

## **BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP**

Wednesday, April 18, 2018  
Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
1:10 to 3:05 P.M.

### **MINUTES**

Ms. Nokomis Ford, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. Mr. Russ Ulrich was identified as the BMC support for BPAG since Mr. Zach Kaufman is working on other regional initiatives.

#### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Ford welcomed attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2017 MINUTES**

Noting the lack of a quorum, Ms. Ford deferred approval of the September 2017 minutes until after the arrival of two more voting members. With the arrival of those members—following the first presentation, the minutes of the September meeting were presented. Mr. Albert Engel made a motion to approve and Ms. Dawn Thomas seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

#### **3. UPDATE ON MAXIMIZE 2045**

Mr. Terry Freeland, Senior Transportation Planner, provided committee members with a status update on the process for developing *Maximize2045: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan*, along with details on how staff is working with MDOT and the BRTB to develop performance measures and targets for the plan. Mr. Freeland began by detailing how the current plan, *Maximize2040*, approved in 2015, addressed performance measures. Since that time, FHWA and FTA have published additional regulations and guidance.

For *Maximize2045*, the BRTB needs to coordinate with MDOT to set regional targets for the required performance measures. The BRTB has two options: (1) adopt the [state's targets](#) or (2) adopt targets specific to the Baltimore region. The BRTB also needs to consider how to incorporate measures and targets into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and to apply these to all TIPs and TIP amendments, as well as all plans and plan amendments, adopted after May 20, 2019.

Mr. Freeland pointed out the performance measures that pertain to pedestrian and bicycle travel. These include the number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries (added in the FAST Act) and

the percentage of non-single occupancy vehicle (non-SOV) travel. He noted that MDOT has been presenting statewide targets for performance measures to the Technical Committee as targets are proposed. In addition, there is a federal due date of May 20, 2018 for two highway system performance targets related to the CMAQ program (Baltimore urbanized area) and a November 16, 2018 due date for highway system condition and for remaining highway system performance targets. A brief question-and-answer period followed.

***[PowerPoint: Maximize2045 Timeline and Performance Measures]***

#### **4. PRESENTATION ON BMC'S SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Mr. Don Halligan, Senior Transportation Planner & Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives, presented details on proposed special events, including a series of organized trail rides. He explained that the events raise public awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing the region. Past events have included:

- June 2016, *Smart City Technology*, Phillips Lighting & General Motors
- September 2016, *Maker Spaces, Hacker-spaces, Fab Labs & Micro Manufacturing*, Open Works & Local Motors
- March 2017, *Complete Street Short Film Fest*, with Bikemore
- June 2017, *Big Data: Hype vs Reality*, Johns Hopkins and UM CATT Lab
- October 2017, *Ford Motor Company's City Solutions*, Ford Motor Co and BCDOT
- March 2018, *Jane Jacobs: Battle for the City*, film event with the Columbia Association

The events were well-attended and sparked serious discussions. BMC plans to continue and expand them. Mr. Halligan explained that a current proposal calls for a series of monthly trail rides, with a different trail as a location each month.

The rides will encourage bicycling as well as providing riders, of all skill-levels, opportunities to learn about the wonderful trails available in the region. Each ride will be led by a local volunteer, someone who is an experienced cyclist and is familiar with the trail. All riders will be required to wear a helmet and have a set of working bike lights. They will also have to register and sign a liability waiver. Rides will be two hours and group size will be limited.

A proposed schedule follows:

- Thursday, May 24, 4:30-6:30 pm-Baltimore & Annapolis Trail
- Thursday, June 28, 4:30-6:30 pm-Gwynns Falls Trail
- Thursday, July 26, 4:30-6:30 pm-Northern Central Trail
- Thursday, August 23, 4:30-6:30 pm-BWI Trail
- Thursday, September 27, 4:30-6:30 pm-Ma & Pa Trail (Bel Air Section)

BPAG members were very receptive to the proposal. One question concerning the start time of the rides was raised. Mr. Halligan explained that the start time would be adjusted, depending on the time

of sunset. Another member suggested that experienced riders were unlikely to participate and so the length of the ride should be mindful of less experienced riders.

Mr. Halligan then asked the committee for assistance in identifying ride-leaders as well as sponsors.

***[PowerPoint: BMC Special Events, Handout: Baltimore Region Bike Trail Exploration – May through September 2018]***

## 5. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- **Anne Arundel County** - Ms. Tanya Asman told the group that a BikeShare program was coming to Annapolis later this year and that a formal announcement would be made on Bike to Work Day. She also stated the county was working on a number of programs including updating its design manual to make sure developers understand the need to fully accommodate cyclists and pedestrians. The county is also reviewing its complete streets policy and studying a trail between BWI and Odenton.

Ms. Dawn Thomas, also of Anne Arundel County, discussed upcoming Transportation Alternative Grant submissions.

- **Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)**: Mr. Scott Hansen updated the group on MDP's State Development Plan called "A Better Maryland" outreach process. He asked that anyone interested in hearing feedback on what areas the plan should focus, organized into several categories, please visit <http://abetter.maryland.gov/what-weve-heard/>. The next phase of the plan will consist of staff analyses and the formulation of preliminary recommendations, followed by a second round of regional feedback sessions beginning this fall. A draft document is anticipated to be complete by February 2019.

Mr. Hansen provided an update on MDP's Transit Station Area Profile Tool (TSAPT) dashboard/map application. The existing application was last updated in 2016 and it needs to be refreshed. The application is under development and a user group will be formed with the goal to provide feedback on data sets, functionality, etc. He would like to present the TSAPT at the July or September meeting, if possible.

- **Howard County**: Mr. Albert Engel reported that in February, County Executive Kittleman announced BikeHoward Express, which is an accelerated 3-year plan to create a 48-mile connected bicycle network consisting of projects selected from the Bicycle Master Plan, anticipated to be funded through a mixture of County and grant funding. In March, Howard County Bikeshare expanded to include stations in Ellicott City in addition to the stations in Downtown Columbia. The County has been happy to see that people are using bikeshare to commute between the two system nodes. The comment period on the updated Pedestrian Master Plan closed at the end of March, and the Office of Transportation is currently reviewing comments and making revisions to the plan in advance of an anticipated late summer or early fall adoption. Finally, for the US 1 Safety Evaluation the County has selected five locations along the US 1 corridor to develop pedestrian and bicycle safety improvement concepts, and anticipates a final report later in the spring.

- **MD Department of the Environment (MDE)**: Ms. Molla Sarros told the group that the Alternative Transportation Group (ATG) at MDE has posted a new page on its Employee Internet site, with links on how to learn to ride a bike, do an "ABC Quick Check" before riding, fix-a-flat, and use gears. The ATG

is also preparing for Bike to Work Day, including encouraging staff to bike and organizing convoys to MDE's office.

**Carroll County:** Ms. Ford reported the following: Safe Routes to School (SRTS): KCI finished 100% design on the Washington Road project and the County is preparing to complete an Statement of Qualification (SOQ) for the Johnsville Road project. The Town of Mount Airy is working on a Trail Master Plan that is expected to be complete is Fall 2018. The Governor Frank Brown Trail is still on hold due the Army National Guard Readiness Center, but the hope is Virginia Burke of the Bikeways program can help open the lines of communication with the Federal Government. The Westminster Community Trail was completed in late 2017. The Carroll County Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan chapters 3, 4, 5 and 7 are on CarrollBikePedPlan.org and the latest chapter under review is focused on design and safety; safety is seen by County citizens and officials as a huge concern.

- **Baltimore City:** Mr. Matt Warfield announced the city's Greenway Trails Network that is out for public review. He also told the group that approximately 17 miles of Downtown bike lanes had to be re-designed to meet the fire code, ensuring access for emergency vehicles.
- **Baltimore County:** Mr. Kris Knebe said that Baltimore County had completed a number of projects, including the Towson Spokes, Security Bike Project, and the Dundalk Bike Loop, others are in various stages of completion. He also mentioned that because of the retirement of the county's bike planner, he expected the county to receive no new grants.
- **Baltimore Metropolitan Council:** Ms. Regina Aris explained the BRTB's Every Voice Counts Transportation Academy, a kind of Transportation Planning 101 for interested members of the public. The training is set to take place on Saturday, May 5.

Ms. Aris then raised the issue of a request from MDOT for use of the bike data layers that were recently developed under the UPWP. MDOT would like to utilize the GIS layers for the state's Master Plan. At issue is the use of the data for the public. Members had previously discussed this and agreed the data would only be for use be planning partners internally. Members needed to discuss the issue with others in their jurisdiction before deciding. It was agreed to discuss this issue at the May BPAG meeting and an invitation will be sent to MDOT to discuss use of the GIS data layers.

Ms. Aris also described how bike and pedestrian issues have been identified in the previous regional long-range transportation plans. Ms. Aris asked members to consider how projects might be included in the upcoming plan, *Maximize2045*.

- **Bike to Work Day Update:** Mr. Ulrich updated the group on plans for this year's Bike to Work Day effort on Friday, May 18. Registration for riders went live in late March and 550 people had signed up. There are 35 pit stops throughout the region and over \$20,000 in sponsorships has been raised. This year's ridership goal is 2600. Mr. Ulrich invited BPAG members to join the B2WD workgroup.

Adjournment - After a motion was carried, Ms. Ford adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### ***Members***

Tanya Asman – Anne Arundel County

Albert Engel—Howard County

Nokomis Ford – Carroll County (Chair)

E. Scott Hansen – Maryland Department of Planning

Anikwenze Ogbue—Bicycle advocate

Kris Nebre—Baltimore County

Molla Sarros – Maryland Department of the Environment

Dawn Thomas – Anne Arundel County

Matt Warfield—Baltimore City

### ***Staff and Guests***

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

Russ Ulrich – BMC

Don Halligan—BMC

Terry Freeland—BMC