

Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held online through Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Members:

Jon Morrison, Chair	Sandi Olek
Lt. Laura Beck	Andrew Lingelbach
Ali Macstudy	Brooks Phelps
Bong Delrosario	Kristy Daphnis
Marshall Edwards	Gabriel Rose
Liz Fitzsimmons	Patti Stevens
Matt Hendrickson	Nigel Samaroo
Kandese Holford	Jim Titus
Michael Jackson	Marian Vessels
Ndegwa Kamau	Antoine RJ Wright

Absent Members:

Liz Fitzsimmons

Non-Members:

12405924289	13018623421	14433363739
18023382343	19734956922	Aviva Klugh
Cynthia Spriggs	Francine Waters	Carl Chamberlin
Brigitte Carty	Jamie Fearer	Dianne Klair
Jon Korin	Patrick McMahon	Lindsey Mueller
Daniel Paschall	Molly Porter	Chris Reno
Taylor Robey	Shane Sarver	Ryan Sigworth
Lisa Hansen	Marycella Dumlao	Owen Bailey
Adkins, Sean	Patten, Robert	Dan Behrend
Noelani Brockett	Huffman, Ellen	Rochelle
Valerie Goubeau	Wampler, Jennifer	Deron Lovaas

Meeting Staff:

Meg Young

I. Welcome & Roll Call

Jon Morrison, chair, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. He explained how the meeting would commence based on the agenda and asked if anyone wanted to make any revisions to the agenda before moving forward. Liz Fitzsimmons was absent from the call and Lisa Hanson from the Department of Commerce stood in for her.

II. Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes

Jon Morrison asked committee members if all were in favor of the meeting minutes from October and minutes were approved.

III. MD Department of Commerce: The Economic Impact of Trails

Meg Young, introduced Lisa Hansen who is standing in place of Liz Fitzsimmons to give a presentation. In addition, before Lisa Hansen's presentation, Meg Young explained how MDOT is currently working on their statewide transportation trails strategic plan and understanding who the stakeholders are and building a stakeholder base.

Lisa Hansen's (Liz Fitzgerald's slides) Presentation on trails:

Lisa began the presentation by stating the Maryland Office of Tourism is a part of the Department of Commerce that works closely with the State Highway Administration. Lisa explained the basics of what tourism manages, their vision and mission statement. The office of Tourism uses measurable objectives such as Market Expansion, Leveraging Partnerships, Maximizing

Opportunities to achieve one outcome of Transactional Outcome which results in individuals spending more money in Maryland. Lisa Hansen shared Maryland's Leading Five Differentiators and specifically noted Maryland's Trail System Second-To-None. The Maryland Office of Tourism is looking to celebrate the 200th anniversary of American Railroading in 2027 partnering with BNO for an event titled "Trails and Rails". Lisa Hansen went over some statistics regarding Competitive Marketplace Marketing Budget and how the budget is dispersed into the Maryland Tourism Development Board, 2.5 million goes to 25 state recognized marketing organizations. Tourism increased in the state of Maryland from 2018-2023.

IV. Legislative Outlook & Vote

Nigel Samaroo, began the conversation on Legislative outlook adding that Jon Morrison and Jon Korin would also be presenting with him. Nigel Samaroo opened the meeting by discussing the MBPAC Legislative Sub-committee members and made a call for that have a pedestrian focus in addition to individuals with disabilities. MDOT members recused themselves from voting on the list of bills that they would be presenting during this meeting. The committee voted to support all bills presented in a letter, with the exception of the e-bike registration bill which MBPAC opposes. MBPAC voted to sign onto a formal letter, post that on the website, and use it for conversations with legislators.

V. Old Business, Engagement Opportunities, & Public Comment

Meg Young provided updates on various transportation initiatives. She reminded everyone about the MBPAC email address for committee inquiries and mentioned that recent topics of interest included the Together for Transportation Funding Coalition and the Train Commission, both focused on how transportation projects are funded in the state.

MDOT highlighted the Vulnerable Roadway User Assessment survey, which is a federal requirement and must be updated every five years. The survey is part of a project to improve the safety of state highways and local roadways. This current effort will also inform the MDOT PSAP Corridors.

Additionally, Meg talked about the PSAP (Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Plan) open houses. These open houses are part of a data-informed effort to redesign the most dangerous corridors across the state. The initiative started with five corridors, and round two includes eight new corridors that have been announced.

Lastly, regarding MBPAC membership, the Governor's Appointment Office would handle appointments for open seats after the legislative session ends in April.

VI. Annual Report Review & Vote

Antoine Wright discussed the annual report that has been in the works since 2020. The report includes an executive summary, year-in-review, membership information, and individual meeting highlights. There's also an appendix for detailed reports. Antoine performed an accessibility check to meet all standards.

The draft has gone through multiple rounds of feedback, and MBPAC voted to accept the draft report, with minor grammatical edits still expected. A few last-minute changes, like the distinction between ad hoc and subcommittees, couldn't be made due to time constraints, though it remains an important topic for future discussions. Antoine thanked everyone for their contributions, especially the pedestrian subcommittee, and noted that this year's process was much faster than last year's.

VII. MBPAC Subcommittee Reports

Patti Stevens expressed gratitude to Thomas Mackay from the Rail Policy Group and Andrew Burnish for their help in supporting the mapping work for the Trails Committee, particularly in developing the Eastern Shore Trail map. Patti highlights the significance of the 1992 Greenways Trails Commission and Map Atlas, noting how many of the trails and projects being worked on today were identified in the 1992 atlas. She praises the atlas for its county-by-county listings and maps of trails and projects. Patti suggests doing an inventory of the projects from the atlas to track which have been implemented and which are still ongoing. This work will be used to support the Maryland Eastern Shore Trail network. Patti Stevens listed the list of upcoming meetings at the end of her presentation.

Pedestrian Subcommittee – Marian Vessels, chair

Meg Young presented in place of Marian Vessels, Meg Young briefly discussed the quarterly subcommittee meetings that had already occurred and upcoming. Additionally, Meg Young showed a member survey from December at the last subcommittee meeting that reflected where committee members were located, where they were representing and what they were interested in.

Trails Subcommittee – Meg Young

Meg Young presented on behalf of the trails subcommittee. Trails Subcommittee meets bi-monthly to discuss the MDOT Strategic Trails Plan. Meetings were held in September, October and December. The trail project life cycle analysis was announced during the last meeting. The committee is currently working on releasing an existing conditions report that will be released on the website.

VIII. State Agency Updates

- Maryland State Department of Education – no updates
- Maryland Department of Disabilities – no updates
- Maryland State Police – no updates
- Department Of Commerce – Trail System presentation
- Maryland Department of Planning – no updates
- Maryland Department of Health – no updates
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Sandi Olek briefly discussed E-bikes and trail regulations.
- Maryland National Park and Planning Commission – Slides
- Maryland Department of Transportation - Slides

IX. Closing Reminders and Adjournment

Next Meetings: Pedestrian Committee: March 28, 2025

Eastern Shore Committee: February/March

Legislative Committee: XXX Trails Committee: February 7, 2025

Next Full Committee Meeting: April 25, 2025

TEAMS Meeting Chat:

Brigitte Carty: Good morning! Happy New Year! Brigitte Carty -LSHG-

Bong Delrosario: I don't have any updates but I do have a hard stop at 10

Jon Korin: We would love the MD Tourism Office to join us in advocating for a separated bike/ped facility on the new Chesapeake Bay Bridge. This will truly create a car-free "Chesapeake Loop" and be an iconic destination!

Daniel Paschall: Cheers to a Chesapeake Loop trail with car-free crossings of the bay between the Eastern Shore and Annapolis and again at the Lower Susquehanna Greenway at the top of the bay!

Meg Young: Interesting to see the eastern shore numbers for tourism really went up in 2020, i guess it was a popular getaway during the depths of covid

Patti Stevens: Can you share how are the trail visitor numbers collected?

Daniel Paschall: One of the recent through travelers on the ECG from Maine to Florida -- Whitney biked it all last year and is posting daily recaps -- here are MD snapshots:

Philly to Havre de Grace <https://www.instagram.com/p/DEXsF-mJPeD/>

HDG to Baltimore <https://www.instagram.com/p/DEdU4zHh4ZQ/>

Baltimore to DC

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DEfaciTpDiX/>

(she took a slightly more direct route than the ECG -- sorry Annapolis!)

we have at least 15 folks who have reached out saying they want to bike the whole thing next year, and many more who will do shorter stretches, but MD is part of the ECG with some of the most trails so it will only grow, esp with the WB&A Bridge

Michael Jackson: Maryland has a lot to be proud of regarding tourism. However something to consider is Minnesota's biking guide that has been distributed at state welcome centers, airports, etc. They have 4,000 miles of trails. See the 2023 Biking Minnesota guide at https://issuu.com/greenspring_media/docs/Bike_Minnesota_2023_by_Greenspring_Media_-_Issuu

Daniel Paschall: re: Anacostia Trails promotion -- [Anacostia Trails Heritage Area](#) / Maryland Milestones are a great resource too

Patti Stevens: Check out Rail biking in Western MD and Eastern Shore <https://tracksandyaks.com/>

Jon Korin: We must work together to close our major trail gaps across water: Susquehanna, Potomac, Patapsco and Chesapeake Bay

Daniel Paschall: like Minnesota's example, another great example to copy is NJ's Transit to Trails website and map tool -- it'd be great to see more coordination with MARC, busses, and other shuttles to help folks get to/from trails <https://www.njtransit.com/trails>

Patti Stevens: is there a date for the Major Taylor Celebration?

Marycella Dumlao: Hi! First time here and super interested in the vacant Baltimore Metro position, so please excuse me if I'm asking a question that is common knowledge in this group. I've been looking at the agenda and can't really tell - will we also be discussing bike infrastructure in cities?

Patti Stevens: IS the Second to None tag aspirational or based on number of miles or visitorship?

Brigitte Carty : Here's the January 2023 "COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF VISITATION TO MARYLAND'S CHESAPEAKE BAY REGION": <https://www.visitmaryland.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/MOTD-Chesapeake-Bay-Visitor-Research-%20FULL-REPORT-FINAL-4-24-23.pdf>

Robert Patten: Meg and John, Great tourism presentation to launch the further discussion about trails and economic impact. Thanks,

Marycella Dumlao: What is VRU?

Morrison, Jon: Vulnerable Road User

Meg Young: Thank you for joining, Marycella! We have a different agenda each month, but we work in the overlap of different state agencies, not just focusing on infrastructure. MDOT will share a few infrastructure updates, but it's more so updates on our policies and sharing places to learn about specific projects.

Marycella Dumlao: thank you! Who falls under the VRU umbrella?
Love the idaho stop!

Lisa HansenTerhune: Thank you all for the good suggestions and questions. Here is the link to the C&O Canal Park Trail Study: <https://industry.visitmaryland.org/industry-research-studies>
Studies | VisitMaryland.org

Morrison, Jon: re: Who falls under the VRU umbrella?
5 21-901.3.

(a) In this section, "vulnerable individual" means:

(1) A pedestrian, including an individual who is lawfully:

- (i) Actively working on a highway or a utility facility along a highway;
- (ii) Providing emergency services on a highway; or
- (iii) On a sidewalk or footpath;

(2) An individual who is lawfully riding or leading an animal on a highway, shoulder, crosswalk, or sidewalk; or

(3) An individual who is lawfully operating or riding any of the following on a highway, shoulder, crosswalk, or sidewalk:

- (i) A bicycle;
- (ii) A farm tractor or farm equipment;
- (iii) A play vehicle;
- (iv) A motor scooter;
- (v) A motorcycle;
- (vi) An animal-drawn vehicle;

- (vii) An EPAMD; or
- (viii) A wheelchair.

Meg Young: re: Who falls under the VRU umbrella?
generally people outside of cars (which have steel cages and protective features). At the top, people with disabilities who need ADA accommodations, children, older adults, people walking, people biking, people connecting to transit. Crashes involving these populations are often overrepresented in severe crashes - simply, a person hit by a car loses the fight. If you get hit by someone going 20mph there's a 10% chance it will be severe, but by the time speeds get to 40mph there is a 90% chance that person will be severely injured or die.

Adkins, Sean: How would the e-bike registration laws apply to organizations who own and operate e-bikes (like a Parks and rec department)?
very good question. agencies are asked to note operational and fiscal impacts of bills so we should include that

Marycella Dumlao : I'm interested to know how these e-bike laws will affect the rental companies. I don't often see personal e-bikes (at least in the city, they are mostly lime rental e-bikes)
The rental company vehicles are actually all already registered with the city, don't know if the bill would require a second registration

Meg Young: very good question. agencies are asked to note operational and fiscal impacts of bills so we should include that

Adkins, Sean: Thank you, I'm thinking about e-bikes oriented to staff use in addition to rentals and therapeutic programs. Thank you.

Patten, Robert: Does the current law provide an exception for children and youth.

Meg Young: kind of -- if i remember correctly, there are exceptions to allow riding on sidewalks based on the size of the wheel or "play vehicle" designation.
(2) Where allowed by local ordinance, a person may ride a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area.

Patti Stevens: Ebike rebates were part of the Colorado Transportation Climate Bill as a mitigation strategy

Patti Stevens: Who would decide who is responsible in a vru collision?

Meg Young: the responding officer

Jon Korin: Patti, in a civil suit, the amount of negligence and damages would be determined in court

Michael Jackson: Montgomery County Accessible Design Guide, November 2024 link - [Accessible Design Guide](#)

Marycella Dumlao: statement still stands - how do we get more pedestrian leading signals?

Brigitte Carty: Would it be helpful to anyone/is MBPAC allowed to supply a draft letter in support of the MBPAC letter? In case individual organizations want to submit written testimony.

Sean Adkins: How about a DNR policy on motorized devices such as one wheeler or motorized skateboards?

Jon Morrison: Thank you, Sandi!

Jon Korin: Weigh in by Jan 13 for a protected bike/ped facility on a new Chesapeake Bay Bridge:
<https://baycrossingstudy.com/>

Cynthia Spriggs: [General Safety Grants & Funding Opportunities - Zero Deaths MD](#)
Explore the information regarding general safety grants available through the Maryland Highway Safety Office. Please reach out with any questions, cspriggs@mdot.maryland.gov.

Cynthia Spriggs: Planning for the next iteration of the Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan is underway. If interested, please sign up for email notifications. Public meeting information will be available shortly. [Strategic Highway Safety Plan \(SHSP\) for Maryland - Zero Deaths MD](#)
Download our Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) - This comprehensive data-driven plan for 2021 - 2025 helps all of us work to achieve our goal of zero roadway deaths.

Antoine Wright: Howard County Transportation Open House, Jan 30, 2025 from 4:30-7:30pm at North Laurel Community Center

Daniel Paschall: WB&A Bridge is supposed to open in March (fingers crossed)!

Nigel Samaroo: <https://www.bikemaryland.org/events/2025-bike-maryland-symposium/>

Jon Korin: Earlybird rates open for the 11th annual Anne Arundel County Lifeline 100 Bicycle Event on Oct 5, 2025. Rides for ALL ages and abilities! <https://lifeline100.com/>

Patti Stevens: Come ride the Eastern Shore at the Tri-County Ice Cream Classic on May 10, supports the Harriet Tubman Museum <https://www.ridec3.org/>

Robert Patten: future meeting agenda: the new AASHTO Guide for bicycle facility design is published and available.

Meg Young: Yes, SHA is reviewing these and how/which standards to adopt

Kandese Holford: An announcement about the NHI training and MDOT active transportation open house will be coming soon!

Patti Stevens: Eastern Shore Committee meeting will be Feb 13 - 1-2.30pm virtual.

Brigitte Carty: Great meeting! Thank you all!

Ndegwa R. Kamau: Thanks everyone!!