will be held this fall in Washington, DC and a link provided for further information.

The subcommittee report provided updated information on engineering and encouragement proposals to promote bicycling on the campus of the University of Maryland at College Park. One proposal was a campus bicycle loan program where prospective students and their family members could tour the campus by bicycle.

C. Tourism and Product Development – T&PD Subcommittee Chair Dick Cushwa submitted a nine page written report. Highlights of this report included the completion of last portion of the Great Allegheny Passage Trail which now extends to downtown Pittsburgh and the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers which being celebrated in an event called “The Great Allegheny Passage – POINT MADE”. Repairs to the damage caused along the C&O Canal Trail by the rockslide at the Paw Paw Tunnel have been completed. Efforts to designate US Bike Route 11 through Maryland are now on hiatus due to engineering concerns along the MD 67 portion of the proposed route by the State Highway Administration (SHA). The C&O Canal National Historic Park unit of the National Park Service has agreed to lead an effort to make the Goodloe Byron Memorial Pedestrian Bridge ADA accessible. This bridge connects the C&O Canal Trail

to Harpers Ferry, WVA and is currently accessible on the Maryland side of the Potomac River via a spiral staircase. Dick reported that the CSX railroad, which owns this bridge, has donated \$22,000 for access improvements. The City of Hagerstown has started construction of new shared use pathway. Dick described several bicycling events in and around Hagerstown including the Ride of Silence, the Ride with the Mayor, the twilight Tour of Washington County Kickoff Criterium and the City Fathers Bike Ride, all occurring during Bike Month – May.

Steve Carr of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided a detailed description of the activities of his agency affecting bicycling and walking in the subcommittee report. He reported that DNR is updating their webpage regarding bicycling and walking on DNR trails and will mention the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) review and update of the 20-Year Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Master Plan. Information will be provided on both the DNR and MDOT trail plan updates. Jennifer Jones of the Maryland Office of Tourism Development distributed copies of the East Coast Greenway's map outlining the route through Maryland and Washington, DC. She also discussed the upcoming Gettysburg 150 bicycling event that will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Michael Jackson discussed a proposal to designate the Great Allegheny Passage's Maryland segment as US Bicycle Route 50.

D. Commuting and Transportation – C&T subcommittee chair Greg Hinchliffe submitted a written report which C&T member Jim Titus covered in his absence. The C&T subcommittee expressed disappointment regarding SHA's response to the comments MBPAC submitted back in January regarding the Administration's draft Bicycle Policy and Design Guidelines. A letter drafted by the subcommittee to SHA was reviewed and MBPAC members voted not send this version due to concerns with the wording. Fred Shaffer and John Wetmore volunteered to draft another version for the committee's review and electronic vote, taking into consideration comments made regarding the first draft.

Jim reported he had been working with SHA District 3 on how best to stripe right turn lanes that overlay a shoulder to encourage right-turning drivers to yield to cyclists who are already in the shoulder when they change lanes along MD 193 in the Greenbelt/Glenn Dale vicinity.

Jim also said that officials in Prince George's County have reported a possible impasse with MTA on the impact of the Purple Line on existing and future bicycle access. Given that MTA has twiced briefed MBPAC on how the Purple Line will affect the Capital Crescent Trail, he suggested that Michael invite MTA staff to the October MBPAC meeting to explain their plans for bicycle accommodations along the Purple Line east of the Capital Crescent Trail, and possibly the Red Line in Baltimore if plans are available.

3. Trails Within Public Utility Rights-of-Way

Michael Jackson mentioned during the June public meeting of MDOT's 20-Year Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in Rockville two citizens said they would like to see trails built along public utility rights-of-way corridors such as power line corridors. He distributed a letter from Peggy Dennis, Immediate Past President of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, to the Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) requesting consideration of a trail along one of PEPCO's power line corridors and PEPCO's response. PEPCO noted they have a policy of not allowing trails to parallel their rights-of-way due to safety and legal liability concerns. Following discussion Carol Silldorff, Beverly Malone, John Wetmore, Fred Shaffer and Michael Jackson agreed to form a Trails within Public Utility Rights-of-Way task force to take a closer look at this topic. Jim Titus said he would also participate but in a limited fashion.

4. Sidewalk Obstructions

John reported that the Sidewalk Obstructions Task Force had met with Nelson Smith, SHA Utilities Coordinator, regarding this topic. The next step is to hold a meeting with representatives of utilities regarding ways to seek their cooperation with observing SHA's policy of providing 5 feet of unobstructed clearance on sidewalks.

5. Non-Motorized Access across the Susquehanna River

Steve mentioned the difficulties faced by pedestrians and bicyclists in crossing the Susquehanna River in Maryland. Michael Jackson mentioned that SHA is conducting a study on providing bicycle and pedestrian access across this river. MBPAC members voted on a resolution in support of efforts to improve such access, drafted by John, as shown below.

"MBPAC supports efforts by MDOT to determine a safe and convenient way for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the Susquehanna River."

6. Other Business

Carol provided announcements from Bike Maryland including the upcoming fundraising bicycle rides; Larry's Ride and Tour du Port and that Bike Maryland has a job opening for a Bicycle Friendly Universities Coordinator and an intern to do journalism related duties including writing a blog. Fred stated the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Board had approved bicycle and pedestrian guidelines for subdivision development.

7. Public Comment

Michael Jackson introduced Kenniss Henry, a resident of Prince George's County, who attended the MBPAC meeting at his invitation. Following the tragic death of her daughter, Natasha Pettigrew, who was killed by a hit-and-run driver while bicycling, Ms. Henry has been very interested in improving safety for bicyclists and pedestrians.