

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

September 16, 2020

Online Meeting

1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Tanya Asman (Anne Arundel County) welcomed attendees and Ms. Sheila Mahoney (BMC) held a roll call. The meeting took place remotely in accordance with Maryland social distancing protocols.

2. APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

The minutes from the July BPAG meeting were previously distributed to the group, and input from Ms. Asman, Ms. Molla Sarros (MDE) and Mr. Nate Evans (MDOT TSO) were incorporated. No other comments were received. Ms. Asman asked for a motion to approve, Ms. Clare Stewart (Carroll County) motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Evans seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

3. 2020 AND 2021 BPAG WORK PLANS

Ms. Asman began a discussion regarding the 2021 BPAG Work Plan. Ms. Mahoney provided a recap of items from the 2020 Work Plan, works in progress, and ongoing.

Major themes of the 2020 Work Plan included:

- Encourage the development and adoption of Complete Streets policies at the local level; increase the number of local jurisdictions with Complete Streets policies
- MDOT will adopt a Statewide policy that encourages local jurisdictions to adopt their own policies tailored to their individual needs.
- Local jurisdictions will assess and adopt more specific, localized policies to meet the needs of their residents.

2020 Complete Streets presentations to BPAG included status updates, lessons learned, best practices and input from the group:

- MDOT Complete Streets State Level Overview and Draft Policy Summary
- MDOT SHA Context Driven: Access and Mobility for All Users 1.0
- Howard County Complete Streets Policy and Design Manual Updates

- Baltimore City Complete Streets and Manual Development
- Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning and Implementation
- Anne Arundel County Complete Streets History and Status
- Harford County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update

2020 works in progress that BPAG initiated or contributed to include:

- Regional Bike Cost Estimator Tool (BPAG Workgroup) – to be demonstrated at November meeting
- Update to Regional Bicycle Facility Map (BMC) – end of 2020
- Updates to Transportation Regional Goals and Strategies (BRTB) – to be adopted in early 2021
- Level of Traffic Stress (MDOT) – analysis of LTS data underway.

Ongoing

- MDOT Administered Bike / Walk Funding Programs

Discussion:

- The One Maryland One Centerline program is a GIS platform that integrates publicly owned roadways and serves as a linear referencing system to associate signs, parking speed limit, etc. with the centerline. It has a robust dataset that MDOT is using that for LTS. However, it does not include bicycle infrastructure. MDOT's Data Governance Division is currently developing a bicycle event, so that it will be able to start tracking types of bicycle facilities. This will be integrated in late 2021 and will be automatically updated quarterly, eventually negating the need for the BMC Regional Bicycle Facility Map. MDOT has asked for input from some local jurisdictions and advocacy groups and will reach out if more input is needed.
- Last year, BPAG discussed and focused on four categories of interest: counts for bike and pad, Bike Cost Estimator tool for grant applications, Complete Streets and assistance with grants.
- MDOT administered bike and pedestrian grants are competitive, with more applicants than available funding. Some aspects of programs, particularly Transportation Alternatives, are difficult to navigate with long waiting times for reviews. There is interest in learning about other funding sources for bike and ped projects outside of the state administered programs. This is a potential work item for 2021. With multiple (expensive) trail projects moving toward final design, perhaps there can be a look into multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional funding sources for the region.
- The group is interested in revisiting setting a baseline for bike and ped counts throughout the region. Perhaps this includes a compilation of counts completed locally (hosted by BMC) or working with Maryland Transportation Institute on their use of sensors and AI/big data for conducting large scale counts throughout the region. These new sensors can collect more data more accurately than previously used methods. Baseline data sets can also feed into MDOT SHA's system for use throughout the region. A Request for Proposals will soon be issued for the Pedestrian Report Card

Assessment task in the UPWP and may help inform some methods for collecting such data.

- Ms. Mahoney will send out a survey based on this discussion prior to the next meeting, during which BPAG can decide on preferred areas of focus for 2021.

4. PRESENTATION: HARFORD COUNTY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

Mr. Joel Gallihue presented an update on Harford County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, developed to evaluate improvements that offer desirable levels of accessibility, mobility, convenience, and safety.

The plan includes policy development and a comprehensive list of projects. It identifies bike corridors and links throughout the County as follows: Upper Creek, Rail Trail, Conowingo, Greenway, Mountain, Post and Pulaski.

Level of Traffic Stress was determined via a simple model using Open Street Map data. This was adequate to guide a countywide plan while leaving room for more detailed updates such as LIDAR road facility data, when it becomes available. Corridor planning strategy involved classifying corridors by neighborhoods, excursions or linkages. Highlighted planned projects include new linkages via the Pulaski Corridor and completion of a segment of the Ma and Pa Trail, part of the East Coast Greenway.

Discussion:

- It was discussed that the plan was prepared in-house and Harford County would share the level of traffic stress methodology, how the roadways were scored and the categories by which they were.

[PowerPoint: Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Update]

5. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

Anne Arundel County

- Awarded Bikeways grant for \$600,000 to extend the BWI trail Maple Road to Nursery Road Light Rail.
- Preparing a scope and reviewing the qualified consultant list to update the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.
- Parole Mobility Study has an upcoming public comment period.
- Recently has an upcoming public comment period for the BWI to Odenton trail project.
- WB&A bridge over the Patuxent is facing challenges getting through reviews from MDOT SHA, Districts 3 and 5. It seems reviewers were not receiving the plans. Asked for guidance on how to move it forward. The trail is regionally very important, and would like to work toward construction soon.

Baltimore City

- The review and comment period for the Draft Complete Streets Manual is open now through October 30.

Carroll County

- Ms. Clare Stewart discussed that internally, the County finds that stormwater management costs are prohibitive to doing some types of bicycle and pedestrian projects. She asked if the group was experiencing that as well, and whether a survey may be in order to get feedback.
- Moving toward construction on two Safe Routes to Schools projects. One has been in the works for almost 5 years, and they are excited to complete the project. The MOU after being awarded the grant took about 2 years.

Howard County

- Also awarded Bikeways grant for the construction of the North Laurel Connections project.
- Complete Streets Community Engagement Plan Workshops - September 23 at 1pm and 7pm. The County will be hosting two virtual (via Webex) Complete Streets Community Engagement Plan Workshops for the public to learn more about Howard County's Complete Streets initiative and the draft Community Engagement Plan. The comment period on the plan is open until September 30.
- Twin Rivers Pathway completed, it's a 0.6 mile path from downtown Columbia to Wild Lake Village Center.
- Filed legislation to Howard County Council to prohibit parking in a bike lane. A vote is expected in early October.
- The County will move forward with implementing a policy to change the process to implement sidewalks in the public ROW that are in the Master Plan or located in a School Zone. A 2/3 majority approval from property owners will no longer be required.

MD Department of Environment

- As chair of MDE's Alternative Transportation Group, encouraging her colleagues to do the Cycle September challenge on Love to Ride for health and environment. Updated the intranet to inform agency staff.
- Looking into the impacts of Covid due to fewer drivers on the road.

MDOT SHA

- Office of Communications looking at safety plans and campaigns for ped and bike, keeping Context Driven in mind.
- Promoting Bike to Work Week internally.
- Gearing up for Walktober.
- Ms. Hilary Gonzales is the new Director of OOC.

MDOT TSO

- Walktober: MDOT and partnering agencies will promote and host events and webinars (aka walkinars) spotlighting Maryland pedestrians' safety, health, and commuting options in current walk programs and Initiatives. Registration is open for walk leaders on Maryland Walk Day (October 7) and for the walkinars. Marty Baker will be presenting at the first walkinar. They are eligible for AICP credit.

- Bikeways awards were announced this morning. Five projects in the Baltimore region were awarded grants.
- Making progress on the LTS and road separated bike map. If any trails are missing, please email Nate.
- Making final edits to the Bike Cost Estimator.
- MDOT Fall CTP Tour - September 15 - November 15. The annual CTP tour is underway. Meetings will be virtual. Details and schedules are available on the website, public access is available.

MDOT MTA

- Construction started on 7 miles of red bike/bus lanes for North Avenue Rising project. BCDOT has put in the first 6 dockless scooter and bike corrals.
- A number of changes to the bus service; the buses are equipped with bike racks in

BMC

- PRG Elkridge to Guinness fieldwork is underway. The selected alignment is a modified Alternative 1.
- Bike to Work Day is being moved to a Virtual Bike to Work Week from September 21 – 27. About 730 registrants so far. Items for registrants has been delivered to 20 bike shops throughout the region.
- About 600 people on the Love to Ride app and 250 Cycle September participants.
- Working on RFP for next segment of Patapsco Regional Greenway preliminary design in Carroll County.

Guest: Jon Korin, BikeAAA

- BikeAAA Safety & Bike Laws Webinar - Tue, September 22, 7pm – 8pm will present an overview of bike safety and laws for road, trail and club rides.
- Frustrated with the amount of time reviews are taking on the WB&A trail over the Patuxent Bridge.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Asman adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Tanya Asman – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
Jessie Bialek – Baltimore County Department of Public Works
Chris Eatough – Howard County Department of Transportation (Howard County DOT)
Scott Hansen – Maryland Department of Planning
Matt Hendrickson – Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)
Dan Janousek – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Jon Leishman – Harford County Office of Planning
Patrick McMahon – MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)
Molla Sarros – Maryland Department of the Environment
Clare Stewart – Carroll County Department of Planning
Dawn Thomas – Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Lindsay Donnelon – Federal Highway Administration
Nate Evans – MDOT
Joel Gallihue – Harford County Office of Planning
Kathleen Hayes
Jon Korin – BikeAAA
Sheila Mahoney – BMC
Molly Nur – Howard County DOT
Francine Waters – MDOT
Kay Underwood – MDOT SHA Office of Communications
Graham Young – Baltimore City DOT