

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

September 18, 2019

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

1:05 to 3:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Chair, Ms. Tanya Asman, called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

Ms. Molla Sarros pointed out several typos in the minutes. Mr. Russ Ulrich told her that they had been corrected. There were no other comments, and following a motion by Mr. Jon Leishman and seconded by Mr. Chris Eatough, the minutes were approved.

3. MDOT UPDATE ON PEDESTRIAN AND PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION DEVICES INITIATIVES

MDOT representatives, Mr. Nate Evans and Ms. Francine Walters, presented updates on the latest developments with personal transportation devices.

Mr. Evans explained that use of Personal Transportation Devices (PTDs)—or conveyances which can be carried when not in use, are low speed, and are human or motor-powered—has greatly increased over the last 18 months and MDOT wants to be prepared to respond to any possible legislation coming from the General Assembly. MDOT staff feels strongly that PTDs should be regulated as a class of transportation not as individual conveyances. Mr. Evans mentioned that MDOT reviewed existing rules for micromobility—not bicycles or mopeds, including Baltimore City's e-scooter pilot and Montgomery County's new law. In Montgomery County, e-scooters may only be operated by licensed drivers, 18 years of age or older. Age and license-status of an operator, are only two of several factors that MDOT staff is considering.

There needs to be a serious discussion of sidewalk laws, Mr. Evans said, because there is a feeling that PTDs should be allowed both on the streets and on sidewalks. Local jurisdictions would have to make that determination, however. Before that can be done, liability concerns must be addressed.

The Maryland Transit Administration wants to encourage its transit riders to use PTDs as a *last mile* solution; however, MDOT MTA does not want to see the devices left on transit platforms or brought inside its vehicles. MDOT MTA will work with MDOT as well as local governments on these issues.

Mr. Evans cited several recommended practices including:

- Regulating PTDs at the state level
- Regulating PTDs as a class, not by individual device
- Mimicking bicycle rules where possible
- Permitting PTDs on streets and sidewalks where appropriate

Ms. Waters then updated the group on a couple of pedestrian related activities. MDOT and the Maryland Department of Health have partnered with America Walks to explore and expand walking initiatives across Maryland. America Walks works with state, regional, and local organizations to promote walking and walkable communities by providing strategy support, training, and technical assistance.

This partnership is working to ensure that Senior Centers organize walking events in coordination with the Maryland Department of Aging.

Maryland is also sponsoring Walk Maryland Day on October 2, when people throughout the state are encouraged to take a walk at lunchtime or after work or anytime that day.

4. DEMONSTRATION OF MDP'S NEW TRANSIT STATION AREA PROFILE TOOL

Mr. Scott Hansen presented on MDP's new Transit Station Area Profile Tool (TSAPT), an online data tool which provides up-to-date transit-oriented development (TOD) information for each rail transit station in Maryland. TOD is defined as dense, mixed-use, deliberately planned development within one half-mile of a transit station designed to promote the use of transit, walking, and biking.

TSAPT includes summary-type profile information displayed as infographics accessible through an easy-to-use dashboard. Information is organized into Transit and Land Use, Demographic and Socioeconomic Data, Station Area Employment, and Median Housing Sales Price.

It provides detailed snapshots of planning conditions within one half-mile radius of every Metro, MARC, and light-rail station in Maryland. The tool can also assist those involved in research, planning, and implementation of TOD.

Mr. Hansen explained that the tool is very user-friendly. Anyone can navigate the map using the pan and zoom function. Stations may be selected by using a filter and typing the name or address of a station in the right-hand corner of the map will provide additional information.

In addition to transit lines and station locations, TSAPT includes maps for state designated TOD site, Priority Funding Areas, Opportunity Zones, land use and land cover, and generalized zoning.

The tool may be found by visiting TOD.Planning.Maryland.gov.

5. STRATEGIC PLANNING

BPAG members heard reports from the three priority interest area workgroups, concerning the fine-tuning of their proposed work plans. [These plans](#) are available online and will be formally approved at the November meeting.

6. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS AND LOCAL UPDATES

There was time for brief updates from members. Highlights presented included the following:

- **Annapolis** - The City is moving forward on the Poplar Trail Extension. It's also developing an overall vision for bike/ped accessibility through the use of GIS. E-scooters will come to Annapolis this fall through a partnership with Anne Arundel County and Zagster.
- **Anne Arundel County** - Regulations for a Complete Streets policy, modeled on those created by Baltimore City, are being developed. Also, the BWI-Odenton Study has kicked off.
- **Baltimore County** - A major priority for Baltimore County is updating the County's Bike/Pedestrian Plan, incorporating such considerations as mobility rules and infrastructure.
- **BMC** - Planning is proceeding on Bike to Work Day 2020. Because ridership has plateaued at about 2,000 for the past four years—mostly repeat riders—and organizers are spending considerable money every year, the workgroup is considering some measures to lower costs involved with the event, including a return to all cotton t-shirts and limiting regional advertising to social media. BMC is researching how Bike to Work Day is conducted in other metropolitan areas in the hopes of working more efficiently. BPAG members were invited to join the workgroup and play an active role in Bike to Work Day planning.

Updates to the regional bike map continue. BMC has received data from all but one of the member jurisdictions. Once all information is received, BMC's GIS coordinator will review it for technical compliance and accuracy. The map should be completed later in the fall.

- **Carroll County** - The County held a public hearing the night before on its first Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan, which had been completed in July.
- **Harford County** - MDOT SHA is reviewing Segments A and B of the Ma & Pa Connector Trail project, and the County is completing its response to MDOT SHA's comments on Segment 2. Based on updated cost estimates, the County has requested an additional \$750,000 in TAP funding for this project.
- **Howard County** - Howard County's Complete Streets policy goes into effect on October 7.
- **MDE** - The Department has been working with Baltimore City on improving the intersection at Monroe Street and Washington Blvd., a very unfriendly crossing for pedestrians.
- **MDP** - The Department has been engaged in public outreach in support of its Transit Station Area Profile Tool.
- **MDOT MTA** - Promoting Car Free Days on Friday, September 20 and Monday, September 23 will be a big priority for MDOT MTA. Extra bike cars will be added to MARC trains on those days.

- **MDOT SHA-** SHA has completed context-sensitive design guidance and announced new grant opportunities.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Mr. Eatough, which was seconded by Ms. Sarros, Ms. Asman adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Tanya Asman – Anne Arundel County
Marty Baker – Maryland Department of Transportation
Eric Borchers – City of Annapolis
Christopher Eatough – Howard County
Scott Hansen – Maryland Department of Planning
Jon Leishman – Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning
Patrick McMahon – MDOT Maryland Transit Administration
Kris Nebre – Baltimore County Department of Public Works (DPW)
Molla Sarros – Maryland Department of the Environment
Peter Sotherland – MDOT State Highway Administration
Clare Stewart – Carroll County Department of Planning

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – BMC
Nate Evans -- MDOT
Terry Freeland – BMC
Mara Kaminowitz -- BMC
Sam Snead – Baltimore County DPW
Russ Ulrich – BMC
Francine Waters -- MDOT