



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-0567

Chris Eatough, Acting Administrator

ceatough@howardcountymd.gov

FAX 410-313-1655

TDD 410-313-2323

BICYCLE ADVISORY GROUP (BAG) MINUTES

March 19, 2019 2:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Larry Schoen
Jack Guarneri
Jessica Bellah for Jane Dembner
Paul Walsky
Jeff Specht
Chris Tsien
Kevin Dolan
Deb Jung
Jon Mayer for Peter Sotherland
Yan Zhang for Jenn Biddle

Office of Transportation Staff:

Chris Eatough
David Cookson
Rashidi Jackson
Allison Calkins
Albert Engel
Lauren Frank

Non-Members Present:

Derek Riley
Katie DiSalvo-Thronson
Kevin McAliley
Jason Thompson
Warren Wortman

1. **Approval of minutes and previous action items progress** (minute :01)

The meeting began with a round of introductions.

Larry Schoen moved to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2019 Bicycle Advisory Group (BAG) meeting. Chris Tsien seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chris Eatough summarized the actions items of last meeting. First action item will carry over and Deb Jung is the new County Council representative on the Bicycle Advisory Group.

2. **Grant Opportunities Summary** (minute :04)

Albert Engel announced the MDOT grant program deadlines are in May and June and summarized four grant programs and how they were used in the past including: Maryland Bikeways Program, Transportation Alternative Program, Safe Routes to School, & Recreational Trails Program.

Katie DiSalvo-Thronson asked what will Office of Transportation apply for? Albert answered they do not know what the budget situation will be so no decisions have been made. Albert added that the office is open to input for specific grant projects. Chris added that the South Entrance Trail is a potential for a grant opportunity. Katie asked who writes the grant application? Albert said the Office of Transportation. Jack requested to invite someone from HCPSS Transportation to speak about the Safe Routes to Schools.

Chris discussed another program the OoT interacts with every year, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) through the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), used for project planning phases.

3. **SHA Update, Bike Compatibility on MD 108 from Bendix Road to Columbia Road** (minute :11)

Derek Riley from State Highway Administration District 7 said he wanted to talk to BAG about extending bike routes along 108 to Bendix Road towards Centennial Park. A brief presentation was given on bike compatibility on MD 108 including the background of existing conditions, routes, and recommendations.

Deb Jung asked when and where is the plan of widening 108? Derek said west of the 108/29 intersection was under consideration for widening.

Discussion continued about bike travel on MD 108 across the interchange with US 29. Suggestions from members included keeping bicycles in the travel lane and adding different colored pavement.

4. **BikeHoward Express status update** (minute :26)

Chris provided a background on BikeHoward Express, a short-term, three-year implementation plan to create a 48-mile network of bicycle facilities in Howard County with estimated costs of \$8 million, half is grant funded and the other half is county funded.

Albert named three anticipated road resurfacing projects on BikeHoward Express for this upcoming year including: Hickory Ridge Road, Summer Sunrise Drive, and Lightening View Road. Albert said they were also hoping for the Howard Community College Connector pathway to be done during FY2019.

Jack asked if there was coordination between Department of Public Works (DPW) and the OoT. Chris said DPW does provide a three-year anticipated resurfacing schedule but they do not change the schedule based on desire for bike lanes.

Albert presented FY2020 proposed projects including South Entrance Trail & shared-used pathway along Robert Fulton Drive and Snowden River Parkway. Albert said the Sebring/Hickory Ridge connection project may not be done this year after hearing concerns from some local residents.

Jack asked how many miles of bike facilities will be added at the end of FY20? Albert said 1.7 miles which doesn't include projects with resurfacing.

Discussion continued regarding prioritizing and timing of the road resurfacing. Chris said the resurfacing schedule is based on the condition of the pavement.

5. **Line restriping by DPW** (minute :45)

Albert said that DPW is going to repaint the lines in the next couple of weeks. Yan Zhang said the project focuses on refreshing existing lines every year.

6. **Upcoming events** (minute :48)

Chris announced Bike to Work Day, May 17th in Downtown Columbia at Whole Foods and Columbia Association BikeAbout is tentatively scheduled for September 28, details on the route are pending.

7. **Open Discussion and transition** (minute :49)

Jack stated the action item of inviting someone from HCPSS Transportation regarding Safe Routes to Schools. A member requested an update from State Highway Administration (SHA) on the Route 32 expansion and effects on Triadelphia Road Bridge during and after constructions.

Albert suggested deferring the Safe Routes to Schools program to the next Joint TPAG/BAG meeting since it covers both pedestrian and bicycle topics. Deb said the topic was also brought up at the Joint County Council/Board of Education meeting.

Jessica Bellah announced that Columbia Association will be doing more bike and pedestrian count programs in June and looking at new locations further west of Columbia.

Meeting adjourned at 2:59pm.

Action items:

- *Jack Guarneri: Schedule a meeting with Howard Shieh from DPW to discuss paving conditions. Evaluate these roads for the next study group. NOTE: this action is carried over from previous minutes.*
- *OoT: Invite someone from HCPSS Transportation to discuss Safe Routes to Schools at the next joint BAG/TPAG meeting.*

