

**Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
December Meeting Minutes  
Friday, December 12, 2008  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, Maryland**

**Members Present**

Vincent J. Browne, Jr  
William Burd  
Richard Cushwa  
Judy Grillo  
Greg Hinchliffe  
Michael Mason  
Susan Mele  
Kevin Racine  
Carl Rebele  
(*Anne Kyle for*) Marci Ross  
Patrick Sheehan  
(*Heather Murphy for*) Beverley Swaim-Staley  
Jim Swift  
James G. Titus  
Ann Walsh  
Cari Watrous  
Neal Welch  
John Z. Wetmore  
Michael Jackson (staff)

**Members Absent**

Janet Harrison  
Eric Schmitt  
Jeff Springer

**Visitors Present**

Chris Eatough, Graduate Student  
Michael Flood, Parsons Brinkerhoff  
Jim Hudnall, Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club  
Bill Kelly, College Park Bicycle Coalition  
Michael Madden, Maryland Transit Administration  
Carol Silldorff, One Less Car  
Deirdre Smith, Jacobs Consulting  
Janice Wiles, Friends of Frederick County

Chairman Jim Swift began the meeting at 9:30 AM with a round of introductions particularly for new members Judy Grillo and Susan Mele.

## **1. Approval of the October Meeting Minutes**

Carl Rebele approved and Dick Cushwa seconded a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **2. Purple Line Presentation**

Michael Madden from the Maryland Transit Administration provided a detailed presentation of the Purple Line project and entertained questions from the members. Jim Titus moved and Greg Hinchliffe seconded the following motion.

“Whereas the proposed light rail Purple Line from New Carrollton to Bethesda would enhance bicycling, walking and the general mobility of people, the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee:

1. Endorse the proposed light rail Purple Line.
2. Recommends that the revised Environmental Impact Statement should further analyze bicycle and pedestrian access to the proposed facility, as well as bicycle and pedestrian access along the entire line.”

The motion passed with no nay votes and three abstentions from Cari Watrous, Ann Walsh and Michael Mason.

## **3. Subcommittee Reports**

A. Commuting and Transportation – C&T Subcommittee member Greg Hinchliffe reported that the subcommittee had made little progress on its efforts to develop a Maryland version of the Commuter Connection’s DC based employers’/employees’ guide to bicycle commuting.

Greg moved and Jim Titus seconded a motion for MBPAC to endorse the rails with trails concept and to urge MDOT Secretary John Porcari to direct and encourage his staff to do so when appropriate. The motion passed with no nay votes and four abstentions from Michael Mason, Carl Rebele, Ann Walsh and Cari Watrous. Michael Jackson will submit this resolution to Secretary Porcari.

B. Legislative and Government Affairs – L&GA Subcommittee Chair Patrick Sheehan provided an update on the Maryland State Highway Administration’s progress in providing accessible pedestrian signals at selected signalized intersections. He also noted that three meetings of the Quiet Car Task Force had taken place. The task force members are drafting a report to the Legislature urging that they extend the task force beyond its current December 31, 2008 sunset date. Presently there is insufficient data for solid solutions but a two-year study of this issue by automotive experts is now underway.

Cari discussed her attendance at MDOT’s annual Secretary’s Conference on Accessible Transportation which occurred on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Michael Jackson brought up HB 934,

sponsored by the Montgomery and Prince George's county legislative delegations. HB 934 would create a number of new actions relating to walking and bicycling including expanding MBPAC to 22 positions by adding a representative from the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, a state agency responsible for planning decisions in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Michael Jackson will send out copies of the bill and solicit comments from the members. He will also set up a meeting to discuss bike lane mandatory use laws between the Commuting and Transportation and the Legislative and Government Affairs subcommittees.

C. Education and Awareness Subcommittee – E&A Subcommittee Chair Vincent Browne reported that MDOT has asked Toole Design Group, one of its on-call sub-consultants, to develop a scope of work and budget to conduct a survey of Maryland public school policies regarding student school commuting by bicycle and walking. E&A will provide oversight guidance on behalf of MBPAC on this project. Once the survey is to begin Michael Mason suggests that Secretary John Porcari send a letter to Dr. Nancy Grasmick, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, advising her of the survey and seeking her assistance in getting responses. Bill Burd advised also sending a separate letter to the Maryland Association of PTA's and to the Elementary Schools and to the Secondary Schools Principal's Associations. Ann recommended that a minimum statistical sample be done. Carl noted that some school districts flatly refuse to allow students to walk or bike to school.

D. Tourism and Product Development Subcommittee – T&PD Subcommittee member Carl Rebele deferred the subcommittee's report until the February meeting. However Dick Cushwa reported that the proposed 4.5 mile Antietam Creek Trail has received the support of the Washington County Historical Society and the National Park Service's C&O Canal/Battlefield Superintendents. Dick also noted that Williamsport had been selected for a Trails Town meeting site.

#### **4. League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly States Survey**

LAB's first ever Bicycle Friendly States' survey ranked Maryland as 35<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states in terms of bicycle friendliness. Michael Jackson stated that Maryland's ranking was based on a lot of incorrect information and the ranking should be discounted as an indicator of the State's level of bicycle friendliness in comparison to other states. Of 20 items that the League stated Maryland needed improvement, 15 of those items were already in place but LAB did not properly credit Maryland for. MDOT will resubmit its survey results to the League at their next BFS survey announcement.

#### **5. 2009 Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Symposium**

Jim Hudnall and Bill Kelly announced that the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Symposium will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 in Annapolis. Jim stated that Richard Chambers was resigning as executive director of One Less Car, Maryland's statewide bicycle, pedestrian and transit advocacy group. Jim and Bill introduced Carol Silldorff who will be succeeding Richard. They urged MBPAC

members to attend and invited members to attend a symposium planning meeting held immediately after the MBPAC meeting adjournment.

## **6. Friends of Frederick County Video**

Janice Wiles, of the Friends of Frederick County, showed an 8 minute video presentation this organization prepared on environmental, growth, land use and transportation issues. The FFC supports smart growth principles and seeks to limit sprawl type development. They are also interested in ensuring that bicycling and walking is encouraged in Frederick County.

## **7. Adjournment**

Jim Swift adjourned the meeting at 12:30 PM.