

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
June Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 12, 2015
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland

Members Present

Steve Carr
Richard Cushwa
Robert Gaston
Deborah Grinnage-Pulley
Scott Hansen
Gregory Hinchliffe
Jon Morrison
Erin Penniston
Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
(Jennifer Jones for) Marci Ross
(Daniel Janousek for) Fred Shaffer
Patrick Sheehan
Jennifer Terrasa
James G. Titus
John Z. Wetmore

Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Cari Watrous

Visitors Present

Stephen Ashurst
Eric Brenner
Barry Childress
Tres Denk, Eastern Shore International Mountain Bicycle Association
Bruce Gartner, Maryland Transportation Authority
Dustin Kuzan, State Highway Administration
Jason Lodge, Maryland Transit Administration
Emily Ranson, Bike Maryland
Dennis Schrader, Maryland Department of Transportation
Dennis Simpson, Maryland Transportation Authority
Govind Sulibhavi, Maryland Transit Administration

MBPAC acting chairperson Dick Cushwa opened the meeting at 9:30 AM.

1. Approval of the April meeting minutes

Greg Hinchliffe moved and Carl Rebele seconded Greg's motion to approve the April MBPAC meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Commuting and Transportation – C&T subcommittee chair Greg Hinchliffe submitted a written report. He announced that Bikemore, Baltimore's bicycle advocacy organization had hired Liz Cornish as their full time executive director. In other Baltimore City news, Greg reported that a new Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee has been meeting with an expanded and more influential membership than its predecessor committee. He also said a proposal to remove a bikeway to add a general traffic lane on a Fells Point roadway was overturned while Roland Avenue is being modified to include a cycle track placed between the parking lane and the sidewalk.

Jim Titus reported the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation will hire their first full time bicycle and pedestrian coordinator and will add bicycle racks to its "The Bus" public transit buses. He reported on a meeting that Michael Jackson and he attended with top DPW&T transportation staff regarding various bicycling concerns including the county's R4-11 modified/Bicycles May Use Full Right Lane sign. Jim said that the Commuting and Transportation subcommittee would like Michael to facilitate a meeting between MBPAC members and the staff from the Maryland Transit Administration to explore the possibility of requiring some contract supplied commuter buses to be equipped with bicycle racks, adding "This is about tourism as well as commuting. Many people would like to take a bus to North Beach, Hagerstown, or California (Maryland) and bike back o or to Kent Island and then bike to Ocean City." He noted that the Maryland Department of Human Resources has ruled that county Child Protective Services staff should not intervene on behalf of "free range" children unless the children are hurt or are at risk of being harmed.

Bob Gaston led trail building sessions at Susquehanna State Park and Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area, developed a way finding plan for trails at Fair Hill and is designing a new trail there. He reported that the City of Havre de Grace approved East Coast Greenway signs there. Bob attended the April meeting of the Wilmington Planning Council's (Wilmapco) Non-Motorized Working Group and is working with others to form a bicycle advocacy group in Cecil County. Scott Hansen discussed bicycle and pedestrian-related comments/concerns made regarding three State Highway Administration projects as a planner with the Maryland Department of Planning. He participated in a Safe Streets design review panel held by the School of Architecture and Planning at Morgan State University on May 13th. Kevin Racine visited Philadelphia for the purpose of seeing if there are any transportation strategies that would be useful for Maryland to adopt.

Greg noted that he and Bob also traveled to Philadelphia to attend the spring East Coast Greenway Alliance meeting. Greg said the city had completed a trail segment along a previously impassable section of the Schuylkill River by building a trail bridge that parallels the shoreline above the river's surface. Greg also said that Philadelphia's long awaited public bike share system was now operational.

B. Education and Awareness – E&A subcommittee chair Erin Penniston submitted a written report which included details of the 2015 Bicycle Friendly State rankings, a webinar regarding walking on college campuses, bike to school and bike to pre-school events. Michael discussed his participation in Bike To Work Day related events in Montgomery and Prince George's counties and MDOT's Bike From

Work Day afternoon event. He also mentioned that the National Security Administration had opened Connector Road to NSA employees who commute by bicycle and his role in this matter over the past decade.

C. Legislative and Government Affairs – L&GA subcommittee chair Jon Morrison submitted a written report which included five pages of information from the League of American Bicyclists regarding the 2015 Bicycle Friendly States report. He informed the members that Bike Maryland is planning to hold a joint advocate/legislator session to discuss 2016 legislative opportunities. John Wetmore stated that Congress approved a two month extension of the federal transportation authorization until the end of July. He noted Governor Hogan’s reduction of toll fees and worried that reduced toll revenues might adversely affect the planned inclusion of pedestrian/bicycle shared use path as part of a new Governor Nice Memorial Bridge replacement project. John announced that the Maryland Public Service Commission has approved the proposed Pepco-Exelon merger including the pilot trail project to be built on PEPCO utility right-of-way. He noted that the DC Public Service Commission must also approve the merger in order it to occur.

D. Tourism and Product Development – T&PD subcommittee chair Dick Cushwa submitted a written report. He mentioned that former Maryland delegate Jon Cardin and others are exploring the possibility of bringing a series of professional bicycle races to Carroll, Frederick and Washington counties next year. This will be a three-day event, with a 140 mile road race, starting in Frederick and rotating in their respective county seats in succeeding years. He also discussed bicycling activities in Hagerstown and Williamsport.

Jennifer Jones reported that Heather Ertes is the new tourism outreach staff person in the Maryland Office of Tourism Development (OTD) and that Ms. Ertes is touring the state as part of their tourism development efforts. Jennifer also noted that OTD has launched a new website and that hiking and bicycling are prominently featured. Carl announced that Garrett County will be hosting a Gran Fondo event in late June, consisting of five different rides ranging from 25 to 125 miles.

Steve Carr informed the members that Governor Larry Hogan has declared the month of June as “Great Outdoors Month” and a time to get children outdoors. Consistent with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on-going effort to create and maintain the Maryland Trail Atlas as a one stop on-line site to view trails in the state, DNR is working with the Maryland State Highway Administration to map trail connections to state highways. A discussion took place about various crowd sourcing applications used to determine trails with the highest volume of users. Dan Janousek mentioned that the mandatory referral process used by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission now includes their review of road projects. Patrick Sheehan noted efforts by the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority to improve transit bus stops.

3. Non-Motorized Access across the Susquehanna River

Jason Ridge of the Maryland Transit Administration and Bruce Gartner of the Maryland Transportation Authority each gave presentations regarding public demand for the provision of new non-motorized access across the Susquehanna River. Jason said the MDOT/Amtrak team looking at the feasibility of building a new railroad bridge across the Susquehanna River is considering input from all sources regarding the construction of a shared use path in conjunction with a new railroad bridge. A hazard analysis is underway to determine the minimum distance of separation would be needed between the planned high speed rail line and a shared use pathway. The path feasibility analysis would become part

of the Record of Decision at the conclusion of the bridge feasibility study. Both presenters distributed handouts of their presentations.

4. SHA Request for MBPAC Review of Proposed Buffered Bike Lane Guidance

Dustin Kuzan, SHA Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, distributed copies of SHA proposed buffered bike lane guidance, intended for inclusion in their next Bicycle Policy and Design Guidelines publication. He requested that MBPAC members provide their comments in a single letter representing MBPAC's position to SHA. It was agreed that comments would be provided by July 2nd. C&T will collect and collate the comments; please email them to Greg.

5. Public Comment

Tres Denk, a guest with the Eastern Shore International Mountain Bicycle Association, presented his vision for bicycling improvements in Worcester County as well as on-going mountain bicycle trail building there.

6. Other Business

Barry Childress and Dustin Kuzan discussed width specifications for the planned Roland Avenue cycle track in Baltimore. Barry wondered if John Wetmore could give a presentation to the Baltimore Metropolitan Council regarding the agreement reached with PEPCO to build a shared use path along one of their utility right-of-way corridors. Greg showed humorous silent video shorts from the year 1928 illustrating perils for pedestrians and other roadway users in New York City posed by reckless taxi drivers and out of control horse drawn carriages.

7. Adjournment – Dick adjourned the meeting at 12:03 PM

mbpac/6-12-15 MBPAC minutes