



Task Force Meeting 1 Summary Notes

Thursday, August 31, 2017

1PM – 3:30 PM

Task Force Members:

Lt. Charles Baker, Shayne Boucher, Vincent Boylan, Delegate Andrew Cassilly, Christine Delise (for Ragina Cooper Averella), Chris Eatough, Tom Gianni, Tom Huesman, Jon Korin, Delegate Stephen Lafferty, Senator Susan Lee, Laurie Lemieux, Mike Lenhart, Mark Morelock, Peter Sotherland, Mayor Patrick Wojahn, Chief Michael Wynnyk, Corporal Dave Zanoni

Task Force Members Not Present:

Senator Roger Manno, one Task Force member not yet appointed

MDOT Staff Present:

Marty Baker (MDOT TSO), Charles Glass (MDOT TSO), Kelly Melhem (MDOT MVA), Oluseyi Olugbenle (MDOT TSO), Meredith Hill (MDOT TSO), Jeff Tosi (MDOT TSO)

Consulting Staff Present:

Cynthia Burch (University of Maryland Baltimore), Leigh-Ann Dawes and Charise Geiling (Sharp & Company), RJ Eldridge and Nate Evans (Toole Design), Bryon White, (Sabra Wang and Associates)

Members of the Public:

David Anspacher, Chip Boylan, Louis Campion, Josh Feldmark, Peter Gray, Calvin Hallman, Kim Lamphier, Jamie Lancaster, Michael Lore, Marieannette Otero, Charles Padgett, Walt Roscello, Dennis Teegardin, Patrick Tracy, Chris Tsien, Stephen Tu, Barbara Zektick

Welcome and Introductions (Chair and All – 15 mins)

The Chair, Mr. Tom Gianni, called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM, and welcomed all participants. Each member introduced themselves and noted their appointed role and affiliation. The Chair noted that a final Task Force appointment for an advocate position was being finalized by the Governor's Office in the coming week(s) in time for the next meeting.

The Chair highlighted that several key resource materials were made available to inform the Task Force discussion. Hard copies of the current Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan, the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2014), the MDOT SHA Bicycle Design Guidelines, relevant sections of the Maryland Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices, and a recently-released report of the Governor's Highway Safety Association: "A Right to the Road: Understanding and Addressing Bicyclist Safety" – were made available as hard copies at the meeting, as well as provided on the Task Force website.

Task Force Legislated Mandate, Meeting Strategy and Protocol (Chair - 15 mins)

The Chair introduced the Task Force mandate and circulated a draft meeting strategy with proposed upcoming agendas to ensure the group achieves its mandate. Task Force members were requested to provide feedback on the proposed effort by e-mail to Marty Baker and Tom Gianni by September 8, 2017.



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The document will be finalized and posted to the Task Force website to inform the public and to guide future discussion.

Task Force members raised the question of how the outcomes of Task Force deliberations would be announced and raised the prospect of hosting a special public release and press event in 2018 accordingly. The Chair noted that the report would be submitted to the legislature for consideration in December, but noted the Task Force could give the idea of a release further consideration.

Meeting logistics were summarized and provided in advance to Task Force members. It was noted that Task Force members are eligible for reimbursement of expenses, and although they will not be required to submit financial disclosures, they are expected to abide by all other ethical guidelines. It is intended that all business of the Task Force will be conducted within the five scheduled meetings on an informal and consensus basis. Several key resource materials were made available to inform the Task Force discussion, including the Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan, the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2014), the MDOT SHA Bicycle Design Guidelines, relevant sections of the Maryland Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices, and a recently-released report of the Governor's Highway Safety Association: "A Right to the Road: Understanding and Addressing Bicyclist Safety".

Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan (Presentation by the Chair – 15 mins)

The Chair introduced the Maryland Highway Safety Office and provided an overview of the current Maryland Highway Safety Plan. The presentation highlighted efforts to address fatalities and serious injuries, with particular attention to the bicycle and pedestrian "emphasis area." This emphasis area team includes broad representation at the state, regional, and local level, and is convened on a quarterly basis to help advance key action items.

Task Force members requested that this meeting's presentations be posted to the website for future reference and public access, and the Chair agreed to accommodate this request.

Overview of Safety Issues, Crash Data (University of MD, National Study Center Presentation – 15 mins)

Cindy Burch presented crash statistics involving bicycles focused on the period between 2011 and 2016. Highlights included that 9% of reported bicycle crashes were fatal or severe and 83% included victims who were male. Such crashes most commonly occurred between 1 and 4pm, and were two times more likely to occur where road conditions included a hill, grade change, or curve. Serious injuries were more common when the cyclist was riding with traffic.

Task Force members expressed interest in additional data points including figures to show crash rates by population by age group and crash rates per jurisdiction, normalized by population. Several data limitations were discussed, including the fact that reporting can be inconsistent and that the only reported measures would be incidents involving vehicles and on roadways. Inputs regarding additional data needs were invited.



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Overview of Legislation, Operation/Safety Issues (Task Force Consultant Team Presentation – 15 mins)

Task Force consulting team staff, R.J. Eldridge of Toole Design, presented an overview of existing and recent legislation to address bicycle safety. The presentation highlighted rules of the road as well as mandated roles and responsibilities for addressing cycling safety needs including the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

Discussion: Identification of Key Issue Areas/Recommendations for Task Force Work and Legislative Issues Focus (45 mins)

Consulting team staff, Leigh-Ann Dawes led the Task Force first discussion to help identify key issue areas to guide future work of the Task Force. In the discussion, over two dozen issue areas were noted. From this list, a short list of priority areas for consideration was highlighted to include: Infrastructure: to improve bicycle mode share and improve safety; Data: to better capture scope and nature of problems and target intervention; Coordination: to improve cooperation between state and local agencies; and Education: to cultivate shared culture of safety between motorists and cyclists. The discussion also emphasized that legislation may not present the best mechanism for changing behavior, but there was specific interest in examining protection for vulnerable users, and exploring relevant interpretations of contributory negligence.

Task Force members elaborated several concerns about how to change the culture for all road users. Concerns included: How to better educate and prioritize use of limited infrastructure, to minimize conflicts and distractions; How to better create and identify appropriate pathways for different user groups; How to increase mode share for cyclists, particularly among the “interested but concerned” population and lower income areas?

Preliminary ideas for acting on the issues included: Using better technology to improve data collection and enforcement; Seeking mechanisms to improve state/local coordination; and providing better funding mechanisms to support infrastructure improvements. Although infrastructure was identified by many as the key to improving bike safety, it was also emphasized that the Task Force should work towards creating a legislative package. Legislative solutions could address: enhanced protections and prioritization for “vulnerable users”; revisiting definitions to support data collection needs; and mandating new approaches to ensure effective state/local coordination. It was requested that the consulting team review Maryland laws relative to other states to help identify key gaps.

Public Comment

Several members of the public shared their perspective on the Task Force’s mandate. Specific issue areas included the need to coordinate engineering, education, and enforcement around vulnerable users and areas, for example school children. Another point of emphasis included support for an emphasis on infrastructure, and need for targeted investment where needed instead of merely addressing roadway improvements as they arise.

After further discussion from Task Force members, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.