

## Meeting Minutes

**Attendees (in person):** Claire Aubel, Marty Baker, Lara Beck, Eric Brenner, Wayne Clark, Jeff Dunckel, Heather Ersts, Nate Evans, Liz Fitzsimmons, Nathan George, Charles Glass, Scott Hansen, Greg Hinchliffe, Aaron Marcavitch, Melissa Miklus, Jon Morrison, Oluseyi Olugbenle, Erin Penniston, Peter Sotherland, Jim Titus, John Wetmore

**Attendees (on conference call):** Tanya Asman, Shayne Boucher, Tres Denk, Roy Gothie, Chris Hersl, Kevin Racine, Charles Schaeffer, Fred Shaffer

### I. Welcome/Introductions

Liz Fitzsimmons, Executive Director of the Maryland Office of Tourism Development, welcomed attendees to the Office of Tourism building and highlighted some key tourism facts in Maryland:

- 17.3 - Billion-dollar industry
- Industry employs 146,000, equivalent to 2.6 Billion.

Liz Fitzsimmons emphasized the importance of combining transportation and tourism efforts and mentioned the success of allowing cyclists to put their bikes on Amtrak trains in Western Maryland. With this option, people stay longer, spend more, and enjoy biking and walking along the trails. Eric Brenner noted that Amtrak now has the highest number of cyclists along the Great Allegheny Passage, Western MD Rail Trail, and C&O Canal Trails.

### II. Approval of Minutes

Eric Brenner, Chair of MBPAC, asked for any corrections to the December Meeting Minutes and received one comment from Jim Titus, MBPAC Member, who asked for the minutes to reflect his question to Jeff Dunckel regarding fatalities and driver's license suspensions. Jeff Dunckel stated that he will get back to the group regarding this inquiry.

No other corrections were raised and the minutes were approved.

### III. Legislative Session – Jon Morrison, MBPAC Member

Jon Morrison provided detail on current and potential bills for the 2018 Legislative Session:

- **House Bill (HB)140:** Public Safety – Emergency Medical Services – Bicycle Response Unit (<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=hb0140&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2018RS>)  
HB140 authorizes a county or municipality to establish, by local law, an emergency medical response unit that travels by bicycle to assist with emergencies within the boundaries of the county or municipality
- **HB222:** Cross-filled with Senate Bill (SB) 268: Vehicle Laws – Overtaking and Passing Bicycles, Farm Equipment, Farm Tractors, and Animal-Drawn Vehicles

- <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=HB0222&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2018RS> - Hearings are February 6<sup>th</sup> in the House and February 8<sup>th</sup> in the Senate. HB222 authorizes the driver of a vehicle to drive on the left side of the roadway in a no-passing zone to overtake and pass a bicycle, farm equipment, a farm tractor, or an animal-drawn vehicle in accordance with a certain provision of law.
- **HB285:** Department of Transportation – Bike/Ped Access to Public School Study <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=HB0285&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2018RS> HB285 would require the Department of Transportation to study pedestrian and bicycle access to public schools in the State and make recommendations for addressing the safety concerns identified in the study; requiring the Department to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2020
  - **SB407:** Transportation – Complete Streets Program – Establishment <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=SB0407&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2018RS>  
Bill seeks to establish a Complete Streets Program at the local jurisdiction level that would require the Governor to annually appropriate at least \$1,000,000 in funding for the Program; specifying the requirements for a local government to be designated as a certified jurisdiction

Jon Morrison mentioned that additional Complete Streets Bills will be submitted by Delegate Lafferty, Senator Mathias, and Delegate Leirman.

- Vulnerable Road User (VRU) bill will either be filed in the last week of January or the first week of February. Jon Morrison noted that this bill will model DC VRU legislation.

There was some discussion of the following potential bills

- Parking reimbursements for cyclists on mass transit (Delegate Lewis)
- Contributory (comparative) Negligence Bill
- Additional funding for the Maryland Bikeways Program

Jim Titus asked if speed limits and fines were included in any bills. Jon Morrison mentioned that bills regarding Complete Streets Program will be a step forward in the right direction. Jon clarified that the Complete Streets bill will be directed to the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) but will be applied to all state agencies. John Wetmore asked Jon Morrison to inform MBPAC on how to get involved and when to testify.

There was discussion on the New Nice Bridge. Eric Brenner mentioned a press release in 2016 that signaled the MDTA's intent to include a barrier separated path on the bridge and his hopes to see the project include such accommodations. The public may submit comment here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NewNiceBridge2018>. The deadline for comment on the New Nice Bridge is February 20, 2017. There has not been a response from Charles County regarding ownership and maintenance responsibilities of the old bridge.

**IV. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update – Marty Baker, Deputy Director, Bicycle and Pedestrian Access, MDOT, The Secretary’s Office**

Marty Baker announced that she has been appointed as the Deputy Director of Bike/Ped Access supporting Assistant Secretary Charles Glass who continues his role as the Director. Marty will also continue to manage the Intermodal Policy and Programs Division, and noted that a major work item for MBPAC’s attention in 2018 will be updating the Bike Ped Master Plan. Stakeholder inputs, agency outreach, and preliminary research had begun in Fall 2017, and have so far lent strong support for many of the goals and objectives in the 2014 Plan. Major inputs were also solicited through the Bike Safety Task Force as well as through the Bike/Ped Roundtable that MBPAC hosted in October. Major points from that discussion were distributed, and will provide strong guidance for efforts to update the plan. She also emphasized the importance of providing input to the broader statewide transportation plan, the Maryland Transportation Plan, and noted that this effort was advancing on a similar timeline to be completed in early 2019.

(See the MTP link to the survey: <https://2040mtp.metroquest.com/>). You can also comment via email to [2019MTP@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:2019MTP@mdot.state.md.us).

Marty also noted that MDOT is seeking feedback on the goals and objectives from the 2014 BPMP. (Link to the survey: [http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/Planning/Bike\\_Walk/survey.html](http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/Planning/Bike_Walk/survey.html)).

Marty detailed the next steps and 2018 Strategy for the BPMP. See slides below.

<b>Next Steps and MBPAC Inputs</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Next Steps:</b></li> <li>◦ Finalize Strategy and Timeline – Web updates</li> <li>◦ Data Development and Outreach (cont’d)</li> <li>◦ Attainment Report Advisory Committee</li> <li>◦ Smart Growth Subcabinet, Land Preservation and Recreation Plan, Statewide Development Plan (A Better MD)</li> <li>◦ E-mail Blast and Create Listserve</li> <li>◦ Revise Goals and Objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MBPAC Inputs:</b></li> <li>◦ Questions and Feedback on Vision/Strategy</li> <li>◦ Input on Goals and Objectives: Survey</li> <li>◦ Help expand the Contact List</li> <li>◦ Public Meetings and Webinars: Help Coordinate/ Participate</li> <li>◦ Continual feedback and initiative development at each MBPAC meeting.</li> <li>◦ MTP MetroQuest Survey</li> </ul>



## Bike Ped Master Plan – 2018 Strategy

**Winter 2018 :**

***Where have we been and what have we accomplished?***

- o Revisit Goals/Objectives
- o MTP Coordination
- o Data Review and Development
- o Trends/Analysis
- o Accomplishments

**Spring 2018:**

***What are the key needs and opportunities moving forward?***

- o Data Development/ Analysis
- o Needs/Opportunities
- o Stakeholder Interviews
- o Performance Measures and MTP Coordination
- o Interagency Coordination and Initiatives.
- o Public Meeting #1

**Summer 2018:**

***How to redefine and redirect work around new key initiatives?***

- o Draft Elements and Initiatives
- o Statewide Planning Initiative Coordination
  - DNR: LPRP
  - MDP: SDP "A Better MD"
  - Commerce and Tourism
- o Public Meeting #2

**Fall 2018:**

***How do we pull this all together and respond to all the great ideas for a plan submission in January 2019?***

- o Release Draft (Sep)
- o Public Review (Oct)
- o Revise (Nov)
- o Finalize (Dec)

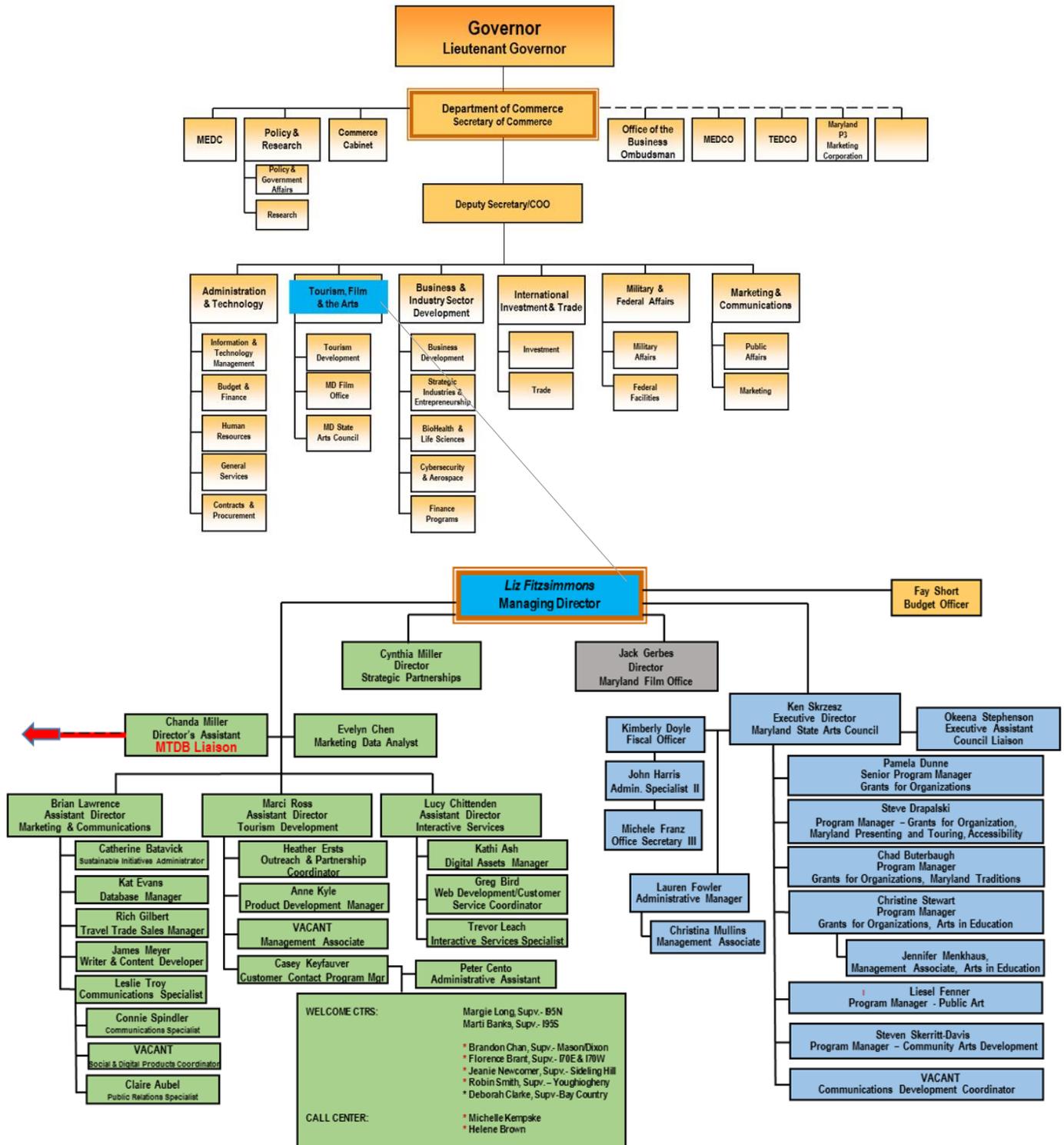


Marty's PowerPoint presentation can be found here:

[http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/Planning/Bike\\_Walk/Documents/MBPAC/MBPAC\\_BikePedPlanUpdate\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/Planning/Bike_Walk/Documents/MBPAC/MBPAC_BikePedPlanUpdate_Presentation.pdf)

Eric Brenner praised coordination efforts around the State such as the Task Force Study, October Roundtable, and 2017 One-MDOT themed-MBAPC meetings and emphasized the importance of combining key initiatives and building partnerships.

V. The Department of Commerce: Structure, Office, Roles and Vision and Maryland Tourism – Heather Ersts, Partnership and Outreach Manager, provided an overview of the structure and mission of the Office of Tourism. She opened the presentation with a video capturing tourism efforts and activities around the State.



The mission of The Maryland Office of Tourism's mission is to "grow revenue to the State through increased visitor spending. More customers. More revenue. More jobs." Heather highlighted some brief facts regarding visitor volume and spending in 2016:

- Maryland welcomed 42.1 million visitors
- Visitors to Maryland spent \$17.3 billion and generated \$2.3 billion in state and local taxes
- Tourism support more than 146,000 jobs
- Employees earned \$6 billion in wages
- Tourism is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest private sector employer in Maryland.

Heather provided statistics on key tax codes, demographic characteristics, income, where visitors travel to and from, and what visitors prefer to do. She noted that the Office of Tourism provides technical assistance on review committees and partners with MDOT, Maryland Scenic Byways, Heritage Areas, among others.

Jeff Dunkel commented that Maryland is now a part of the NCAA Big 10 in basketball, which is another opportunity to explore.

Some members raised questions about the implications of safety on scenic byways and concerns regarding transit connections to the National Harbor. Peter commented that historic areas are often more concerned with preservation of character than safety considerations, but also noted that most of the character of these roads slow traffic down to 30-35MPH. Heather reiterated the Office of Tourism's efforts to partner with MDOT on review committees to address these issues and support the safety agenda.

**See the entire PowerPoint presentation and video here:**

[http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/Planning/Bike\\_Walk/Documents/MBPAC/Tourism\\_More%20Customers%20for%20Maryland.pdf](http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/Planning/Bike_Walk/Documents/MBPAC/Tourism_More%20Customers%20for%20Maryland.pdf)

**Videos:**

[http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/Planning/Bike\\_Walk/Documents/MBPAC/Tourism%20Video%201.mp4](http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/Planning/Bike_Walk/Documents/MBPAC/Tourism%20Video%201.mp4)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZQWG0m8mMg>

Claire Aubel, Public Relations Specialist, presented on social media efforts in the Office of Tourism. She discussed the importance of social media and how these social channels are platforms for sharing highlights through imagery and first-person accounts. She shared several popular posts on Instagram and Twitter.

The Maryland Office of Tourism needs and wants the help of the MBPAC community to share their photos and experiences when they are out on the road or trails. This is how you can help us sell Maryland as a great place to cycle and hike. Please use hashtags: #visitmaryland and #MDinFocus.

See the PowerPoint presentation here:

[http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/Planning/Bike\\_Walk/Documents/MBPAC/Visit\\_Maryland\\_Social\\_Media\\_2018.pdf](http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/Planning/Bike_Walk/Documents/MBPAC/Visit_Maryland_Social_Media_2018.pdf)

## VI. Other State Agency Updates

Peter Sotherland listed several updates in the State Highway Administration:

- The Transportation Alternatives Program has initiated a new consultant task to look at best practices in the State
- The Pedestrian Road Safety Audit Program will complete audits in 24 existing corridors. These audits will focus on a more strategic approach to address pedestrian safety issues along these corridors.
- There is effort to look into non-legislation recommendations and potential strategies for addressing some issues discussed in the Bicycle Safety Task Force Report.

Marty Baker mentioned that the State Discretionary Grants Workshop will be held in March and will include public outreach efforts to advance the BPMP.

Aaron Marcavitch announced that the Heritage Areas Program approved \$6 Million in funding. He encouraged all to apply for bicycle and pedestrian projects that have clear tourism benefits. The deadline to submit the intent to apply is January 26, 2018.

Fred Shaffer, MBPAC member, announced that MNCPPC (Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission) has several projects underway including the WB&A Trail study and plans to launch Prince George's County bikeshare around Bike to Work Day in May.

John Wetmore noted that Pepco is now supportive of the Montgomery County bike trail along Pepco's right of way.

Jim Titus expressed his condolences for former MBPAC member, Bill Kelly, who recently passed.

## VII. Upcoming Events/Dates/Locations for the next meeting

Eric Brenner shared the remaining MBPAC dates of the year and the focus for each meeting. The MBPAC theme for 2018 is *Strong Partnerships Around the State of Maryland*.

### a. MBPAC 2018 Meetings:

- April 6, 2018 – *Health and Education*
- August 10, 2018 – *Police Enforcement and Data Collection*
- November 9, 2018 – *Planning Efforts in the State*

### b. Save the Dates:

- Bike Maryland Symposium – February 13, 2018
- National Bike Summit – March 5 – 7, 2018