

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

March 15, 2023
1:03 to 2:25 P.M.

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Mr. Nate Evans (MDOT TSO) welcomed attendees and Ms. Charlene Mingus (BMC) held a roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

The minutes from the January BPAG meeting were previously distributed to the group. Mr. Evans asked for a motion to approve, Mr. Eric Leshinsky (City of Annapolis) motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Chris Eatough (Howard County) seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

3. PRESENTATION: STATEWIDE BICYCLE NETWORK ANALYSIS

Mr. Evans presented on the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Bicycle Network Accessibility Analysis. Mr. Evans reminded the committee that over the past three years MDOT has been transitioning to using the level of traffic stress to measure the bikeability of certain roadways. MDOT developed an LTS scale, with 0 being the most accessible and 5 being the least. Each level of the scale has a target audience and associated bicycle facility types. MDOT uses the LTS scores of roadways and intersections to develop a routable network and analyze the bicycle accessibility of the network. Each census tract was scored based on six scoring categories: people, opportunity, core services, recreation, retail, and transit. MDOT then used a hexagon tessellation using 0.15 square mile hexagons to show the Bikescore of areas. The hexagon pattern was then matched with census tracts to show which census areas are most accessible, and to develop a gap analysis to show which densely populated areas do not have access to a low stress bicycle network.

MDOT is going to use this analysis to inform the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, to provide guidance for MDOT SHA's Vulnerable Road User Assessment, Pedestrian Safety Access Plan, and Context Driven recommendations, to perform equity analyses, to understand proposed project impacts, and as a replicable process for local use. Local users will need to use ESRI's network analyst. A technical memorandum with instructions and further detail on this program will be released in the near future. Mr. Evans noted that the analysis is dependent

on the data accuracy of bicycle facility data, which emphasizes the importance of the data collected by BMC.

4. PRESENTATION: WALK & ROLL ANNE ARUNDEL

Ms. Tanya Asman (Anne Arundel County) shared an update on [*Walk and Roll Anne Arundel!*](#), the county's 2023 update to previous pedestrian and bicycle master plans. The plan seeks to improve active transportation conditions by providing recommendations to advance safe, comfortable infrastructure in Anne Arundel County. The goals of the plan are to prioritize a safe and comfortable walking and rolling network for all ages, to develop continuous connections to essential destinations, to increase access for vulnerable people, and to recommend policy and infrastructure to increase safety and accessibility. The plan recommends separated or buffered bicycle facilities, continuous and accessible sidewalks, enhanced intersections and crossings, and multimodal transit opportunities.

Development of the plan included robust public outreach, including an online webmap and survey, in-person and virtual public meetings, and presentations to and conversations with selected local committees. Ms. Asman shared examples of areas where public concerns were incorporated into the plan, including Quarterfield Road, the B&A Trail – Glen Burnie Light Rail, Deale Road, and Riva Road.

Ms. Asman described the process for building the low-stress network, which involved a combination of field work, technical analysis, and public engagement. Safety and crash reduction was a priority, and the analysis utilized the Safer Streets Priority Finder methodology, an online tool that uses characteristics of the roadway and surrounding community to ascertain the risk of a crash, instead of just using crash history. After analyses, 15 priority improvement areas were proposed. The network is organized by the nine Regional Planning Areas established by *Plan2040*, the county's general development plan. For each RPA, a map of the proposed bike network and a list of the top priority projects with facility type and cost estimate was developed.

The plan also provides more detailed network recommendations for the county's Town Centers – Odenton, Glen Burnie, and Parole. These are higher density areas that have been designated by county code to encourage more urbanized growth.

A project prioritization tool was developed using four criteria: potential demand, connectivity, safety, and equity. Each criteria is weighted equally, but the tool is designed to allow for that to be changed in the future.

The plan also makes policy recommendations, including increasing funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, maintaining good coordination with the state, updating county design standards, improving access for people with disabilities, and improving safety for students to walk and bike to school.

Finally, the plan proposes tracking progress on the development of the active transportation network. The plan will be introduced to the County Council on March 20th, which will be followed by a month-long public comment period before the plan is voted on in late April.

5. PRESENTATION: BIKE TO WORK WEEK 2023 UPDATE

Mr. Shane Sarver (BMC) shared an update on Bike to Work Week 2023. The event will be held from Monday, May 15 through Sunday, May 21, 2023. Mr. Sarver thanked this year's sponsors, and shared a list of t-shirt pick up locations around the region. As in previous years, the event will feature locally hosted events and group rides during the week, with celebrations and pit stops held throughout the region on Bike to Work Day, Friday, May 19. Mr. Sarver shared samples of social media graphics and other promotional materials, and shared a draft t-shirt design. Anyone who registers for Bike to Work Week will be eligible to receive an event t-shirt while supplies last.

6. PRESENTATION: PATAPSCO REGIONAL GREENWAY – GUINNESS TO SOUTHWEST AREA PARK PRELIMINARY DESIGN PROJECT

Ms. Charlene Mingus shared an update on the preliminary design project for the Patapsco Regional Greenway (PRG) segment from Guinness Open Gate Brewery to Southwest Area Park. In 2017, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) approved a concept plan for the PRG, which will be used by bicyclists and pedestrians. The Patapsco Regional Greenway envisions a 40-mile, shared-use trail running through the Patapsco Valley from Baltimore's Inner Harbor to Sykesville in Carroll County. To date, over 12 miles of the greenway have been completed.

The Guinness to Southwest Area Park segment of the PRG extends approximately 6 miles from Guinness Open Gate Brewery to Southwest Area Park and the MDOT MTA Patapsco Light Rail Station in Baltimore County. The segment will use a variety of facility types to accommodate safe and comfortable use by pedestrians and bicyclists. The facilities being explored include asphalt/concrete pathways, crushed compacted stone pathways and a bicycle boulevard.

Through field investigation, environmental consideration and project team coordination, four trail alternatives were identified for the Guinness to Southwest Area Park segment. These are the Lansdowne, Patapsco River, Halethorpe, and Baltimore Highlands Alternatives. More information can be found about the alternative alignments at the project webpage, PublicInput.com/PRG.

The first public comment period for the project is open until March 30. The purpose of this phase of the project is to explore the opportunities and challenges of the four proposed alignments, identify design details, engage the public and receive community feedback. A public meeting was held March 14 and substantive feedback was gathered. The community is also invited to provide comments on the [project web page](#) and the [StoryMap](#) until March 30

when the comment period closes. A second comment period will be held in early fall to solicit public feedback on the preliminary design of the preferred alignment.

Mr. Daniel Paschall (East Coast Greenway) asked if there were plans similar to the PRG near other state parks and forests that would improve connections to and from parks and allow for more shared-use paths. Mr. Dan Hudson (Maryland State Parks) shared that previous state parks leadership viewed state parks as natural areas and did not generally view wide, paved paths as appropriate for a state park setting, but that there will be new park leadership in the near future who may have different views.

7. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

City of Annapolis – Mr. Leshinsky shared that Annapolis is moving along with the West-East Express and College Creek Connector trails. Planning for the Bay Ridge Avenue Corridor connection between downtown and Quiet Waters Park is underway.

Anne Arundel County – Ms. Asman shared that Anne Arundel County was awarded an action plan grant from Safe Streets for All to improve their Vision Zero Action Plan. The Broadneck Trail Phase III is under construction, and the South Shore Trail is in design. Construction of the WB&A Bridge will wrap up in winter 2023.

Baltimore City – Mr. Patrick Patterson shared that public meetings for the Baltimore Greenway Trail will be underway this spring. Work on the city's Bicycle Master Plan has been temporarily paused. The city has started a bicycle count program for separated bicycle facilities. The Martin Luther King Boulevard side path project has kicked off. The Highway to Nowhere public meeting was held in February.

Baltimore County – Mr. Mitchell Phillips shared that Baltimore County is currently compiling public comments for the bicycle and pedestrian master plan, which should be finalized in the fall. A public meeting for the Torrey C Brown to Jones Falls Trail feasibility study is being held on Wednesday, March 22nd.

Carroll County – Ms. Clare Stewart shared that the Safe Routes to School Washington Rd project is progressing with the design consultant addressing the last set of comments and the next step being to put the project out for bid. The MDOT SHA is performing the final audit for the Johnsville Road Safe Routes to School project.

Harford County – Ms. Deborah Price shared that the Harford County Connector Bikeways grant proposal is being finalized, and a public meeting was held for the [Concept Plan for Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements along US 40](#) in February.

Howard County – Mr. Eatough shared that a Historic Town Centers public meeting will be held on March 21st. The county has several bicycle facility resurfacing projects and sidewalk construction projects this year. The county also has a project funded by the Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program. They are coordinating with MDOT SHA with safety projects on Route 1 in Howard County. They have several pathway design projects this year as well, including Broken Land Parkway, the South Entrance Trail, and Patuxent Branch Trail.

MDOT MTA – Mr. Patrick McMahon shared that MDOT MTA has a project funded by the Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program, which is a feasibility study in Frederick County. They are also working on designs for bike racks at all MDOT MTA rail stations and improving bike lockers. MDOT MTA is also working on Phase I design of the Patapsco Avenue bicycle and pedestrian bridge.

MDOT TSO - Mr. Evans shared that MDOT TSO is working on the [MDOT SHA Statewide Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan](#). They will be doing public outreach in April, including in person and virtual. A website and public survey will also be available. The FY24 grant cycle is also beginning. Transportation Alternatives. Bikeways applications will be accepted May 1 through June 1. MDOT TSO also has a Maryland Bike-Ped Advisory meeting on April 28. The MDOT Pedestrian subcommittee will be on March 16, and will have two speakers. On Wednesday April 12, MHSO will be hosting the Maryland Safety Summit.

BMC – Ms. Mingus shared that the second comment period for the concept plan for bicycle and pedestrian improvements along US40 closed on February 22, and the information is currently being compiled and will be presented at the May Technical Committee. The comment period for the Patapsco Regional Greenway Guinness to Southwest Area Park is currently underway. The Pedestrian Infrastructure Assessment Tool is currently being refined. Bike to Work Week registration opens on April 3.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Mingus shared that the BRTB's Public Participation Plan includes approval of posting recordings of public meetings online, starting in April. The first BPAG meeting that will be covered by this new rule will be the May 17th meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 P.M.

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)
Eric Leshinsky – City of Annapolis Department of Planning
Patrick Patterson – Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)
Mitchell Phillips – Baltimore County Department of Public Works
Deborah Price – Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning
Catherine Salarano – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Clare Stewart – Carroll County Department of Planning
Patrick McMahon – Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)

Dan Janousek – Maryland Department of Transportation the Secretary's Office (MDOT TSO)

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – BMC

Marty Baker – MDOT TSO

Cindy Burch – BMC

Kate Foster – Rails to Trails Conservancy

Dan Hudson – Maryland State Parks

Charlene Mingus – BMC

Daniel Paschall – East Coast Regional Greenway

Elliott Platt- Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC)

Shane Sarver – BMC

Michael Scepaniak - Baltimore County PBAC

Francine Waters – MDOT TSO