

**Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**  
**August Retreat Minutes**  
**Thursday, August 13, 2009**  
**Maryland Department of Transportation**  
**7201 Corporate Center Drive**  
**Hanover, Maryland**

**Members Present**

Steven Allan  
Vincent Browne  
Richard Cushwa  
Judith Grillo  
Janet Harrison  
Greg Hinchliffe  
Michael Mason  
Susan Mele  
Kevin Racine  
Carl Rebele  
Marci Ross  
Patrick Sheehan  
Jeff Springer  
Jim Swift  
James G. Titus  
Ann Walsh  
Cari Watrous  
John Z. Wetmore

**Members Absent**

Beverley Swaim-Staley  
Neal Welch

**Visitors Present**

Norie Calvert, State Highway Administration  
Lisa Choplin, SHA  
Mary Davidson, SHA  
Elbert Whiting

MBPAC Chairperson Jim Swift called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM with a round of introductions. Members thanked him for funding a continental breakfast for the attendees.

**1. Acceptance of June Meeting Minutes**

Dick Cushwa moved and Greg Hinchliffe seconded the motion to approve the June meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **2. Presentation of SHA Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Team**

Norie Calvert, Deputy Director – Programming, Office of Highway Development, Lisa Choplin, Division Chief, Innovative Contracting Division and Mary Davidson, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator introduced themselves collectively as part of the State Highway Administration’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Team. This team was put in place to address improvements in the delivery of SHA’s bicycle and pedestrian services. Tasks being undertaken include the creation of a better database inventory of SHA’s bicycle and pedestrian facilities and keeping this data base live and updated. Other tasks are reviewing SHA’s 2007 Bicycle and Pedestrian Design Guidelines with an eye toward changing the language from suggestive to proscriptive in order to better ensure the provision of non-motorized facilities and looking for opportunities to create new bicycle and pedestrian facilities in system preservation projects. Design changes such as consideration of ten foot travel lanes for low speed roadways and business district roadways have the potential of providing more roadway width to benefit bicyclists.

Cari Watrous endorsed Norie and Lisa’s contributions in improving SHA’s delivery of facilities for persons with disabilities. Judy Grillo specifically singled out Mary Davidson for kudos regarding her work to date as SHA Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator due to Mary’s tracking and moving requests forward. Jeff Springer moved and Jim Titus seconded a motion for MBPAC to submit a yearly assessment of SHA’s delivery of bicycle and pedestrian services to the SHA Administrator and MDOT Secretary. The motion noted it is MBPAC’s intent to work in a cooperative and helpful manner with SHA staff on development of the assessment. Carl Rebele stated that SHA does a great job. The motion was passed with no objections and abstentions are recorded from Janet Harrison, Michael Mason, Carl Rebele, Marci Ross, Cari Watrous and Ann Walsh. The Members thanked SHA staff for their presentation.

## **3. Review and Analysis of MBPAC Purpose and Effectiveness**

Discussion took place regarding time management issues for the purpose of avoiding meeting beyond the scheduled adjournment time. Suggestions included using Robert’s Rules of order, limiting visitor comments to a specified period of time in the agenda, and shortening the length of time of guest speaker presentations. Carl and Jeff recommended that Michael Jackson request MDOT to supply a recording secretary to take minutes so that he can devote greater attention to running the meetings. Michael Jackson said he would play a larger role in keeping the agenda items within their allotted time slot and telling presenters when they need to wrap up their remarks. The Members agreed that they would raise their hands to be recognized by either Jim Swift or Michael Jackson instead of simply vocalizing remarks. Jim and Michael will recognize and assign turns to be heard when multiple hands are raised.

There was consensus that subcommittee reports are to be submitted in advance in order to reduce the amount of time spent discussing them. Anne Walsh recommended that subcommittee reports follow submitted workplans and Marci Ross felt the subcommittee

reports should track workplan progress. Jim Titus recommended that MBPAC focus its activities on its core purpose of giving advice and utilizing tough self-evaluation to ensure adherence to the core purpose. Greg wants all MBPAC resolutions to be maintained in a separate section on its website so that all can use it as a reference for Committee positions.

Another topic relating to MBPAC purpose is the practice of most State department representatives to abstain rather than to take a position on Committee resolutions. State representatives usually do not feel authorized to vote on resolutions in which they don't know what their departmental position would be. On the other hand it is felt by some Members that by virtue of MBPAC's legislative authority to advise State agencies on matters pertaining to bicycling and walking, it is expected that agency representatives would contribute by indeed voting on resolutions, otherwise MBPAC positions are skewed toward the opinions of the citizen representatives. One suggestion was that the Legislature should amend the statute to change the status of agency representatives to technical advisors without voting rights if the agency representatives are reluctant to vote. Michael Jackson will solicit further comment from state agency representatives and ask MDOT Secretary Beverley Swaim-Staley for advice on this matter.

Michael Jackson also distributed copies of a report, *Building a Better BPAC: Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Group Best Practices*, prepared by the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center of Rutgers State University of New Jersey for the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Michael noted that MBPAC had been cited numerous times in this report for utilizing best practices as determined by the report's authors.

#### **4. 2010 Legislative Session**

Patrick Sheehan moved and Greg seconded a motion that MBPAC support the following bills introduced in the 2009 legislative session but not enacted into law in the event these bills are reintroduced in 2010. They were HB 97, *Manslaughter by Vehicle*, SB 428, *Three Foot Bicycle Safety* and HB 152, *Arrest for Leaving Accident Scene Involving Injury*. Marci, Janet, Michael Mason, Ann and Cari abstained and no one opposed it.

Another motion was to support HB 1197, which would remove the requirement that bicyclists must use shoulders when available. The motion passed with no objections but abstentions were recorded from Marci, Janet Michael Mason, Ann, Cari and Vincent Browne.

Greg noted that the Maryland Stadium Authority prohibits bicycle riding by statute on its grounds and would like to see that statutory prohibition lifted. John Wetmore said Idaho had passed a law allowing bicyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs and asked if Maryland should consider similar legislation.

## 5. 2008-09 Year in Review Subcommittee Reports

A. Tourism and Product Development – T&PD Subcommittee Chair Marci Ross submitted a written report on workplan accomplishments for the past 12 months (see attachment)

B. Legislative and Government Affairs – Subcommittee Chair Patrick Sheehan noted that SHA had upgraded 381 intersections with accessible pedestrian signals and that an unconfirmed report placed 200 additional intersections into the design phase. Patrick also discussed the existence of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Quiet Car Task Force and wondered if Maryland still needed a state Quiet Car Task Force. John felt that L&GA should consider the prospects of Maryland adopting an Idaho-style law permitting bicyclists to treat stop signs and yield signs. Greg wants similar legislative consideration to providing stadium access to bicyclists.

In response to Patrick's request Michael Jackson provided a brief update on WMATA's recent bicycle and pedestrian access open house discussion. He also noted that Kevin Racine had been named Chair of the Maryland Transportation Administration's Mobility Committee and asked Patrick to share any relevant advice with Kevin on that topic. Jim Titus stated that the Maryland Department of the Environment should be represented on MBPAC.

C. Commuting and Transportation – C&T Subcommittee Chair Jeff Springer noted that one of the subcommittee's workplan goals had been achieved through the publication of an employers'/employees' guide to bicycle commuting by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council. Jeff distributed copies of the guide and noted his role in meeting with Metropolitan Washington Council of Government staff last January to ask for their assistance in allowing the BMC to use materials from the MWCOG employers'/employees' bicycle commuting guide. Greg credited Stephanie Yanovitz of the BMC for getting the guide out.

Jeff also recalled a meeting with Harford County transit officials, Kevin and himself on getting transit service extended across the Hatem Bridge to Perryville but at this point this request is unlikely to be granted. Jeff also mentioned a telephone conference call conversation with, Judy Grillo, Michael Jackson and his immediate supervisor, Don Halligan, regarding improvements in SHA's delivery of services to bicyclists and pedestrians. Greg stated that the East Coast Greenway would be sending a letter to Maryland Transportation Authority Acting Chair, Beverley Swaim-Staley seeking the lifting of the prohibition of bicycle access across the Hatem Bridge.

D. Education and Awareness – Subcommittee Chair Vincent Browne noted that E&A sought to provide information to the public regarding MBPAC's activities and would renew efforts to seek advice from the other subcommittees on information they wished to share with the public. He described a recent MDOT consultant briefing on the status of the Maryland School Administrators Study, which will assess policies regarding student

travel by foot and by bicycle to school in the 24 Maryland school districts. Ann noted this would be a ground breaking study.

#### **6. Group Photo and Development of 2009-10 Subcommittees Work Plan**

Members posed for a group photo, had lunch and returned to develop 2009-10 subcommittee work plans

#### **7. Other Business**

Judy announced her plans to develop a children/young adult's Commuter Guide and was inspired by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's Employers/Employees Bicycle Commuting Guide. She will work with the Education and Awareness Subcommittee on this project.

#### **8. Adjournment**

Chair Jim Swift adjourned the Retreat at 4:24 PM



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