

Meeting Minutes

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Quarterly Meeting

Friday April 25, 2025

9-11:00am, This meeting was held online through Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Members:

Jon Morrison, Chair
Ali Macstudy
Kristy Daphnis
Bong Delrosario
Brooks Phelps
Gabriel Rose
Matt Hendrickson
Kandese Holford
Michael Jackson
Nigel Samaroo
Jim Titus
Marian Vessels
Antoine RJ Wright
Sarah Myers

Absent Members:

Sandi Olek
Cindy Miller
Ndegwa Kamau
Andrew Lingelbach

Meeting Staff

Meg Young

Non-Members:

Aviva Klugh
Budischak, Katrina
Charlene Mingus
Heather Grant
Jon Korin
Daniel Paschall
Jim Hock
14433363739
13016025421

Daniel Paschall
Deron Lovaas
Drew Morrison
Francine Waters
Marycella Dumlaio
Melissa Williams
Shane Sarver
Sean Winkler

I. Welcome and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Morrison. A roll call of members was conducted by Meg Young. Initially, a quorum was not present, which prevented the committee from officially approving the agenda or January minutes. However, the committee began with informational presentations while waiting for additional members to join. A quorum was later reached with the arrival of additional members, and the meeting proceeded with formal business.

II. MBPAC Minutes

The agenda was reviewed and approved. The minutes from the January 10, 2025, meeting were also presented and approved. Highlights from the January meeting included adoption of the 2024 Annual Report and the MBPAC legislative letter. No revisions were proposed

III. Federal Updates - Reports

Sean Winkler from the MDOT Secretary's Office presented an update on federal policy and funding. He reviewed recent executive orders and memos from the new federal administration and explained how they have affected discretionary grant funding. These changes include revisions to project scoring, the removal of emissions reduction benefits from cost-benefit analyses, and a greater emphasis on local cost shares. Sean noted that

some grant programs, such as Safe Streets for All, have resumed activity, but others remain paused or delayed. He emphasized that MDOT continues to collaborate with the Governor's Office and the Attorney General to respond to shifting federal guidance. Committee members asked questions regarding project timelines, implications for DEI considerations, and the Hanover Street RAISE Grant.

IV. Agency Updates

Department of Tourism and Commerce – New appointee Cindy Miller

Maryland National Park and Planning Commission

Michael Jackson reported that the preliminary "Go Prince George's" Transportation Master Plan was released in February and is open for public comment. Final adoption is anticipated in spring 2026. He also shared updates related to Bike to Work Day, including a pit stop at National Harbor, and reviewed survey data collected at last year's event, which included long-distance commutes and bike storage conditions at work.

Maryland Department of Disabilities

Bong Delrosario announced that MTA is revitalizing its travel training program for paratransit users. The updated curriculum will include bike and pedestrian safety content and may eventually expand statewide. The filming for training materials is scheduled to begin the following week. Kandese from MDOT offered to coordinate efforts to align with Complete Streets initiatives.

Maryland Department of Health

Ali Macstudy shared that Washington County was the only jurisdiction to apply for the recent Safe Routes to School Walk Audit grant. A new mini-grant program is being developed to support smaller community safety projects. These may include walk audits, safety trainings, and helmet giveaways. The grants are designed to be short-term and must be completed by September 2025.

Maryland Department of Transportation

State Highway Administration

SHA provided several updates. Elkridge and Catonsville were newly designated as Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas (BPPAs), which will improve their competitiveness for future funding. SHA is also updating its Bicycle Facility Design Guidelines to reflect new AASHTO guidance and the state's Complete Streets policy.

Several grant programs are open, including the Transportation Alternatives (TA), Recreational Trails Program (RTP), and the Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program. Notable changes to the bikeways program include expanded eligibility for intersection improvements and infrastructure maintenance.

Meg Young shared results from 2024 quick build projects, including reduced vehicle speeds and increased pedestrian and bike use in targeted areas such as Bel Air, Hagerstown, and Howard County. MDOT's new educational series, "MDOT in Motion," will launch on May 8 to coincide with Bike Month.

Drew Morrison gave a summary of transportation funding in the state budget. MDOT will receive \$470 million in FY26 and \$420 million in future years. Funding will support safety, infrastructure maintenance, and economic development. The Bikeways Program received a \$3 million restoration. Additional funding will support projects like ADA retrofits, sidewalk improvements, and design work for key corridors in Montgomery Hills and College Park.

V. Old Business, Engagement, & Public Comment

The committee continues to seek appointments for open seats representing the Baltimore Metropolitan Area and Southern Maryland. Meg and John plan to coordinate with the Governor's Appointments Office to move forward with candidate selection.

MBPAC is launching a new statewide events calendar to promote public engagement opportunities related to biking and walking. Committee members and agency representatives can submit events by sending calendar invites to mbpac@mdot.maryland.gov. All events are subject to review by the MBPAC chair for relevance and accessibility to the public.

VI. Subcommittee Membership, Schedule, Report Out

Eastern Shore Subcommittee - Heather Grant, speaking on behalf of Patti Stevens, shared that the Midshore Eastern Shore Trail Network has completed its strategic plan and developed a trifold brochure for public distribution. She highlighted upcoming events across the region to celebrate Trails Day and noted that Talbot County's newly formed Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee will soon begin developing a master plan. Talbot Thrive is also pursuing a Complete Streets planning grant for Easton. The organization is planning bike rodeos in local schools in May and hosting its annual Tour de Talbot ride on June 14.

Pedestrian Subcommittee - Bong Delrosario, the new chair of the Pedestrian Subcommittee, announced that the next meeting will take place on June 27. He is reaching out to a pedestrian and accessibility expert to present during the meeting.

Legislative Committee – The Legislative Subcommittee, led by Nigel Samaroo and John Morrison, shared updates on its primary focus areas, including pedestrian, bicyclist, and vulnerable road user (VRU) safety. The subcommittee also advocates for safe driving, speed management, and prioritization of transportation funding to support infrastructure improvements and promote mode shift.

During the 2025 legislative session, the subcommittee reviewed and took positions on several transportation-related bills. A list of supported and opposed legislation was compiled in

January. The subcommittee collaborated closely with Bike Maryland and other partners to advocate for key safety initiatives.

Key legislative outcomes included the passage of the "Bikes on Sidewalks" bill, which updates the state's default to allow bicycles on sidewalks unless prohibited by local ordinance. This long-awaited bill will now go to the Governor for signature. Another bill, known as the "Bike Safety Yield" or "Idaho Stop" bill, which would have allowed bicyclists to yield rather than stop at certain intersections, passed the House but failed to receive a vote in the Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee for the second year in a row.

Other bills discussed included the Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2025, which did not advance, and a proposed bill to require registration and insurance for electric bicycles. The latter was introduced following a personal incident involving the sponsor but was ultimately withdrawn due to opposition.

While several bills did not move forward, the subcommittee remains committed to revisiting these issues in the next legislative session and will continue refining its priorities over the summer

Trails Committee - Meg Young reported that the Trails Subcommittee will meet on July 11 in Garrett County. The subcommittee continues to conduct public engagement around trail development and has launched a public survey and webinar series. She also shared that the Frederick Douglass Rail Trail project a 10-mile trail on the Eastern Shore is now underway in partnership with FHWA.

IX. Closing Reminders and Adjournment (5 min)

Next Meetings:

Pedestrian Committee - June 12, 2025

Eastern Shore Committee – TBD

Legislative Committee – TBD

Trails Committee – July 11, 2025