

**Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
2010 Annual Retreat Minutes  
Thursday, August 12, 2010  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
Hanover, Maryland**

**Members Present**

Vincent Browne, Jr  
Richard Cushwa  
Janet Harrison  
Greg Hinchliffe  
Michael Mason  
Kevin Racine  
Carl Rebele  
Marci Ross  
Fred Shaffer (represented by Dan Janousek)  
Jeff Springer  
Jim Swift  
James G. Titus  
Missie Wakefield  
Neal Welch  
John Wetmore  
Michael Jackson (staff)

**Members Absent**

Steven H. Allan  
Judith Grillo  
Patrick Sheehan  
Beverley Swaim-Staley  
Stephen C. Trageser  
Cari Watrous

**Visitors Present**

Ross Dangel, Freedom Area Citizens Council  
Dustin Kuzan, State Highway Administration  
Patrick McMahon, Maryland Safe Routes to Schools Partnership  
Owen Schmitt

Chairperson Jim Swift called the meeting to order at 9:20 AM with a round of introductions.

**1. Approval of the June meeting minutes**

Greg Hinchliffe moved and Marci Ross seconded his motion to approve the June MBPAC meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**2. Review of Subcommittee Work Plan Accomplishments for 2009-2010**

**A. Tourism and Product Development Subcommittee**

Subcommittee Chair Marci Ross submitted an annual report detailing activities the subcommittee members were involved with including the publication of regional Family Friendly Trails listings in various issues of Destination Maryland magazine and on the Office of Tourism Development website, supporting the Big Slackwater renovation project on the C&O Canal, participation in the Canal Towns project, organizing regional public meetings on trail issues, supporting bicycling in Hagerstown, working on access to the North Branch of the Potomac River in Garrett County, and the extension of the Western Maryland Rail Trail project.

#### **B. Legislative and Government Affairs Subcommittee**

John Wetmore delivered the L&GA Subcommittee report submitted by subcommittee Chair Patrick Sheehan, which included a discussion of the Quiet Car issue. Michael Jackson summarized five bills affecting bicycling and walking that were passed by the Maryland General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Martin O'Malley.

#### **C. Commuting and Transportation Subcommittee**

Subcommittee Chair Jeff Springer shared highlights of the C&T Subcommittee's annual report including Kevin Racine's ongoing photo documentary of pedestrian access deficiencies and recent appointment to the City of Havre de Grace's Pedestrian Safety Committee, Steve Allan's involvement with training sessions for planning commissioners, Jim Titus and Greg Hinchliffe's work with others seeking federal funding for a W&BA trail bridge over the Patapsco River and Greg's submission of a context sensitive design report to the Maryland State Highway Administration regarding bicycle and pedestrian design considerations for MD 170/Camp Meade Road in Anne Arundel County. A written report was submitted electronically. Kevin reported that Cecil County Transit stopped printing bus schedules and that the bus schedules that were placed on bus stops were being taken down. Michael Jackson mentioned SHA's program to replace unique transit bus stops with standardized combination bus stop/no parking signs on State highways. C&T Subcommittee is to investigate this matter.

#### **D. Education and Awareness Subcommittee**

Subcommittee Chair Vince Browne discussed recommendations that E&A subcommittee submitted to MDOT regarding changes to the MBPAC website and their work in supporting the Maryland School Administrator's Study. Michael Mason discussed the interest of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in this study.

### **3. Maryland Trails Summit**

Neal Welch announced that the Maryland Trails Summit, sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources, is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at the BWI Holiday Inn. The registration fee is \$50.00. Marci discussed the desire to have a one stop website for Maryland trail information. Dan Janousek mentioned that the conference should

address barriers to trail development. Michael Jackson hoped the conference would address trail safety issues.

#### **4. Sidewalk Snow Removal and Maintenance Policies**

John Wetmore led a discussion on the problems with restoring sidewalk access following snow storms as well as overcoming opposition to new sidewalk construction based on laws requiring adjacent property owners to clear snow from sidewalks and to otherwise maintain them. It was noted that one solution, requiring government agencies to take over responsibility for sidewalk maintenance and snow removal, would be particularly problematic to promote in this time of government revenue shortfalls. Michael Jackson wondered if delays in sidewalk snow removal clearance could be considered a violation of Americans with Disabilities Act regulations. Missie Wakefield noted that New York City managed to keep its public schools open most days despite record snowfall amounts and recommended investigating how their snow removal procedures. A consensus developed to investigate snowbelt region sidewalk snow removal policies and report back by the December MBPAC meeting. Kevin and Jim Swift will assist John Wetmore in this effort, including contacting the Maryland Transit Administration and the State Highway Administration regarding pedestrian access procedures following snow storms.

#### **5. Maryland School Administrators Study Update**

Michael Jackson summarized preliminary findings of the Maryland School Administrators Study and stated that staff from MDOT and MSDE is working with the consultants in reviewing draft recommendations.

#### **6. Carroll County Bicycling Initiatives**

Ross Dangel of the Freedom Area Citizens' Council gave a presentation on efforts to improve bicycling and walking in Carroll County, particularly in southeastern portion of the county. He discussed a recent field trip with SHA, MDOT and county officials along with citizens in looking at opportunities to promote non-motorized access to the Springfield Hospital complex. Ross distributed a Freedom Trail Plan for Eldersburg and Sykesville. He also expressed interest in starting a Carroll County based bicycling club. Dick Cushwa, Missie Wakefield and Jim Swift all stated they would provide advice on starting and operating a bicycle club.

#### **7. Presentation of Work Plans**

The subcommittees discussed their respective planned activities for the upcoming 12 months and agreed to submit their 2010-2011 work plans by the end of August.

#### **8. Other Business**

Jim Titus stated that Barry Childress, a local bicycle advocate, claimed that MBPAC did not fulfill all of its statutory requirements. In response Michael Jackson passed out a copy

of Section 2-606 of the Transportation Volume of the Annotated Code of Maryland which lists MBPAC's duties. Upon review of Section 2-606 none of the members other than Jim Titus expressed agreement with Mr. Childress's statement. Marci Ross proposed that MBPAC consider cutting its meeting schedule from bi-monthly to four meetings per year. Ensuing discussion provided a consensus that this item be continued for discussion at the October meeting.

Jim Titus agreed to send recommendations to the Education and Awareness Subcommittee on ways that motorists can be better educated on their role in bicycle and pedestrian safety. Jeff stated Missie was very interested in working with the Motor Vehicle Administration on better promoting bicycling and walking safety information at their customer service centers. Michael Jackson said MVA is revising their regular and commercial drivers' manuals and welcomed input from the bicycling and walking community. He would be pleased to channel any suggestions to MVA staff.

## **9. Adjournment**

Jim Swift adjourned the meeting at 3:58 PM.