

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

July 18, 2018

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

1:15 to 3:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Ms. Nokomis Ford, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. APPROVAL OF MAY 2018 MINUTES

The minutes of the May meeting were presented. Ms. Ford noted a minor correction having to do with page headers, which should have indicated four total pages and not five. Ms. Molla Sarros noted that her name was incorrectly spelled and needed an "s" on the end of it. After those corrections were noted, Mr. Chris Eatough made a motion to approve and Mr. Scott Hansen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

3. PRESENTATION ON MHSO'S BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM

Mr. Jeff Dunckel, Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO), briefed the group on the strategies, and the data used in formulating those strategies, that his office is using to try to reduce bicycle and pedestrian crashes. He told the group that overall roadway fatalities, including bicyclists and pedestrians, have been trending upward for the last several years. There were 557 total fatalities in 2017, including 128 cyclists and pedestrians. He also said that 83% of all pedestrian crashes in Maryland occur in Baltimore City, Baltimore, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Anne Arundel counties. Specific areas of those jurisdictions where countermeasures, such as an improvement to infrastructure, better signage, and public information campaigns, were deployed saw considerable decreases in crashes.

Among the strategies MHSO is planning to execute:

- Reestablishing a regional StreetSmart with a launch in Spring 2019.
- Creating a Bicycle/Pedestrian Fatalities Review Team that would identify statewide safety issues.
- Enabling local jurisdictions by better collection and sharing of crash data.
- Supporting local versions of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

Mr. Dunckel told the group that he is planning to attend BPAG meetings regularly and would offer updates on safety news.

[PowerPoint: Maryland Highway Safety Office - Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program, Handouts: Pedestrian and Bicyclists Emphasis Area Team – 2016-2020 SHSP Strategies and Revised Action Items, Pedestrian Fatality Data for the Baltimore Region 2013-2017]

4. DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS

Ms. Regina Aris briefed the group on a number of potential sources for funding bike and pedestrian projects. Due to growth in bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the region there is not nearly enough Transportation Alternatives funding to go around. As a result additional fund sources are being explored so that these projects can secure funding for design and implementation. Previously, FHWA MD Division has distributed a federal fund chart for these types of projects, Ms. Aris was able to locate an updated version to share with members.

[Handout: Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities, U.S. Department of Transportation Transit, Highway, and Safety Funds. Revised May 24, 2018]

5. PRESENTATION ON BIKE TO WORK DAY ACTIVITIES & RECAP OF B2WD 2018

Mr. Russ Ulrich presented a brief history of the Bike to Work Day observance, beginning with its creation by the League of American Bicyclists in 1956. He told the group that official B2WD activities in the Baltimore region began in 1997 and explained how they have grown since then. He also shared how B2WD activities are planned and executed throughout the region. He then reviewed the 2018 effort: 1,828 riders registered at 47 pit stops, and \$23,000 in sponsorship funding was raised. Following the review of 2018, he invited BPAG member to help plan B2WD 2019. The kickoff meeting is set for Wednesday, August 15, at BMC.

[PowerPoint: Bike to Work Day Recap]

6. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- **Harford County** - Mr. Matt Kopp described the County's efforts to complete the final three segments of the MA & PA Trail based on consultation with SHA. He also mentioned a Safe Routes to School project adding sidewalks to South Hampton Middle School as well as a partnership with the Town of Bel Air planning future bicycle/pedestrian facilities.
- **Anne Arundel** - Ms. Dawn Thomas spoke of the need for identifying additional grant sources and thanked Ms. Aris for the FHWA spreadsheet. She said the County is looking forward to assistance from BMC for statistics required for BUILD applications, including those on safety, accidents, and economic development. Anne Arundel County hopes to prepare a competitive application for a BUILD grant next year, continuing its momentum with trail projects.

- **Queen Anne's County** - Mr. Steve Cohoon said the County has three, long identified, Safe Routes to School projects but has had problems "moving them through the system." He also mentioned plans for the Cross-County Connector trail, which will tie in to the Cross-Island Connector.
- **Maryland Department of the Environment** - Ms. Sarros said that her department is continuing its effort to get MDE employees to drive less through internal communications campaigns to encourage walking and bicycling.
- **Maryland Department of Planning**—Mr. Hansen reminded members of MDP's commitment to multimodal transportation planning and its coordination with MDOT. He also said the MDP's Planning Tools for Transit-Oriented Development website features a draft Transit Station Area Profile Tool, a versatile, searchable data source that outlines and describes station area demographics, employment data, transit use, and housing information among other important pieces of information. MDP hopes to receive feedback on the tool in later August.
- **Carroll County** - Ms. Ford said the Bike-Ped Master Plan continues to be brought forward to the Planning and Zoning Commission one chapter at a time. A Photo Contest for the plan recently concluded with submissions and now the photos submitted are out for a public vote. The top photo has the chance to receive a \$50 Race Pace gift card. The SRTS project on Johnsville Road will be requesting RFPs from the top SOQs. There is still no word on the Governor Frank Brown Trail (National Guard Readiness Center).
- **Baltimore City** – Ms. Mikah Zaslow said that the City is working on updates to its Complete Streets legislation, expecting to schedule an additional hearing in September. The City is looking at bike and pedestrian enhancements on the Hanover Street Bridge and a BUILD grant application for re-visioning Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard as a Complete Street.
- **Howard County** - Mr. Eatough reported that the County has received a draft of the US 1 safety report from its consultant. The County is expecting to approve an update to their 2007 Pedestrian Master Plan late this summer or possibly early fall.
- **Baltimore County**: Mr. Kris Nebre mentioned that he did not expect the county to receive new grants of any kind in the short-term. While there are no major projects at this time, the county continues to pursue ADA and audible signal activities.
- **Baltimore Metropolitan Council**: Ms. Aris noted that the BMC website was hacked and that a very small site is in place until a new site can be put in place. Please call BMC if there is anything you want but can't locate. Ms. Aris also asked members to consider what they think is the best approach to including bicycle and pedestrian projects in the upcoming *Maximize2045*.

Adjournment - After a motion was carried, Ms. Ford adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Steve Cohoon—Queen Anne’s County Department of Public Works

Chris Eatough – Howard County Office of Transportation

Nokomis Ford – Carroll County Department of Planning (Chair)

E. Scott Hansen – Maryland Department of Planning

Matt Kopp—Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning

Kris Nebre - Baltimore County Department of Public Works

Molla Sarros – Maryland Department of the Environment

Peter Southerland – State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)

Ms. Dawn Thomas—Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation & Parks

Mikah Zaslow—Baltimore City Department of Transportation

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

Jeff Dunckel—MD Highway Safety Office (MDOT MHSO)

Dan Janousek – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Russ Ulrich – BMC