

BALTIMORE REGIONAL SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Baltimore Metropolitan Council
1500 Whetstone Way, Baltimore, MD 21230

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Bala Akundi (BMC) welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Safety Subcommittee in 2018. As the committee rebuilds to tackle two major projects – local SHSP development and the regional street smart campaign - he asked for help in reaching out to new members and a new chair.

2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

There were no comments/changes to the notes from the February meeting.

3. 2016 – 2020 STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN

Mr. Mike Sabol, Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO), provided an update on the SHSP and state-of-the-state of fatalities and serious injuries. The MHSO's safety programs are guided by the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) with the overarching goal of halving fatalities in Maryland by 2030 (475 by 2015 and 296 by 2030).

MHSO held an annual safety summit on April 24 at the Maritime Institute. Over 150 safety stakeholders from the state attended the summit with welcome remarks by MVA Administrator Ms. Christine Nizer, MHSO Chief, Mr. Tom Gianni, and MDOT Secretary Mr. Pete Rahn. The chief medical examiner for Maryland, Dr. David Fowler, and his wife, Dr. Carolyn Fowler (Johns Hopkins Hospital) delivered the keynote address. They also held a press conference to announce fatality and injury figures for 2017. For complete details about the summit, visit <http://www.mdhighwaysafetysummit.org/>. The afternoon featured breakout sessions for each of the emphasis area teams. During the closeout session, Mr. Bala Akundi from BMC announced that they will be hiring a full-time staff person to assist the Baltimore region jurisdictions develop local SHSPs. This is being done with a grant from the MHSO.

Mr. Sabol also noted that the SHSP executive committee will be meeting in May and a motorcycle safety summit is scheduled for June 11. In addition, he announced that MHSO Chief Mr. Gianni has retired as of the end of April.

4. REGIONAL PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CAMPAIGN

MHSO would like to reengage the Safety Committee and its members with the Street Smart campaign that this group was heavily involved in between 2009 - 2014. BMC will receive grant funding for FY 19 that will be used to develop a regionally themed and focused campaign over the fall for deployment over spring 2019. In the meantime, MHSO will continue to support existing, on-going campaigns in the city and across the state.

BMC will put out an RFP over the summer to bring a consultant on board to help with the development of the new creative. MHSO and BMC will also pursue funding support from local jurisdictions and engage law enforcement through training.

5. LOCAL SHSP DEVELOPMENT

The number fatalities in Maryland in 2017 was 557 - up by 7 percent from 2016. Since a significant number of these fatalities and injuries occur on local roads, MDOT and MHSO have promoted and pushed the idea that all jurisdictions in the state develop and implement local plans as a way to reverse the troubling upward trend in crash statistics. Prince George's and Montgomery County have developed local plans and in the Baltimore region, Harford County has a draft plan.

As mentioned earlier, MHSO is funding a full-time staff person to work out of the BMC offices to support local jurisdictions in the Baltimore region with their plans. It is expected that BMC will fill this position by summer of 2018.

Mr. Chris Letnaunchyn from Carroll County DPW supports the idea of a local SHSP but wants it to be a plan that targets problem areas and locations that are specific to Carroll County. Ms. Cindy Burch (NSC) pointed out that as part of the data support function they provide to the MHSO, they have preliminary problem identification analysis for each jurisdiction and can share it with the group.

Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, and Howard Counties – while not present at the meeting – have also expressed interest in working with BMC and the regional safety subcommittee in developing and implementing local plans. Baltimore City currently has a Vision Zero plan targeted mainly at pedestrians and bicyclists.

6. THE CHESAPEAKE REGION SAFETY COUNCIL

The Chesapeake Region Safety Council is based in Baltimore, Maryland and is the National Safety Council (NSC) regional non-profit chapter for Maryland, DC, Delaware and Virginia. Ms. Debbie Jennings, the Director of Traffic Safety Services, provided an update on the council's efforts to partner with counties to bring safety programs and free activities to support local plans. These include defensive driving courses, advocacy efforts, participation in local SHSP teams, etc. For more information on programs offered by the council, please refer to the attached presentation and the Chesapeake regional safety council website. <http://www.chesapeakeesc.org/>.

[Handout: Chesapeake Safety Council]

Attendance

Cindy Burch, National Study Center (NSC)
Jeff Dunckel, MDOT/MVA/MHSO
Chris Letnaunchyn, Carroll County Department of Public Works
David Stem, Captain, Patrol Operations, Carroll County Sheriff
Kris Nebre, Baltimore County Department of Public Works
Walter Phillips, State Highway Administration (SHA) - District 4 Traffic
Mike Sabol, MDOT/MVA/MHSO
Karen Wieland, Integrated Designs
Mikah Zaslou, Baltimore City DOT
Debbie Jennings, Chesapeake Region Safety Council
Pam Beer, Cambridge Systematics

Staff & Guests

Bala Akundi - Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Russ Ulrich, BMC
Regina Aris, BMC
Todd Lang, BMC