

**Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
October Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 12, 2012
Maryland Department of Transportation
Hanover, Maryland**

Members Present

Dick Cushwa
Robert Gaston
Scott Hansen
Greg Hinchliffe
Beverly J. Malone
Michael Mason
(Michael Jackson for) Darrell B. Mobley
Erin Penniston
Marci Ross
Patrick Sheehan
Carol Silldorff
Jeff Springer
Jim Swift
Jennifer Terrasa
James G. Titus
Cari Watrous
John Z. Wetmore

Members Absent

Steve Carr
Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
Fred Shaffer
Michael Tagliaferri

Visitors Present

Lisa Choplin, State Highway Administration, Office of Highway Development
Bob Herstein, SHA, Office of Traffic Safety
Heather Strassberger, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

Chairperson Jim Swift called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

1. Approval of the August Meeting Minutes

Jeff Springer moved and Dick Cushwa seconded a motion to approve the August meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Commuting and Transportation – C&T Subcommittee Chair Jeff Springer distributed an electronic report and the subcommittee's 2012-2013 Annual Workplan. Scott Hansen spoke about his work on two modeling inputs projects for the Maryland Department of Planning. The first one will identify the walkability status of roadways within a ¼ mile

distance of each parcel in the State. The second one examines pedestrian accessibility to the regional transportation network. Bob Gaston reported several activities undertaken including commenting on the draft Cecil County Bicycle Plan, construction the first phase of a 1.5 mile natural surface trail between North East and the Elk Neck State Forest and leading a “Learn To Mountain Bike” event.

Jeff reported on his participation as a member and the outcome of the Harford County Built Environment and Obesity Committee. The final report, with ten recommendations was submitted to the Harford County Council on October 2nd. Jim Titus provided an update on the installation of R4-11/Bicycles May Use Full Lane signs in Prince George’s and Montgomery counties. He noted that many news articles in Prince George’s County complained about the lack of painted crosswalks across State highways. Jim notes that unmarked crosswalks have the same legal distinction as marked crosswalks and that police are empowered to enforce crosswalk regulations regardless of whether the crosswalks are marked or unmarked. He asked if whether an education campaign is needed to explain the duty to stop for pedestrians.

Michael Jackson asked Bob if there were any bicycle shops in Cecil County and how many miles of mountain bicycle trails were in that county. Bob said there are no bicycle shops in Cecil County and there are about 200 miles of mountain bicycle trails there. Michael then asked Marci Ross if the state Office of Tourism Development could help promote bicycle tourism in Cecil County. Marci said the Cecil County Office of Tourism should be first contacted but the state Office of Tourism Development would be happy to receive recommended trail tour routes in Cecil County to publicize. Greg Hinchliffe asked about the status of rumble strip placement following complaints on rumble strip placement in Cecil County. Michael stated that the State Highway Administration developed new policies designed to eliminate the type of rumble strip placement that drew the complaints.

Greg said he attended the annual State Fair in Timonium and said that SHA had a booth there handing out materials including a card explaining the 3 foot passing law. This card originally drew objections from the bicycling community because it explained four exceptions to the 3 foot passing requirement. Bicyclists feared that readers would focus on the exceptions rather than the general requirement and still pass bicyclists too closely. In response the card was revised with the expectation that the original version would not be distributed or publicized.

B. Education and Awareness – E&A Subcommittee Chair Beverly Malone sent out an electronic subcommittee report. She mentioned that the University of Maryland at College Park’s Department of Transportation Services submitted a proposal to university’s Facilities Council to install shared lane markings on campus roadways and to develop an educational campaign for bicyclists and motorists of the purpose of these markings. Michael Jackson notified the members that the Motor Vehicle Administration had mailed 120,000 driver renewal notices in envelopes bearing the 3 feet to pass bicyclists law in the month of September and he passed out these envelopes. The electronic report noted Montgomery College/Rockville campus continued successful

Introduction to Cycling 101 class and continued work on the Maryland Law Enforcement Bicycle Traffic Safety Training Video project.

C. Legislative and Government Affairs – L&GA Subcommittee Chair Patrick Sheehan submitted an electronic report based on a subcommittee meeting held on September 25th. Jim Titus moved and Greg seconded a motion to approve the following recommendations of the L&GA Subcommittee:

1. *Quorum for Electronic Voting* - A quorum would be established for electronic voting of a simple majority of the membership defined as ½ of the members rounded up to the next number (e.g. 22 members divided by ½ equals 11 members plus one equals 12 members as the minimum to meet the quorum for electronic voting for a membership of 22).
2. *Status of Absention Voting versus Voting Yes or No* – A vote to abstain would not be considered as to approval or disapproval of a motion but would count toward the establishment of quorum when required.
3. *Advance Notice of Resolutions* – Members introducing resolutions affecting State agencies represented on MBPAC should give at least one week advance notice to the affected State agency’s representative of the intended resolution to avoid have the agency’s representative unprepared to discuss the resolution.

These recommendations were approved by the members. Another item discussed at the September 25th L&GA subcommittee meeting regarded routine absentions of State employees. At this meeting Michael Jackson was asked to investigate whether State employees on other State committees or commissions routinely abstained from voting. During Michael’s investigation MDOT’s Acting Deputy Secretary said MDOT’s expectation was that State employees should use their best judgement regarding their agency’s mission when contemplating a motion and vote to accordingly. Various proposals regarding State employee voting was offered but it was agreed that this discussion should be tabled and another L&GA subcommittee meeting be scheduled to discuss with State employees in detail.

The members decided that no further action was needed at this time regarding a previous resolution that would have the MBPAC chair send a letter to the MDOT Acting Secretary requesting clarification of MDOT/MBPAC legislative coordination procedures. This decision was based on feedback from MDOT staff to L&GA subcommittee members explaining that MDOT is always open to discuss legislative issues, but due to time constraints that occur during legislative session opportunities to consult with MBPAC are much more limited. There was discussion on anticipated legislative bills. The topic of sending a letter to the Office of the Attorney General seeking clarification of what is required of motorists overtaking bicyclists was deferred until the December meeting.

D. Tourism and Product Development – T&PD Subcommittee Chair Dick Cushwa submitted an 8 page electronic report with submissions from the individual T&PD

members. The report included an attachment from Carl Rebele regarding a request made to SHA to place signs notifying travelers when they are crossing the Eastern Continental Divide along appropriate points on State highways in Garrett County. Jim Titus stated he intended to submit a resolution at the December meeting commending MDOT for agreeing to conduct an analysis of options for extending the W&BA Trail across the Patuxent River.

3. Draft SHA Bicycle Policy and Design Guidelines

Lisa B. Choplin and Robert Herstein of SHA distributed hard copies of the draft SHA Bicycle Policy and Design Guidelines and provided background information on this project. They asked MBPAC to review this policy and design guidelines document and to provide recommendations to SHA collectively by the December meeting. While SHA did not insist that the members keep the document to themselves, SHA staff asked the members to use prudence when sharing it and requested that any comments or questions regarding this draft document not be directed to SHA at this time. The Commuting and Transportation Subcommittee will take responsibility for reviewing and coordinating a recommended MBPAC response.

4. Other Business

John Wetmore noted that Amtrak is proposing to replace the existing railroad bridge across the Susquehanna River and wondered could this represent an opportunity to provide a non-motorized shared use path at this location. He also noted that the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission has been placing street furniture along sidewalks that interfere with pedestrian travel. Jeff asked if MBPAC should seek a presence at an upcoming meeting of the Maryland-Delaware chapter of the American Public Works Association to promote awareness of bicycle and pedestrian issues. It was noted that the Baltimore County Department of Planning is working on a bike/ped plan for western Baltimore County.

5. Public Comment

Heather Strassberger, a planner with the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board, introduced herself.

6. Adjournment

Chairman Jim Swift adjourned the meeting at 11:58 AM.