

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
December Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 12, 2014
Maryland Department of Transportation
Hanover, Maryland

Members Present

Steve Carr
Richard Cushwa
Robert Gaston
Deborah Grinnage-Pulley
Scott Hansen
Greg Hinchliffe
Jon Morrison
Erin Penniston
Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
(Jennifer Jones for) Marci Ross
Fred Shaffer
Patrick Sheehan
(Michael Jackson for) James T. Smith, Jr.
Lt. Michael Tagliaferri
Honorable Jennifer Terrasa
James G. Titus
Cari Watrous
John Z. Wetmore

Michael Jackson (staff)

Visitors Present

Nate Evans, Bike Maryland
Jon Korin, Bike AAA
Dustin Kuzan, State Highway Administration (SHA)
Steve Miller, Bike AAA
Stacey Tesch, SHA

Acting Chair Dick Cushwa began the meeting at 9:30 AM.

1. Approval of the October Meeting Minutes

Greg Hinchliffe moved and Carl Rebele seconded a motion to approve the draft October meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Commuting and Transportation – Greg submitted a written subcommittee report. Scott Hansen reported on transit oriented topics he is involved with as a Maryland Department of Planning employee. Bob Gaston reported he attended a public meeting held by Amtrak and the Maryland Department of Transportation regarding a replacement railroad bridge crossing of the Susquehanna River project and the prospect of inclusion of a shared use pathway in that project. He noted there were three options being considered and all three included a shared use pathway.

Jim Titus reported on a C&T subcommittee meeting with Maryland Transit Administration staff regarding bicycle parking and transit subsidy proposals affecting State employees. He also gave a follow up presentation regarding the State Highway Administration's concerns regarding local maintenance responsibilities if SHA constructed a proposed extension of the WB&A Trail along MD 704/Martin Luther King Jr. Highway. SHA does not maintain sidewalks or shared use paths by law. He also submitted two resolutions regarding the design of a bikeway along US Route in College Park and bike parking subsidies for state employees. Both resolutions were passed with several abstentions but without any nay votes (see attachments).

Greg said he has assumed the position of Executive Director of Bikemore, the Baltimore City and County based advocacy organization, on an interim basis. He reported attending several meetings with Baltimore City and MDOT staff on various topics, attended a meeting of the Perryville Trail Council regarding routing the East Coast Greenway through Perryville Community Park, and meetings with Bike Maryland members on legislative matters.

Michael Jackson introduced a resolution concerning the placement of a modified R4-11/Bicycles May Use Full Lane regulatory sign on county maintained roadways in Prince George's County. The modified sign adds the word "Right" to read "Bicycles May Use Full Right Lane". Maryland law allows bicyclists to use other lanes under specified conditions. The proposed resolution would direct the acting Chair of MBPAC to send a letter to SHA requesting they look into the legality of the modified sign and report their findings to MBPAC. Jim voiced concerns that the County may simply take down the signs if challenged and that the modified signs may be better than none at all. Fred Shaffer objected to the inclusion of the resolution without discussing first discussing with county staff including him. It was agreed that action on the resolution would be postponed and reconsidered at the February meeting and Michael would contact county staff in the meanwhile.

B. Education and Awareness – E&A Subcommittee Chair Erin Penniston submitted an electronic report. The report described resources and studies relating to walking and bicycling. She reported that the subcommittee held a conference call meeting on December 1st and during that meeting discussed development of a 2015 subcommittee plan by the February meeting.

C. Legislative and Government Affairs – No electronic report was submitted. L&GA Subcommittee Chair Jon Morrison discussed meeting with the MDOT State Legislative Officer, Kristen Weiss, about upcoming legislation. Kristen noted that MDOT had not yet taken positions on upcoming legislation due to the need to coordinate with the new department leadership scheduled to be in place following Governor-elect Larry Hogan's inauguration next month. John Wetmore said he would like to meet with the new transportation secretary. John provided updates on the PEPCO/Excelon consolidation hearings held by the Public Service Commission as part of the initiative to obtain permission to build and operate shared use paths on utility rights-of-way.

D. Tourism and Product Development – T&PD Subcommittee Chair Dick Cushwa submitted a written report. Carl Rebele distributed copies of the Garrett County Board of Commissioners 2014 Transportation Priorities List submitted to MDOT as an example for members to consider emulating. The county's list is categorized into eight functional areas which include sidewalk/streetscape and trail and pedestrian priorities. Dick noted that the City of Hagerstown received a Bronze level Bicycle Friendly Communities award from the League of American Bicyclists and that US Bicycle Route 11, Maryland's second US bicycle route, had been approved in November. Bike Maryland staff visited Hagerstown and the Canal Towns organization plans to approach Paw Paw, WVA officials about joining Canal Towns.

Steve Carr reported that Dan Hudson had been hired to build sustainable parks. Steve will contact Dan about new trails. He noted that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Trail Summit is scheduled for March 12, 2015 at Maritime Institute in Linthicum Heights, MD. MDOT has approved \$248,160 in reimbursable grant funding to DNR for the North Point Trail project in Baltimore County. Steve attended the December MDOT/Amtrak meeting of the Susquehanna River Railroad Bridge feasibility study and said that there is absolute commitment by MDOT and Amtrak to fully consider the feasibility of a shared use path crossing of the Susquehanna River. He predicted that the study will conclude the only feasible option of providing a shared use path river crossing will be a standalone structure at a cost of \$50 million or more. If so, advocates should not expect the end result will be a commitment to design and build an actual shared use path bridge. Steve recommended a series of steps that must take place if such a commitment is to be made.

Furthermore Steve provided an update on the issue of utility corridor trails, and stated that Delegate Aruna Miller has met with trail advocates and is now conducting research into issues raised at these meetings. He noted that the mountain bicycle community has made utility trails their top issue and a new group, representing a broad coalition of trail users around the state, called "Trails Coalition" is filing a legal intervention on behalf of utility trails in Maryland.

Jennifer Jones discussed the Office of Tourism Development recent activities in promoting Maryland tourism including leading familiarization tours of areas of tourist interest to the news media and participation with their counterparts in DC and Virginia on joint international marketing efforts.

3. New SHA Maryland Bicycle Map

Dustin Kuzan and Stacey Tesch of SHA passed out copies of the new Maryland bicycle map and responded to questions and comments. The new map is larger in size than its predecessor and returns to suitability format that was dropped in the previous map edition. The suitability format utilizes colors to categorize selected state highways in terms least to most difficult to bicycle on as determined by the road characteristics of speed ranges, right shoulder widths and traffic volumes. Some local bikeways are shown. Dustin said SHA is open taking comments about the new map.

Comments from members noted that shared use path lines were narrower and thus harder to locate than interstate highways which prohibit bike traffic, and that the maps have a limited life due to the inclusion of the photograph of outgoing Governor Martin O'Malley and his family. Dustin noted that the map was developed in-house without outside input. Jennifer said this was a small run and serves as an interim map. Michael Tagliaferri asked if an electronic version was available.

4. SHA Design Guide Review

Stacey and Dustin prepared a power point presentation on SHA's draft bikeways design guidelines. Several changes from the current guidelines were based on comments MBPAC made in 2013. Dustin said SHA wants to get the draft document approved by January and to ensure this would occur SHA would not make any changes to the draft being presented, although comments from MBPAC members would be considered in a subsequent update. SHA would prefer that MBPAC gather comments from its members and submit in one document.

The major concern expressed was the continued inclusion of bike lane striping design figures that require bicyclists to cross solid white lines at the beginning and termination points of bike lanes. It was pointed out that MBPAC expressed strong opposition to this design in their 2013 comments; that SHA's own Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices notes that the purpose of solid white lines is to discourage or prohibit vehicular crossing and that no other vehicle types are expected to routinely cross solid white lines. Dustin said that some SHA maintenance officials cited difficulty in installing and maintaining dashed bike lane line striping as the reason for keeping these figure in the draft design guidelines.

In response to a question regarding whether SHA has adopted the NACTO (National Association of City Transportation Officials) bikeway design guidelines Dustin said SHA has not formally adopted these guidelines or the AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) bikeway design guidelines. However SHA does refer to these two bikeway design documents as needed.

5. Other Business

There was a brief discussion of miscellaneous other items.

6. Adjournment

Dick adjourned the meeting at 11:52 am.

Attachments:

- Resolution 2014-5 *US Route 1 in College Park*
- Resolution 2014- 6 *Bike Parking for State Employees*