

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
April Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 10, 2015
Maryland Department of Transportation
Hanover, Maryland

Members Present

Steve Carr
Robert Gaston
Deborah Grinnage-Pulley
Scott Hansen
Gregory W. Hinchliffe
Jon Morrison
Erin Penniston
Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
(*Jennifer Jones for*) Marci Ross
Fred Shaffer
Patrick Sheehan
James G. Titus
John Z. Wetmore
Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Richard Cushwa
Jennifer Terrasa
Cari Watrous

Visitors Present

Emily Ranson, Bike Maryland

Acting Chair Greg Hinchliffe called the meeting to order at 9:38 AM.

1. Approval of the February Meeting Minutes

Greg Hinchliffe noted an error in the draft February meeting minutes where the same sentence was written twice. He moved and Carl Rebele seconded the motion to approve the February minutes on condition the duplicate sentence was removed. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Commuting and Transportation – C&T Subcommittee Chair Greg Hinchliffe submitted an electronic report. Steve Carr said that the Susquehanna River Rail Bridge Project Advisory Board, created by the City of Havre de Grace, issued a report recommending that a new bridge be built across the Susquehanna River at Susquehanna State Park. This park is owned by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Steve said the advisory board never contacted DNR staff about its recommendation prior to the report being issued. While DNR supports the concept of making connections between public lands and the larger community, DNR lacks sufficient information to take a position on this recommendation. Kevin Racine believes small municipalities are not equipped to address bicycle and pedestrian access across the Susquehanna River on their own. John Wetmore noted that bicycle and

pedestrian access is not included in the Amtrak Bridge replacement study's Purpose and Needs statement.

Bob Gaston continues to work on trail issues in Cecil County and in adjacent Pennsylvania and Delaware counties. He met with the City of Havre de Grace to gain support for a bikeways grant to complete an economic study of the benefits of a greenway trail and a new non-motorized crossing of the Susquehanna River between Perryville and Havre de Grace. Scott Hansen reported that he has reviewed and provided comments on alternatives retained for detailed study on the Susquehanna River Rail Bridge Project on behalf of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). He reviewed bicycle and pedestrian legislative bills and provided position recommendations for MDP as well to continue to update MDP's transit oriented development web map.

Greg announced that his term as interim executive director(ED) of Bikemore, Baltimore's bicycle advocacy group, is coming to an end with the hire of a permanent ED whose tenure begins in May. As interim Bikemore ED, Greg has engaged Baltimore City staff regarding renewal of that city's League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community award and testified at a Baltimore City Planning Commission hearing which approved the renewal/reissue of the city's Bicycle Master Plan. He analyzed the new MARC Bicycle Car weekend Penn Line service and noted that the schedule seems to favor DC to Baltimore round trips over Baltimore to DC roundtrips in terms of convenience.

Jim Titus reported that the State Highway Administration (SHA) and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) are moving toward agreement regarding a 2.5 mile westward extension of the WB&A Trail toward Glenarden along MD 704. He noted that Michael Jackson and himself have asked Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation staff for clarification regarding statements made concerning the rationale behind their installation of R4-11 modified "Bicycles May Use Full Right Lane" signs. Jim discussed criticism of the Street Smart "Tired Faces" campaign messages, posted on the Greater Greater Washington website, which felt the safety campaign was blaming victims for their injuries. Michael clarified that this campaign was a joint effort supported by DC, Maryland and Virginia departments of transportation and major local governments in the DC metro area and not a solely Maryland Department of Transportation campaign. He felt the that the campaign's intent is educating pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists to avoid behaviors likely to result in traffic crashes, injuries and deaths instead of blaming traffic collision victims.

B. Education and Awareness Subcommittee – E&A Chair Erin Penniston submitted a written report regarding several walking initiatives and resources nationally. The report listed eight organizations deemed as bicycle advocacy groups and noted that upcoming Bike To School, Bike To Work Day and Bike To Work Week events are planned for May. Erin announced that Michael had applied to join the Rural Maryland Council and to serve on their Health Care Committee.

C. Legislative and Government Affairs Subcommittee – L&GA Chair Jon Morrison submitted a written report discussing the status of selected Maryland General Assembly bills. John Wetmore announced that the Potomac Electrical Power Company (PEPCO) agreed to implement a pilot trail project across their transmission corridor between Germantown and Bethesda contingent on the merger between PEPCO and Exelon being approved. He noted that the US Congress will approve another short term extension of the federal Highway Trust Fund. John expressed uncertainty regarding the impact of Governor Larry Hogan's budget proposals on bicycle and pedestrian funding and noted his decision on whether or not to proceed with the Purple Line is expected to be announced in May. Efforts to cut costs could impact

the parallel bicycle path. Scott asked if MBPAC members can comment on Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas designation.

D. Tourism and Product Development Subcommittee – T&PD Subcommittee Chair Dick Cushwa submitted a written report presented by Carl Rebele. He said the DNR sponsored Maryland Trails Summit held on March 12th at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum was a great success with opportunities for networking between trail administrators, trail experts and representatives from trail related businesses. Carl said that MBPAC members Steve Carr and Marci Ross along with Kate Sylvester of MDOT served as moderators and that he and Greg were in attendance. Jennifer Jones said the Office of Tourism Development (OTD) staffed a booth at the Maryland Legislative Symposium and passed out bicycle maps collected from around the state and OTD's Destination Maryland tourist guidebooks. She noted that "*Travels With Darley*" a Public Broadcasting Service documentary will be coming to the Eastern Shore and they are being urged to bicycle along the Cross Island Trail on Kent Island. Alternative spring break activity options including bicycling along the C&O Canal were included in a press release sent in the United Kingdom. OTD is planning a tourism campaign that will engage all five senses of tourists (i.e. sight, sound, touch, smell and hearing).

Steve announced that Prince George's County is working with DNR to extend the WB&A Trail to Bowie State University and to the Bowie MARC station. A feasibility study is underway regarding the construction of a WB&A Trail crossing of the Patuxent River. DNR is working with various stakeholders to gather map data regarding all of Maryland's equestrian trails so this data can be included on DNR's Trail Atlas. In addition DNR staff have been holding workshops with county recreation and parks staff designed to increase the utility of their local Land Parks, Preservation, and Recreational plans as valuable recreational planning tools. These county staff persons have also shared their GIS trail data with DNR for inclusion in its' Trail Atlas.

Steve noted that although the Patapsco Valley State Park extends from Sykesville to Baltimore City most of the visitor activities occur at the Avalon recreational area. DNR is developing a new trail vision for the park that eliminate access barriers to other portions of the park while in term protecting the parks natural resources. He noted that the Maryland Trails Summit attracted over 200 attendees and was a huge success. Michael said MDOT anticipates issuing a Notice To Proceed to its consultants for the creation of the Big Book of Maryland Bicycle Tourism and said he is looking for assistance by the Tourism and Product Development subcommittee members.

3. Other Business

Greg announced the resignation of MBPAC member Lt. Michael Tagliaferri of the Maryland State Police due to increased responsibilities relating to his promotion to lieutenant. Greg urged that subcommittee chairpersons submit their bi-monthly subcommittee reports to Michael by the announced deadline or else take responsibility for distributing their reports to members on their own to avoid Michael's having to put together and distribute subcommittee reports more than once. Greg urged members to be sure they pay for coffee poured from MDOT's coffee pots. Carl said he puts in \$5.00 to cover the members' coffee consumption.

Greg submitted a draft letter of welcome from MBPAC to Secretary Rahn and a statement looking forward to his acceptance of MBPAC's request to meet him at the December 2015 MBPAC meeting. Michael is to prepare the letter. There was a discussion of the need to fill the growing number of vacancies on the committee. Michael will again try to get the vacancies filled now that new leadership is

in place and the legislative session is over. Greg showed a video clip of bicyclists performing seemingly impossible acrobatic movements as entertainment prior to meeting adjournment.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12 Noon.

mpbac/minutes/4-10-15 mbpac meeting minutes