

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
April Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 09, 2010
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland

Members Present

Vincent J. Browne, Jr.
Richard Cushwa
Judy Grillo
Janet Harrison
Greg Hinchliffe
Michael Mason
Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
Fred Shaffer
Harold Bartlett for Beverley Swaim-Staley
Jim Swift
James G. Titus
Ann Walsh
Cari Watrous
Neal Welch
John Z. Wetmore
Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Steven H. Allan
Marci Ross
Patrick Sheehan
Elbert Whiting

Chairperson Jim Swift began the meeting at 9:30 AM and announced that this was Ann Walsh's last meeting as she is resigning due to a new job position within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Ann said Stephen C. Trageser would represent DHMH until a permanent representative can be named, hopefully by the August Retreat.

1. Approval of March MBPAC meeting minutes – Jeff Springer moved and Greg Hinchliffe seconded a motion to approve the March meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Commuting and Transportation Subcommittee – Subcommittee chair Jeff Springer said he had nothing to report and opened the floor the C&T subcommittee members to offer input. Greg noted the defunding of a planned phase of the Jones Falls Trail in the Mt. Washington section of Baltimore City, in part due to neighborhood opposition. Michael Jackson discussed a meeting that had occurred on the previous day regarding the denial of a request by a contractor, American Infrastructure, to revise their work permit granted by Anne Arundel County to bury a surface water pipeline that parallels the BWI Trail along MD 176/Dorsey Road. The current permit calls for work to be conducted

during daylight hours and for trail users to be detoured onto the shoulder of Dorsey Road which would be enclosed by jersey barriers on either side, thus providing for a 6' wide travel section for two-way trail traffic. American Infrastructure wishes to revise their work procedures by conducting the work between the hours of 12 midnight and 5 AM when the trail is officially closed and having flagmen escort anyone who shows up during work hours through the work zone. This change would not increase the project costs but would reduce costs for the contractor, keep the trail open during daylight hours without resorting to a detour and arguably improve trail user safety. The revised work strategy is supported by the Anne Arundel County Trails Superintendent, Rick Holt. Michael asked American Infrastructure staff to send him the details in writing so he could follow up with Anne Arundel County staff.

Jim Titus asked Fred Shaffer if Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission staff members are allowed to request that Maryland congressional representatives seek earmarks for trail projects. He said that congressional representatives had sought an earmark for funding for the proposed WB&A Trail bridge crossing of the Patuxent River but that request was originated by the Washington Area Bicyclists Association, leading congressional representatives to wonder what is M-NCPPC's position on seeking an earmark for the bridge project. Fred replied that conversations between staff and elected officials regarding earmarks were an undefined area.

Dick Cushwa announced the recent approval of the Hagerstown Bicycle Master Plan by the City Council. He credited Michael Jackson for providing a number of comments to the draft plan document that were incorporated into the approved plan. Janet Harrison is continuing to work with law enforcement staff on a planned Maryland law enforcement bicycle traffic law training video.

B. Education and Awareness Subcommittee – E&A subcommittee chair Vince Browne also did not have any items to report on. However he did state that the E&A subcommittee would seek a meeting with Michael Jackson and Will Foster, an IT staff person with MDOT to discuss the feasibility of incorporating the MBPAC website recommendations already received. Judy Grillo said the Town of Easton's 2010 Comprehensive Plan was approved in late March which included a new (and the first detailed) bicycle/pedestrian plan. Judy is the author of the bicycle and pedestrian plan element.

C. Legislative and Government Affairs Subcommittee – Jim Swift referred members to the written report submitted electronically by absent L&GA subcommittee chair Patrick Sheehan which discussed Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority proposed actions to close their budget shortfall, updates regarding the Maryland Quiet Car Task Force and a report submitted by the State Highway Administration to the Pedestrian Safety Task Force on SHA's progress in meeting ADA standards regarding accessibility of sidewalks and intersections throughout the State. Greg reported on the status of various bicycle and pedestrian related legislation in Annapolis and informed the members of a recent fatality and injury involving bicyclists struck by a motorist on Butler Road in Baltimore County.

D. Tourism and Product Development Subcommittee – Absent subcommittee chair Marci Ross submitted an electronic report that discussed a recent web conference with MDOT consultants, Cambridge Systematics, to develop performance measures for the Statewide Trails Plan, reported on Marci's presentation at the March 15th Trail Towns/Canal Towns marketing summit in Cumberland and Dick Cushwa's involvement in seeking a bikeway guide signing plan for Washington County. Carl Rebele passed out a list of potential performance measure topics from Cambridge Systematics.

Ann would like to see an analysis of the health impact of trails organized by county and zip code. Jim Titus recommended that because the Department of Natural Resources is the agency that guards the State's interest in submerged lands and tidelands, that DNR should work to ensure that existing public access to shorelines is maintained. Neal asked that any recommendations for performance measures be submitted to Marci Ross and members of T&PD subcommittee for consideration. Greg reported that the North Linthicum Light Rail station extension of the BWI Trail had been recently repaved. Dick said he informed Google Maps that one half of the alignment of the Western Maryland Rail Trail was not being shown on their maps.

3. Other Business

Michael Jackson assured the members he is still working on the law enforcement video, moving ahead on the model bicycle and pedestrian element draft guidelines and asked about the snow removal policies topic. John Wetmore replied that he expected to have a draft analysis of snow removal policies as they affect pedestrians and bicyclists by the June MBPAC meeting.

Kevin Racine was pleased to note that the concrete debris along US 40 that he reported to SHA Planning Director Gregory Slater during the March MBPAC meeting had been removed three days later. Fred said that Prince George's County had adopted a M-NCPPC Master Plan for Transportation that includes a Complete Streets element and that a pedestrian safety workshop for New Carrollton had been scheduled.

Fred also stated that M-NCPPC had hired a consultant to look at ways to improve non-motorized access between the WB&A Trail and the Anacostia River Trail by looking at roads where bicycle lanes could be added. He also said that the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Trail has been added to the 2010 Bike To Work Day pit stop locations. Fred also responded to Michael Jackson's appreciation of M-NCPPC staff person Laura Connelly's report of bicycle and pedestrian traffic counts of the WWB Trail made possible by her agency's purchase of an automatic trail counter device. John noted that the design of pedestrian and bicycle improvements along MD 191/Bradley Boulevard is in the planning stages.

4. Adjournment

Jim Swift adjourned the meeting at 11:05 AM