

BALTIMORE REGIONAL SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, September 24, 2020
10:03 to 11:30 A.M.
Virtual meeting

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Denise Worsley, Chair, Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT), called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. She welcomed everyone to this online meeting and shared best wishes during this pandemic.

2. APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

Ms. Worsley asked for any comments or changes to the minutes from the May 28, 2020 Baltimore Regional Safety Subcommittee meeting. Receiving none, the minutes were accepted into the record.

3. UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

Ms. Worsley provided a brief update of the Automated Traffic Violation Enforcement System (ATVES) program during 2020. She shared that there has been no significant decline in the program, even as traffic volumes have fluctuated since March. She also explained that the ATVES team has been using recent crash data to identify locations for additional speed and red-light cameras. Later in the meeting, Ms. Worsley introduced Mr. Phillip Mellerson, new director of the ATVES program. Mr. Mellerson noted that 15 new automated cameras were installed on September 7, 2020, bringing the total to 123 locations. He then shared some statistics from July 2020, prior to those new installations: 63,770 speeding violations and 19,812 red-light running violations.

4. STATE UPDATE

Ms. Myra Wieman, Deputy Director of the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office (MHSO), introduced herself to the group and shared the new state media campaign - *Be the Driver*. Ms. Wieman explained that this will be a comprehensive, multi-faceted campaign with creative materials available for several high-risk behaviors (e.g. impaired, distracted driving). She also shared a recently released teaser video and directed everyone to the zerodeathsmd.gov website to obtain materials. Ms. Mikah

Zaslow inquired about a way to incorporate all of the independent behavior images into one message and Ms. Wieman said that will be available and used when a focused campaign is not in place.

[PowerPoint: MHSO - Be the Driver Presentation]

5. LOOK ALIVE UPDATE

Mr. Bala Akundi, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), and Ms. Kenna Swift, Sherry Matthews, provided an update of the Look Alive campaign since the last meeting. This presentation included outreach statistics prior to the safer-at-home orders, as well as how the program has evolved. This includes a team of Signal People that have been 'deputized' by Signal Woman to spread the safety messages. This group of ambassadors will expand the campaign's reach and allow for new methods of outreach. Ms. Swift also mentioned the forthcoming social media presence of Signal Woman and explained that media efforts in October will be coordinated with enforcement mobilizations. Officer Frank Enko, Baltimore County Police Department (BCoPD), noted that the next pedestrian safety law enforcement training session will be conducted virtually on October 1st. Officer Lori Hippensteel, BCoPD, also shared that several enforcement efforts have been planned after that training, information about which will be available in the near future.

[PowerPoint: Look Alive]

6. LOCAL STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN (SHSP) UPDATE

Ms. Cindy Burch, BMC, shared updates on strategic planning in each jurisdiction and included attendees.

She noted that Baltimore County has developed an Executive Steering Committee with representatives from the county fire/EMS, police, public works, schools, and health agencies with support from the MHSO. Ms. Burch shared that the Steering Committee set Daylight Savings Time (November 1) as a target release date for an SHSP. Mr. Sam Snead, Baltimore County Department of Public Works, noted that the group is moving forward with that aggressive schedule and is on track.

Ms. Burch then shared that Harford County is in the process of updating the County SHSP, as they already have one in place that aligns with the state SHSP to expire this year. She explained that the county council established a Traffic Safety Advisory Board (TSAB) in 2013 and tasked that group with implementing an SHSP. Sgt. Mike Lane, Harford County Sheriff's Office, agreed that the 2021-2025 Plan Update will be reviewed by the TSAB later this year for implementation in January 2021. After that is complete, the team will begin a comprehensive evaluation of the current plan.

Ms. Burch then shared an update about the Howard County Strategic Road Safety Plan. This plan is complete and has become a model for other efforts in the region. There are plans to announce the plan in October, in coordination with the Look Alive campaign, and begin implementation in January 2021. In October, the plan will be posted on the county website for public review.

Ms. Burch mentioned that the BCDOT recently participated in a Speed Management Action Plan workshop with the Federal Highway Administration. Ms. Zaslow then explained that the results of that workshop should be available in the next few weeks and will be incorporated into the draft Vision Zero plan that is currently under construction. She also shared that a newer BCDOT employee, Brian Seel, has partnered with the Baltimore City Police Department to develop a crash data dashboard. This application will improve access to crash report data and planning processes within BCDOT.

Ms. Burch noted that Anne Arundel County is in the process of building an Executive Steering Committee, having recently released an informational message to county agency leadership. There are dedicated personnel in the Department of Public Works that have been working in safety and hope to expedite the planning process once a committee is formed. Finally, Ms. Burch shared that the Carroll County Strategic Traffic Safety Plan Steering Committee was affected by the pandemic because the team is led by critical personnel at the Department of Public Works and Sheriff's Office. However, recently work has continued and the team aims to have the plan finished and ready for implementation in January 2021.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Region 3 Leadership Summit – Local SHSP and non-motorist safety presentation

Ms. Burch shared that a virtual meeting was held on Tuesday September 22, 2020 for the highway safety office leaders throughout the NHTSA region. The focus of the meeting was pedestrian and bicycle safety and Maryland's Regional Program Manager asked for a presentation of the Local SHSP project. Ms. Burch discussed the MHSO-BMC partnership and the value of outreach to build local SHSPs. Dr. Tim Kerns, MHSO, also shared that these are regular meetings within the region and the presentation was very well received. He noted that it's a best practice that will hopefully be considered in other states.

- Transportation Planning Board safety study

Ms. Burch then shared that the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments recently completed a traffic safety study of crash report data and approved a robust safety program within the region. Mr. Jon Schermann, TPB, further explained the impetus behind the safety study and anticipated outcomes. A more detailed presentation will be part of the next meeting.

- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) projects

Ms. Burch explained that the UPWP is a means for the BMC staff to support the region through projects that are not necessarily grants to the member jurisdictions, but staff products that may benefit the region. Some examples may be a Pedestrian Report Card or Congestion Management Plan. The UPWP is currently being developed by the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB), so any safety ideas are welcome. Please share thoughts or project needs with Cindy or any member of the BMC staff for consideration by the Board.

No other discussion was had and Ms. Worsley adjourned the meeting at 11:13 A.M.

Next Meeting – December 17, 2020, 10:00 A.M.

Attendance:

Pam Beer – Cambridge Systematics
Jessie Bialek – Baltimore County Department of Public Works (BCoDPW)
Mike Bomgardner – MDOT MVA Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO)
Jim Brown – Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems
David Cookson – Howard County Office of Transportation
Lindsay Donnellon – Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Frank Enko – Baltimore County Police Department (BCoPD)
Michael Farrell – National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)
Matthew Hendrickson - Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)
Lori Hippensteel – BCoPD
Breck Jeffers – FHWA
Debbie Jennings – Chesapeake Region Safety Council
Tim Kerns – MHSO
Mike Lane – Harford County Sheriff's Office
Phillip Mellerson - BCDOT
Doug Mowbray – MHSO
Joanna Reed – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Mandy Remmell – MHSO
Jon Schermann – TPB
Nanette Schieke – Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA)
Sam Snead – BCoDPW
Myra Wieman – MHSO
Kenna Williams Swift – Sherry Matthews Group
Philip Thomas – Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
Christina Utz - MHSO
Nicole Waldheim – Burgess & Niple
Tracy Whitman – Maryland Department of Health - Kids in Safety Seats
Myra Wieman – MHSO
Tina Williams – MHSO
Denise Worsley – BCDOT
Mikah Zaslou - BCDOT

Staff:

Bala Akundi – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Regina Aris - BMC
Cindy Burch - BMC