

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
June Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 8, 2012
Maryland Department of Transportation
Hanover, Maryland

Members Present

Richard Cushwa
Greg Hinchliffe
Beverly Malone
Michael Mason
Erin Penniston
Dan Janousek (for Fred Shaffer)
Patrick Sheehan
Carol Silldorff
Michael Jackson (for Beverley K. Swaim-Staley)
Jim Swift
Jennifer Terrasa
James G. Titus
Cari Watrous
John Z. Wetmore

Members Absent

Steve Carr
Robert Gaston
Scott Hansen
Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
Marci Ross
Michael Tagliaferri
Jeff Springer

Visitors Present

Peter Harnik, *Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail*
Monica Meade, *Parsons Brinckerhoff*

Chairperson Jim Swift called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

1. Approval of the April meeting minutes

The Chair called for a motion to approve the April meeting minutes. Dick Cushwa moved and Greg Hinchliffe seconded this motion. Cari Watrous noted that her first name had been misspelled in the draft minutes. The April meeting minutes were unanimously approved under condition that the typo be corrected.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Commuting and Transportation – No written report submitted. Jim Titus reported on his communications with the State Highway Administration regarding procedures for installing R4-11/Bicycles May Use Full Lane signs. Michael Jackson said he would send out copies of SHA’s guidance for installing R4-11 signs to the members. Greg Hinchliffe gave an update on the State bicycle friendly buildings guideline development. He mentioned that the Department of Natural Resources may have already prepared

guidelines on bicycle friendliness and said he would try to obtain a copy of such a document. Michael passed out photos of recently installed bus stops on MD Route 279 between Elkton and Newark, DE. He said that it has taken over 20 years to get these bus stops installed and credits SHA for changing their policy regarding permitting bus stops for clearing the way for installation. Cari noted that two of the bus stops were in locations not friendly for persons with disabilities. Michael Jackson said plans are underway to improve the safety and accessibility of these two bus stops for all transit patrons, including those with disabilities.

B. Education and Awareness – Interim E&A Subcommittee Chair Jim Swift submitted a written report that provided details of the planned Youth Trail Day Rides led by St Mary’s County public schools superintendent for the benefit of county school children and their parents. Michael Mason discussed a national certification program for a bicycle curriculum pilot project endorsed by the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation. Michael Jackson announced he would be presenting the Maryland Student Travel Policy Survey at the Velo Mondial Conference later in the month in Vancouver, British Columbia.

C. Legislative and Government Affairs – L&GA Subcommittee Chair Patrick Sheehan submitted a written report. He noted that the Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority is planning a systematic upgrade of bus stops and access to them and is soliciting public input regarding prioritization of such improvements. He also provided updates on federal legislative matters. Carol would like the L&GA subcommittee to discuss the merits of the legislative bill by Delegate Aruna Miller to change state law regarding sidewalk bicycling.

As requested during the April MBPAC meeting a list of eight bills introduced in the 2012 legislative session that MBPAC took positions was distributed that stated the official MDOT position. Several members expressed a desire to work closer with MDOT prior to an annual legislative session to ascertain MDOT’s likely position on proposed bills. Patrick agreed to schedule a L&GA subcommittee meeting with MDOT officials previously introduced and upcoming bills.

Additional topics for a future L&GA subcommittee meeting include review of MBPAC’s policy of only offering advice to State government agencies and a discussion on the impact upon pedestrians and bicyclists of businesses that only provide services to motor vehicle occupants (i.e. drive up window access policies). Patrick’s report included language supplied by the US Access Board from the Department of Justice prohibiting public accommodation policies that would tend to eliminate or reduce privileges enjoyed by the general public to persons with disabilities unless such policies are shown to be a business necessity. If drive up window policies can accommodate persons with disabilities then bicyclists are likely to be accommodated as well. The L&GA report also discussed a pilot pedestrian safety initiative in Ocean City involving SHA and the Ocean City police and public works departments.

Cari invited the members to attend the 22nd anniversary celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act sponsored by the Department on Disabilities. This event is scheduled for Thursday, July 26 from 2 to 5 PM at the University Center Ballroom of the University of Maryland at Baltimore County.

D. Tourism and Product Development – T&PD Subcommittee Chair Dick Cushwa submitted a 6 page subcommittee report that included contributions from subcommittee members Carl Rebele, Marci Ross and Steve Carr. Dick reported a number of bicycle/pedestrian related issues in Washington County including Bike Month (May) activities that were conducted by the Hagerstown Bicycle Advisory Committee, the planned Tour of Washington County multi-stage bicycle race, presentations to the local Chamber of Commerce seeking their support for the Civil War Rail Trail project and discussion on the proposed US Bicycle Route 11 issue. Dick submitted a draft letter of support for the Civil War Rail Trail, to be signed by Jim Swift, for review of the members. The letter would be sent to the secretaries of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and MDOT. The members voted to approve the letter, with minor changes, for Jim Swift's signature.

The T&PD subcommittee report listed 24 activity updates from DNR relating to bicycling and walking. The Office of Tourism Development staff have been tracking developments in the federal transportation bill and evaluating grant applications submitted from Transportation Enhancements and Maryland Bikeways funding. Carl Rebele submitted a Canal Place Heritage Area Management Plan meeting summary from April 25th. Canal Place is located in Cumberland and is the transition point where the C&O Canal and Allegheny Highland Trails meet.

3. Bethesda Purple Line Station/Capital Crescent Trail Design Discussion

Peter Harnik, co-founder of the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail, has concerns regarding a decision by Montgomery County to eliminate the current Capital Crescent Trail alignment beneath Wisconsin Avenue as part of the Bethesda station design for the Purple Line light rail transit line. Trail users would be re-routed on surface streets and cross Wisconsin Avenue at-grade. Costs of accommodating both the trains and the trail users in the underpass right-of-way have apparently exceeded the county's expectations. Due to Mr. Harnik's concerns the Maryland Transit Administration asked one of their consultants, Monica Meade of Parsons Brinckerhoff, to discuss plans for the Bethesda station as it affects Capital Crescent Trail users. Following Mr. Harnik's opening comments and Ms. Meade's presentation a discussion ensued. Attendees were left with a better understanding of the considerations and challenges in the station and trail design. Jim Titus asked whether MTA had a backup plan for financing the light rail line if the Legislature declined to raise the gas tax. Ms. Meade said that she was not authorized to answer that question.

4. Resolutions

MBPAC discussed and voted on whether to prepare two resolutions; one requesting a Maryland Attorney General's opinion on whether existing law provides the benefits regarding passing bicyclists by 3-feet in no passing zones when safe to do so, that defeated bill HB 1397 sought to provide; and the second one asking the MDOT Secretary to review legislative coordination policies between MDOT and MBPAC. Greg Hinchliffe would prepare the resolutions which would be submitted to the members for an electronic vote. The resolutions passed with absentions from Michael Jackson, Michael Mason and Erin Penniston.

5. Other Business

Carol described the joint Bike SBY/ League of American Bicyclists/Bike Maryland sponsored Salisbury Bicycle Friendly Community workshop that took place on June 6th. SBY is the airport abbreviation for Salisbury. There were approximately 60 enthusiastic attendees interested in undertaking the activities needed to win a Bicycle Friendly Community designation from the League. John Wetmore suggested that MBPAC invite SHA to make a presentation on their easement procedures at a future MBPAC meeting. Jen Terassa wondered if there are either federal or state laws that prohibit government agencies from asking private landowners to grant easements.

6. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 12 Noon.

| mbpac/minutes/6-8-12 ~~draft~~ mbpac meeting minutes