

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

September 21, 2022

1:02 to 2:50 P.M.

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Mr. Chris Eatough (Howard County OOT) welcomed attendees and Ms. Charlene Mingus (BMC) held a roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

The minutes from the July BPAG meeting were previously distributed to the group. Mr. Eatough asked for a motion to approve, Mr. Nate Evans (MDOT TSO) motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Tanya Asman (Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation) seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

3. UPDATED LAND PRESERVATION AND RECREATION PLAN

Mr. Andrew Mengel (DNR) shared information about the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan (LPRP) which is updated every five years. The LPRP serves as Maryland's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, which qualifies the state to receive funding from the National Park Service through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The plan will identify current outdoor recreation and open space inventory, trends, needs, and issues statewide. Maryland Park Services will be developing a strategic plan at the same time, which will focus more on individual trails and trail recommendations.

There are four major components to the plan: information gathering, findings and visioning, goal development, and draft and final plan. DNR is currently on step one, information gathering. This will include a review of local recreation plans to identify and incorporate larger trends. DNR will use two types of surveys to engage the public on the plan: a statistically valid phone survey and an online/public version. They will also be hosting four regional stakeholder workshops. Information gathering should be finished in December 2022, and the overall plan will be approved by December 2023.

There was discussion regarding allowing electric bicycles in state parks, where they are currently not allowed. Mr. Eatough suggested that BPAG gather more information on the topic and possibly discuss it in a future meeting.

[PowerPoint: LPRP Update]

4. WALKTOBER AND WALK MARYLAND DAY

Ms. Francine Waters (MDOT TSO) presented information about Walktober 2022. This year is the third year of the event. Walktober will kick off with Walk Maryland Day on Wednesday, October 5. There will also be four Walkinars throughout the month on Thursdays at 10:30 A.M. Topics include a National Perspective on Walking and Pedestrian Safety, Equity and Walkability, Walking and Public Health, and Expanding Access to Pedestrian Infrastructure.

Ms. Waters encouraged people to become a Walktober partner. There are nearly fifty partners so far, including national, state, and local organizations. AARP magazine highlighted Walktober in an article, which can be found here: <https://states.aarp.org/maryland/walktober>. The AARP also provided the first 50 registrants with a t-shirt.

Ms. Waters gave a tour of the Walktober website. She shared how to register as a Walk Leader or a Sole Mate. She also shared information about walk events, which will be happening throughout the month, in every county, and include a variety of different events, including fun runs, hikes, ghost walks, and more. Visit the [Walktober website](#) for more information.

Ms. Waters shared that they are able to track registrants for Walk Maryland Day walks, Walk Leaders, Sole Mates, and webinars. This year has had the highest number of registrants of any year so far.

[PowerPoint: WALKTOBER Walkinars 2022]

5. FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Ms. Mingus presented information about the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program including Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects. First Ms. Mingus noted that FHWA posted [the revised USDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities Table](#). This table indicates potential eligibility for pedestrian and bicycle activities and projects under U.S. Department of Transportation surface transportation funding programs. The table also has links to program information.

Ms. Mingus then gave an overview of the TA program noting that the program is a reimbursable federal funding program for transportation related projects that strengthen the intermodal transportation network and that meet at least one of nine qualifying categories listed in the federal legislation and outlined in the [MDOT SHA TA Program Manual](#). On behalf of FHWA, MDOT SHA administers TA program funding for all Maryland projects with 40% of funds apportioned to MPOs in the state and the remaining funds available to any area of Maryland. Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) fiscal year 2023 funds available in the region include \$6,512,687.75 in the Baltimore region and \$631,718.84 in Aberdeen/Bel Air South/Bel Air North. MDOT SHA calls for projects and applicants submit their proposals by mid-May. BMC receives the proposals shortly after, reviews the proposals, and conducts site visits with MDOT SHA and the applicant. Applicants then respond to comments and questions and the BMC review team develops recommendations for the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB). The recommendations are first presented to the Technical Committee for their consideration to move to the BRTB through resolution. If

Technical Committee approves the resolution, it is presented to the BRTB for their vote. If BRTB approves the resolution, it is then submitted to MDOT SHA. The presentation includes fiscal year 2023 recommendation for the TA program.

Ms. Cindy Burch (BMC) shared information about federal funding opportunities including Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) and the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). SS4A includes funding of \$1 billion per year over five years. The following activities are eligible for the SS4A program: develop or update a comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan), conduct planning, design, and development activities in support of an Action Plan, carry out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan (self-certification criteria included). More information about SS4A [can be found here](#).

The HSIP process in Maryland includes funding shared with local agencies for projects on non-state maintained roadways. Applications can be submitted to MDOT State Highway Administration by any jurisdiction with a Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) for any eligible project on a locally owned road within the geographic limits of the county. Agencies without LRSPs may not submit HSIP applications.

[PowerPoint: Federal Safety Grant Programs]

6. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

City of Annapolis – Mr. Eric Leshinsky shared that Annapolis is continuing to wrap up FY22 bikeways projects. Most of them are at 30% design and they will be meeting with stakeholders and sharing results with MDOT soon. The connection from the Navy Bridge into downtown project is kicking off next week. It is a state and county funded project. This is the missing link in the connection from the B&A trail into downtown Annapolis. A safety review of Forest Drive in Annapolis is about to kick off as well. Annapolis has also received a grant from the Baltimore Metropolitan Council to develop guidance on protected bike lanes and other bicycle facilities and to develop a feasibility plan for connecting downtown to Quiet Waters Park via Bay Ridge Avenue.

Anne Arundel County – Ms. Asman shared that the public comment period for Walk & Roll Anne Arundel, the updated to the bicycle and pedestrian master plan, closed September 15. Ms. Asman noted the County received a lot of positive and constructive feedback from the public. Ms. Asman shared that Walk & Roll Anne Arundel will be presented to the Planning Advisory Board by late October and to County Council at the beginning of next year. The draft plan [can be found here](#).

A SRTS project and safety training for elementary students is underway. Anne Arundel County has applied to several grants, including SRTS, SS4A, and Reconnecting Communities. The Reconnecting Communities grant would be looking at three connections across Route 3 to connect large areas of residential and commercial.

Ms. Dawn Thomas, Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, shared that the WB&A bridge is underway. Piers and abutments are being installed and poured. The Broadneck Trail Phase 3 is underway as well, which will connect the existing trail to the Anne Arundel Community College.

Baltimore City – Mr. Matt Hendrickson shared that the city is working on Complete Streets and Vision Zero gaps throughout the City.

Carroll County – Ms. Clare Stewart shared an update on three projects. The Johnsville Road SRTS project has finished construction and is wrapping up. The Washington Road SRTS project should have plans and specifications finished by the end of the year. For the Patapsco Regional Greenway Sykesville to McKeldin segment, thirty percent design is complete and they have met with stakeholders to discuss maintenance and operations and had a very productive meeting.

Howard County – Mr. Eatough shared that Howard County is finishing up a road retrofit on Oakland Mills Road. The project included the first protected bicycle lanes in the County and has pedestrian refuge islands. The road was narrowed from four lanes to two lanes. MDOT SHA has projects on US 1 in the County that were identified as high safety priorities. Construction is starting now and will be finished in the next year. The County has passed legislation that will require infrastructure review when traffic fatalities happen.

Queen Anne's County – Mr. Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works, shared that the county is kicking off a Strategic Highway Safety Plan. They are working on a bicycle and pedestrian master plan. They are also planning on extending the South Island Trail on MD 8.

MDOT MTA – Mr. Patrick McMahon shared that MDOT MTA has finished its North Avenue Rising project in Baltimore City. They have received federal grants to do multimodal improvements to Penn Station. This will include pedestrian safety improvements and bicycle facilities. The public comment period for the East-West transit corridor has wrapped up, and public comment on the [North-South corridor is underway](#). They have applied for grants to improve ADA accessibility at Martin's Airport MARC Station.

MDOT TSO - Mr. Evans shared that the Kim Lampier Bikeways Grant Program awards will be announced in the coming weeks. The Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (MBPAC) will be meeting to review recommendations on preserving the Nice Bridge. MDOT is going to start updating the state bicycle and pedestrian plan, which will include a technical advisory committee. Mr. Evans also introduced Ms. Molly Porter from MDOT SHA.

MDE – Ms. Catherine Salarano introduced herself and shared that she will be representing MDE at BPAG from now on.

MDP – Mr. Scott Hansen shared the [Transit Station Area Profile Tool](#). The connection with bicyclists and pedestrians is an important part of the tool. Transit has been updated in the tool, and ridership numbers for 2021 have been updated. There is a large reduction in rail ridership. Median housing sale information and employment information has been updated. Socioeconomic information will be updated soon.

BMC – Ms. Mingus introduced Mr. Shane Sarver, the new Multimodal Transportation Planner at BMC, who will work closely on alternative transportation, transit, and other focus areas.

Ms. Mingus announced that the BRTB's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for fiscal year 2024 (FY 2024) will be developed starting in December and approved the following April with the work program beginning in July of that year. The UPWP identifies the transportation tasks and studies to be performed by BMC or member jurisdictions. Ms. Mingus invited BPAG members to discuss UPWP ideas with BMC staff for potential inclusion as a UPWP project or

study for FY 2024. Ms. Mingus provided information about the Transportation Land Use Connection (TLC) program as an example of a new UPWP program. The program will provide short-term technical assistance to support local governments in their planning and preliminary design efforts to implement changes to the built environment that reduce traffic on roads and enable more people to easily walk, bike, and use transit. Two projects were selected for FY 2023 for up to \$80,000 each in technical support services. Annapolis' Bay Ridge Avenue project with Toole Design providing technical services and Baltimore City's Wabash Avenue project with RK&K providing technical services. Ms. Mingus mentioned that along with providing ideas for new UPWP projects and studies, members can also suggest increasing the funding in FY 2024 for existing UPWP projects.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Mingus announced that the Chair and Vice Chair of BPAG are scheduled to be elected at the January BPAG meeting. BPAG bylaws allow the Chair and Vice Chair to serve two consecutive years in their position. BMC staff would like to thank Mr. Eatough and Mr. Evans for their dedication to their positions over the past two years serving as Chair and Vice Chair.

Ms. Mingus asked any BPAG members who are interested in serving as Chair or Vice Chair to email cmingus@baltometro.org. Ms. Mingus also noted that there is precedent for the BPAG Vice Chair to be nominated as Chair and Mr. Evans has expressed interest in being nominated for chair.

ADJOURN MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 16, 2022.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Tanya Asman – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works
Chris Eatough – Howard County Office of Transportation (Howard County OOT)
Nate Evans – Maryland Department of Transportation the Secretary's Office (MDOT TSO)
Scott Hansen – Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
Matt Hendrickson – Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)
Eric Leshinsky – City of Annapolis Department of Planning
Patrick McMahon – Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)
Catherine Salarano – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Clare Stewart – Carroll County Department of Planning

Staff and Guests

Daniel Allen – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Cindy Burch – BMC
Rochelle Carpenter – Toole Design
Jon Korin – Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County
Barry List – MDOT SHA
Andrew Mengel – Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Charlene Mingus – BMC
Daniel Paschall – East Coast Greenway
Molly Porter – MDOT SHA
Nigel Samaroo – Bike Maryland
Shane Sarver – BMC
Michael Scepaniak – Strong Towns of Baltimore
Cynthia Spriggs – MDOT MHSO
Dawn Thomas – Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks
Francine Waters – MDOT TSO