

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Draft June Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 11, 2010
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland

Members Present

Vincent J. Browne, Jr.
Richard Cushwa
Greg Hinchliffe
Michael Mason
Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
Marci Ross (Jennifer Jones for)
Jim Swift
James G. Titus
Steve Trageser
Missie Wakefield
Neal Welch
John Z. Wetmore
Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Steven H. Allan
Judith Grillo
Janet Harrison
Fred Shaffer
Patrick Sheehan
Jeff Springer
Beverley Swaim-Staley
Cari Watrous

Visitors Present

Beverly Malone, University of Maryland Department of Transportation
Patrick McMahon, Maryland Safe Routes to Schools Network

Chairperson Jim Swift began the meeting at 9:35 AM.

1. Approval of April MBPAC meeting minutes – Carl Rebele moved and Dick Cushwa seconded a motion to approve the draft April MBPAC meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Education and Awareness – Subcommittee Chair Vincent Browne reported that MDOT had submitted a \$25,000 grant request to the Maryland Highway Safety Office to fund a Maryland specific instructional video on bicycle traffic safety and enforcement for law enforcement officers. Sgt Janet Harrison obtained support of the Maryland State Police in this effort. Michael Mason discussed the National Association of Sports and Physical Education (NASPE) program efforts in Maryland to encourage bicycle safety in schools. Michael Jackson briefly described preliminary findings from the Maryland School Administrators Study.

B. Legislative and Government Affairs – Michael Jackson provided a summary of bicycle and pedestrian legislation that was approved and signed into law. Missie Wakefield lauded the passage of legislation requiring motorists to provide a clearance of at least 3 feet when passing bicyclists as a partial solution to repeated conflicts between bicyclists and motorists along a section of MD Route 22 in Churchville. Subsequent to this discussion there were recommendations that perhaps this would be a good location for Share the Road signs or the Bicycles May Use Full Lane/R4-11 regulatory sign in the latest edition of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Michael stated that Maryland had two years to adopt the new MUTCD or its version of it. Jim Titus moved and Missie seconded a motion that reads; ***“MBPAC strongly recommends that the Maryland Department of Transportation adopt sign R4-11/Bicycle (symbol) May Use Full Lane as depicted in the 2009 edition of the MUTCD for use in appropriate locations in Maryland.”*** The motion of unanimously approved.

C. Tourism and Product Development – Jennifer Jones of the Maryland Office of Tourism Development distributed copies of *Destination Maryland* which featured a listing of Eastern Shore Family Friendly Trails. Dick Cushwa attended the May 17 Trail/Canal Towns meeting in Williamsport and reported that Sharpsburg joined this group and Point of Rocks is represented. He attended the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Trails Roundtable discussion at Greenbrier State Park and urged support for the development of a trail along the 17-mile Weaverton-Roxbury rail-trail in southern Washington County. Dick noted the right-of-way is being encroached upon by adjacent property owners and it appears there is little enthusiasm among local residents for this proposed trail.

Additional reports from Western Maryland by Dick included the recent installation of colonial lamp posts with hanging baskets and welcome banners along the Western Maryland Rail Trail in Hancock and the painting of bike lanes connecting the C&O Canal with the Williamsport business district. The City of Hagerstown approved their Master Bicycle Plan and created a seven member bicycle advisory committee, including Dick Cushwa.

Carl said the National Park Service is acquiring canoe takeout access locations along the North Branch of the Potomac River between Westernport and Cumberland. The DNR regional public hearings on trail development that took place in western and central Maryland were deemed successful according to Neal Welch. He noted the dates of the two remaining regional trail roundtable discussions scheduled for southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore.

D. Commuting and Transportation – Subcommittee chair Jeff Springer was absent but submitted a written report in advance. The report discussed a controversial bike lane design on Pennsylvania Avenue NW in Washington, DC and its implications for Maryland transportation officials including a question whether SHA should install bike lanes on its portion of Pennsylvania Avenue in suburban DC. Kevin Racine was appointed to the Pedestrian Safety Committee for the Town of Havre de Grace. Harford

County held an extremely successful youth bicycle helmet give-a-way event. Missie was credited with doing an outstanding job in coordinating this event.

Missie provided additional details regarding the Greg Krause Memorial bicycle helmet program. Greg Hinchliffe said the Central Maryland Bike to Work Day event was a success and passed out copies of the new Baltimore City bicycle map. He is also working with Mary Davidson, State Highway Administration Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator and Dan Reagle of the Maryland Transit Administration on trail and rail banking projects.

3. August MBAPC Retreat Plans

Michael Jackson started the discussion by informing the members that due to the continuing budget restrictions, once again MDOT would only be able to furnish lunch for members at the August Retreat. Carl said he would personally pay for breakfast and asked Michael to make arrangements for him to do so. Carl also asked that John Wilson of DNR be invited to the retreat to provide an update on their upcoming statewide trails summit. It is anticipated that the final report on the Maryland School Administrators Study should also be available. John Wetmore requested time to discuss snow removal policies. In response to the question whether sufficient time has been provided for subcommittees to develop work plans for the upcoming year at the retreat the consensus was that each subcommittee should meet prior to the retreat and develop their work plans at that time.

4. Local Sidewalk Policies

Jim Titus discussed confusion over the legality of sidewalk bicycling in Prince George's County and recommended that MDOT contact other counties to ask them whether they had passed ordinances expressly permitting sidewalk bicycling, particularly as a consequence of recently enacted legislation giving bicyclists the same rights and responsibilities as pedestrians in crosswalks. Michael Jackson noted that because Maryland law delegates the regulation of sidewalk bicycling to local jurisdictions this matter isn't related to State agencies and is therefore a local versus a MBPAC matter.

5. Other Business

John Wetmore asked whether a bicycle/pedestrian facility had been included in the preferred design for the Governor Nice Memorial Bridge replacement project. Michael Jackson said he would check on the status of this project. Jim Swift discussed bicycle fatalities in St. Mary's County. Patrick McMahan discussed the work of the Maryland Safe Routes to Schools Network.

6. Adjournment – Jim Swift adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM.