

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

November 20, 2024

1:03 to 2:36 PM

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Mr. Eric Leshinsky (City of Annapolis) welcomed attendees and then 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. Leshinsky motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Jon Leishman (Baltimore City) seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

3. PRESENTATION: WALKTOBER

Ms. Francine Waters (Maryland Department of Transportation, The Secretary's Office) presented an overview of Walktober 2024, a Maryland initiative to highlight pedestrian safety in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Pedestrian Safety Month. Throughout October, MDOT and partners shared information, events and webinars about Maryland walk-related programs, policies, and initiatives.

Ms. Waters highlighted accomplishments of Walktober. Five educational webinars were held about the topic of walking. There were over 100 registered walks for Walk Maryland Day, which took place on October 2. Cheswick the Crab came out for Walk to School Day on October 9. Over 100 new people expressed interest in participating on the Maryland Pedestrian Subcommittee.

Ms. Waters solicited photos of any group walks from Walk Maryland Day to add to the collection.

[PowerPoint: Walktober 2024]

4. PRESENTATION: LOOK ALIVE UPDATES

Ms. Cindy Burch, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), shared a summary of the Look Alive campaign activities during Pedestrian Safety Month and discussed the new hyper-local safety outreach campaign from the BRTB for fiscal year 2025.

At the end of September the safety team went to the last home stand game of the Baltimore Orioles with a Virtual Reality Vehicle. Street teams have been going out to high-risk areas with new developments to educate on road safety. Outreach was expanded to radio ads and digital media on local news outlets. The budget for this outreach campaign is \$100,000 and the campaign is expected to run through fiscal year 2025.

Ms. Burch requested local jurisdictions who want to use the Maryland State Highway materials, such as Signal Woman, to run their own local campaigns coordinate with her.

[PowerPoint: Safety Campaign]

5. PRESENTATION: PATAPSCO REGIONAL GREENWAY UPDATES

Ms. Mingus presented an update on the Patapsco Regional Greenway (PRG) and a new online interactive map of the greenway.

Parts of the trail are already constructed and open for use. Remaining segments will be designed and constructed based on jurisdictional priorities and funding availability. Existing and planned segments are detailed in the slide presentation.

BMC recently completed a [PRG web app](#) which shows existing segments, those under design, and planned segments.

On December 11, there will be a public meeting for the PRG: Stoney Run segment discussing the chosen alignment and soliciting feedback on trail amenities. The PRG: Cherry Hill segment has chosen a consultant team and started the 30% design process. The kickoff of the PRG Operations and Maintenance Guidelines Project took place on November 18.

[PowerPoint: PRG Updates]

6. PRESENTATION: BIKEABLE BALTIMORE REGION

Ms. Mingus updated members on the Bikeable Baltimore Region (BBR) project and current public comment period. The comment period of the current "Presenting Phase" runs until January 10, 2025.

As of November 19, 2024, there were 20 survey respondents and 72 map comments. Survey respondents were most excited for safety and protection for bicyclists, and felt existing gaps between bike lanes and paths needed improvement, among other takeaways.

Ms. Mingus requested members to spread word of the comment period through announcements at meetings, inclusion in newsletters, printed flyers, and social media posts. An in-person public meeting will be held on December 10 at 6 pm at Baltimore Unity Hall. A virtual public meeting will be held at 6 pm on December 12.

The BBR meeting-in-a-box focuses on providing enough information about the project for someone to host their own outreach, in conjunction with materials and sample materials that would allow that person to facilitate that outreach. Ms. Mingus asked that members contact her with suggestions on the meeting-in-a-box, or to request the BBR team present about the project.

[PowerPoint: Bikeable Baltimore Region Update]

7. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

City of Annapolis – Mr. Leshinsky shared that the City hired a consultant in order to develop trail signage standards, and wayfinding to the waterfront. The City continues to work on multiple Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program funded projects including the West-East Express and the Hilltop Lane Connector, which aim to start construction summer 2025. The College Creek Connector and Bay Bridge Avenue Bikeway are moving towards 30% Design.

The City's Public Works Director convened a cross-departmental group that will meet quarterly to discuss traffic safety, inspired by the integrated mobility department from the City of Pittsburgh.

Anne Arundel County – Ms. Tanya Asman shared that the County will hold a public meeting tomorrow for the Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program Taylor Avenue project. A public meeting was held yesterday for the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board's (BRTB) Transportation and Land-Use Connections (TLC) Brooklyn Park project. The Pedal Power Kids bicycle safety training, which started last spring with Safe Routes to School funding, will continue through next spring with Maryland State Highway Administration funding.

The WB&A Bridge is aiming to open next spring, the opening has been delayed due to the need to replace the railing to a safer version. There will be Safe Routes to School accessibility studies done at 20 more schools, 10 middle and 10 elementary schools.

The County will receive Pedestrian and Bicycle counters from the Highway Safety Office. There will be decorative vertical delineators installed along Stoney Run Road and continue the trail up till the intersection. Finally, Ms. Asman shared that Vision Zero is in implementation stages and meeting quarterly.

Baltimore City – Mr. Leishman shared that Baltimore City Department of Transportation has hired five new project managers. Three new Baltimore Greenway Trail segments—33rd Street, Boston Street, and Norfolk Southern—are progressing to 30% design. The Washington Avenue cycletrack is progressing to 60% design. The Harford Road Improvements project is on Phase

2, and partnering with Maryland Department of Transportation to turn flex posts into hardened barriers.

Baltimore County – Mr. Mitchell Phillips shared that a public meeting will be held on Feb 5, 2025 from 6 to 7:30 pm to present the three conceptual designs for the Old Court Road Complete Streets feasibility study. There will be an upcoming meeting on the West-East Trail. Two segments of the North-East Trail are continuing through design.

Carroll County–Ms. Carlisle Fillat reported no updates.

Howard County – Mr. Chris Eatough shared that an annual transportation open house will be held from 4:30 to 7:30 pm on January 30, 2025. The County has applied for Elkridge to be considered a Bicycle-Pedestrian Priority Area by Maryland Department of Transportation. An update to the Howard County bicycle master plan will be conducted in 2025. Protected bike lanes on Columbia Road extending 1.25 miles from MD 108 to MD 175 are now completed. The County’s first Bicycle Traffic Garden was opened at Huntington Park.

Maryland Department of the Environment – Ms. Julianne Hilton reported that they had no updates at this time.

Maryland Department of Planning – Mr. Brooks Phelps reported that they had no updates at this time.

Maryland Highway Safety Office (MSHO) – Ms. Cynthia Spriggs announced the upcoming Maryland Remembers Day on December 16 in Annapolis, honoring those who have lost loved ones due to crashes.

Ms. Spriggs also highlighted the Vision Zero public meeting on December 5, and the next Pedestrian and Bicycle Emphasis Area Team (PBAT) meeting on December 12. A hybrid meeting on speed will be held at BMC on November 21.

MSHO’s grant applications will open on January 9, 2025. Ms. Spriggs offered assistance for bike helmet distribution and safety education.

Maryland Transit Administration – Ms. Brittney Sink reported that they had no updates at this time.

MDOT TSO – Ms. Waters shared that that there will be a Pedestrian Subcommittee meeting on December 19.

BMC – Ms. Mingus shared that the [Bikeable Baltimore Region project](#) “Presenting Phase” comment period will run until January 10, 2025, with public meetings on December 10 and December 12. The [Patapsco Regional Greenway: Stoney Run](#) 30% design comment period will run until December 20, with a public meeting on Dec 11. Ms. Anna Marshall (BMC) shared that the Queen Anne’s County Cross County Connector TLC project is evaluating ways to cross US 50 and continue the Cross County Connector Trail. Ms. Marium Sultan (BMC) shared that Carroll County’s TLC project has an upcoming public meeting on December 4. Ms. Mingus

shared that BMC is looking for volunteers for a workgroup to discuss the Transportation Alternatives grant program.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Tanya Asman – Anne Arundel County Department of Planning
Jessie Bialek – Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T)
Chris Eatough – Howard County Office of Transportation
Carlisle Fillat – Carroll County Department of Planning
Jon Leishman – Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)
Eric Leshinsky – City of Annapolis Department of Planning
Julianne Hilton – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Brooks Phelps – Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
Molly Porter – Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)
Brittany Sink – MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)
Cynthia Spriggs – Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO)
Meg Young – Maryland Department of Transportation the Secretary's Office (MDOT TSO)

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Timothy Briggs – BMC
Cindy Burch – BMC
Sean Burnett – BCDOT
Anna Marshall – BMC
Charlene Mingus – BMC
Mitchell Phillips – Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T)
Md. Mokhlesur Rahman – BMC
William Rowel – City of Annapolis
Patrick Smith – Howard County Office of Transportation
Mariam Sultan – BMC
Francine Waters – MDOT TSO