

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

November 14, 2018

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

1:05 TO 3:00 PM

MINUTES

Ms. Clare Stewart, Interim Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Russ Ulrich, BMC, reminded the members that the first order of business at their January meeting will be electing a new chair and vice-chair. He asked that members consider candidates for the posts and to make the nominations at the end of the meeting. He also told the members that they could nominate themselves.

Mr. Thomas Sullivan, MDOT, reminded members that comments on the draft of Maryland's updated version of its Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan were due the next day (November 15). He urged all members who hadn't yet done so, to review the draft and submit any comments as quickly as possible. Mr. Sullivan also told the group that Maryland's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee planned to place a special emphasis on getting to know and working with the four MPOs in the state. He said that more information on the committee's plans and how BPAG might be involved is forthcoming.

3. APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

The minutes of the July meeting were presented. Ms. Molla Sarros made a motion to approve and Mr. Chris Eatough seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. PRESENTATION ON MDOT'S MARYLAND BICYCLE GIS PROJECT

Mr. Andrew Bernish, transportation planner and GIS analyst with MDOT, provided an overview of the *Maryland GIS Bike Project*, which is an initiative begun in early 2018 to cultivate a single,

authoritative GIS file for bicycling networks (both on and off road) across Maryland. The initiative began with the formation of a small committee of stakeholders in early 2018 who ascertained best practices for collecting GIS bicycling route data throughout the state. Surveys were sent to various jurisdictions, organizations, and entities throughout the state in spring of 2018 and as of November 2018, the initiative has received positive responses from 47 counties, municipalities, MPO's, and federal non-profit organizations.

The ultimate goal of the project is to provide an authoritative GIS file to assist in local and regional planning efforts as well as grant proposals. The final data will be made public at [MD iMap](#) with prominent disclaimers against trip planning or navigation purposes. During the presentation, Andrew shared the initiative's new website (http://bit.ly/GIS_BikeMD) and requested that BMC be able to share the bicycling data that they have received from their representative jurisdictions.

[PowerPoint: The MD GIS Bike Project]

5. BMC'S REGIONAL BICYCLE TRAILS MAPPING PROJECT

Ms. Mara Kaminowitz, BMC GIS analyst, explained the regional bicycle trails layer. The layer was created in 2017 with the goal of identifying gaps in bicycle commuting facilities, and BMC is currently completing an annual update. Ms. Kaminowitz asked the group to consider several issues, including whether the project should be continued, how to promote the data product, what other data might enhance the existing tool, and whether or not to make the data set public.

[PowerPoint: Regional Trails Update]

6. PRESENTATION ON ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY'S BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Mr. Jon Korin, President of BikeAAA (an all-volunteer 501c3 bike advocacy group) and Chair of the Anne Arundel County Bicycle Advisory Commission gave a presentation on the genesis, launch, growth and effectiveness of the two complementary organizations. Mr. Korin described the distinction between advocacy and advisory groups and how they work together. There was discussion of the interaction among government staff at the local, county and state level together with citizen members. Some of the BPAG member jurisdictions have both types of group, some just one and others neither. The presentation includes the accomplishments and goals of the two group as well as their operating style.

[PowerPoint: BikeAAAA-BMCPAG]

7. MOTION TO ENCOURAGE SHARING OF BICYCLE DATA

Following the presentations, Ms. Stewart asked for a motion to encourage all local jurisdictions and BMC to share bicycle network data with MDOT. Ms. Tanya Asman moved and Mr. Chris Eatough seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Because there were only a few minutes left in the meeting, Ms. Stewart asked for brief updates. Mr. Matt Warfield told the group that Baltimore City was enhancing its Downtown Bike Network with a separated facility running East-West, along Druid Hill and Central avenues, from Martin Luther King Blvd. to North Washington Street.

Mr. Ulrich then asked for nominations for chair and vice-chair to be voted on at the next meeting. Ms. Tanya Asman, Anne Arundel County, nominated herself as chair. Ms. Molla Sarros, MDE, nominated Clare Stewart as vice-chair. Mr. Ulrich also told the group that following the election of officers, January's meeting will be devoted to creating a work plan for the group's next two years.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Stewart adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Tanya Asman – Anne Arundel County
Chris Eatough – Howard County
Scott Hansen – MD Department of Planning
Matt Kropp – Harford County
Kris Nebre – Baltimore County
Molla Sarros – MD Department of the Environment
Clare Stewart – Carroll County
Dawn Thomas – Anne Arundel County
Matt Warfield – Baltimore City

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Andrew Bernish – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Jon Korin – BikeAAA
Thomas Sullivan – MDOT
Mara Kaminowitz – BMC
Russ Ulrich – BMC