

MARYLAND
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee



9:00 AM

October 23, 2020

The State of Maryland is operating under an Elevated Level II status due to the COVID-19 epidemic. As such, this meeting was held online through GoToWebinar

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Members:

Jon Morrison, Chair
Andrew Mengel
Antoine RJ Wright
Chelsea Hayman
Eli Glazier
Gabriel Rose
Heather Ersts
Jim Titus
John Wetmore
Marty Baker (representing MDOT)

Non-Members:

Karen Schonfeld
Kristi Pier
Lt. Laura Beck
Marquette Rogers
Marshall Edwards
Patti Stevens
Sarah Lipkin Sularz
Steve Friedman
Steve Green

Staff:

Francine Waters

Nate Evans

Absent Members:

Jeff Hirsch

Pierre Stewart

Vacant:

Citizen Representative for Mobility Impaired

I. Welcome & Introductions (15 min)

Jon Morrison, Chair opened the meeting with introductions of attendees.

II. Walktober Update (10 min)

Francine Waters, Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary's Office (MDOT TSO) provided an update on Walktober. Details are available in Appendix A: Walktober Summary.

III. Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) of the I-495/I-270 Managed Lane Project (40 min)

The draft comments were shared with committee members prior to the meeting. MBPAC member Jim Titus provided the context by which MBPAC reviewed the DEIS. The comments provided by committee members focused on pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements associated with the draft statement and the Section 4(f) evaluation.

MBPAC discussed the comments to the DEIS and voted to approve comments to be submitted to MDOT SHA.

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- Eli Glazier recommended amending the comments to include support for the pedestrian and bicycle project list submitted by MNCPPC. Members agreed and included a sentence recommending support for MNCPPC's project list.
- Jon Korin recommended sending the letter to MDTA and other affected counties and cities. Members agreed and will work with MDOT staff to share the letter.
- Jon Korin recommended including a statement against the project as a whole. The committee disagreed as the statement was outside the parameters of the comments.
- Eric Brenner recommended amending the letter to include support for affected sections of the Capital Trails Network support. Members agreed and included support for the Capital Trails Network.
- Jim Titus made a motion to accept the letter. John Wetmore seconded the motion.

The committee voted to approve the comments on the DEIS of the Managed Lanes Project with 12 Ayes, 0 Nays and 6 Abstentions. (Ayes – Jon Morrison, Antoine RJ Wright, Chelsea Hayman, Laura Beck, Heather Ersts, Jim Smith, Jim Titus, John Wetmore, Patti Stevens, Steve Friedman, Steve Green, Marshall Edwards; Abstentions – Kristi Pier, Marty Baker, Andrew Mengel, Sarah Lipkin Sularz, Gabriel Rose, Marquette Rogers)

IV. MDOT Rail Transit Station Walkshed Analysis (15 min)

Jennifer Hopkins, Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning, provided a presentation on the Rail Transit Station Walkshed Analysis. The project evaluated pedestrian networks within a one-mile walk zone around rail transit stations in Maryland.

Follow-up questions included:

- Could the project be replicated for a 2 to 3 mile bikeshed analysis? Yes, but the data would need to be collected before analysis can be performed.
- What is MDOT's intent for the study? Routable networks will be established, and gaps will be identified. MDOT will partner with public and private agencies to create the connections needed to improve pedestrian station access.
- Eli Glazier indicated that Montgomery Planning is used a Pedestrian Level of Comfort analysis as part of the Purple Line Pedestrian Connectivity Report. Jennifer Hopkins indicated that the same metrics were used so results will be similar.

V. MBPAC Subcommittee Designation & Procedures Approval (30 min)

To help better structure MBPAC, committee procedures were shared at the July 24, 2020 meeting. Committee members submitted edits to the procedures.

- Jim Titus requested additional clarification on how members, whether agency designees or citizen members, should be recused from participation and votes on where a conflict of interest may occur.
- Committee members requested additional clarification on the committee's quorum definition. Nate Evans will provide additional language consistent with Maryland law.
- Kristi Pier offered a review of the procedures by the Maryland Department of Health for compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

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- Jim Titus moved to accept procedures. Steve Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Citizen and Partner Agency Updates (10 min)

- Jon Korin, President of Bike AAA, noted that the state recently experienced its 10th cycling fatality of 2020. Jon recommended that the state double down on safety and to partner with law enforcement to improve community relationships
- Jon Morrison noted the recent passing of David Whitaker, long time bicycle advocate, former state employee, husband of Kim Lamphier. Others shared their memories of David.
- Nate Evans indicated that the MDOT Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program awarded 19 projects \$3.8 million. All awards are moving forward with recent local assistance to Ocean City, Snow Hill, Salisbury and Somerset County.
- Nate also indicated that a draft Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) analysis will be available in the coming weeks.
- Eric Brenner indicated that the VA Eastern Shore Rail Trail feasibility study is nearly complete, and efforts should be made to continue the trail into Maryland.
- Eric expressed appreciation for recent improvements to the C&O Towpath which is experiencing more traffic.
- Eric also indicated that Jones Falls Trail, Phase 5 will soon be included in East Coast Greenway
- Heather Ersts at the Maryland Office of Tourism shared that the office is producing bike videos to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the C&O Canal National Historic Park. The videos will launch in February to assist with trip planning for the May celebration.
- Marty Baker shared that MDOT's WalkCycle Maryland initiative will expand beyond Walktober. The final Walkinar will highlight statewide walking efforts
- Nate Evans thanked the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for the new mountain bike trails at Deep Creek Lake State Park.

VII. Closing Reminders and Adjournment (5 min)

- a. Review meeting action items
 - a. MBPAC will send the letter to MDOT SHA and the Maryland Department of Environment.
 - b. Nate Evans will send procedures edits to Maryland Department of Transportation Office of Attorney General for review
- b. The next MBPAC meeting will be held on Friday, January 22, 2021.
- c. The meeting was adjourned.



Appendix A: Walktober Summary

Hard to believe that the Walktober campaign is almost over – WALKTOBER started off with the Governor heralding October “WALKTOBER” with a proclamation (attached). October 1st was the kick off of a series of four walkinars (webinars) with a total of thirteen presenters and Walk Maryland Day – an event each week during the month of October – details of the campaign can be found at WALKTOBER’s dedicated website: www.mdot.maryland.gov/walktober .

With over 15 partners ranging from various State agencies (MDP, MDH, DNR, Commerce, SHA, MVA) to County governments to non-profits -

The first walkinar was introduced by Greg Slater, Secretary of Transportation. We had a little over 100 registrants with our three presenters: AARP, America Walks and Marty Baker!

Followed by Walk Maryland Day in which we had over 70 registered walks (even during the pandemic!) with Walk Leaders, Sole Mates and Sole O walkers covering 16 counties throughout the State

Our second walkinar (also introduced by the Secretary) generated a little over 200 registrants, with speakers from the Maryland Department of Health, the Motor Vehicle Administration (Highway Safety Office) and State Highway Administration.

We just had our third walkinar with over 400 registrants! Speakers included AARP Maryland, Professor Anat Caspi from the University of Washington and Dan Hudson from the Department of Natural Resources

MDP has been our host for each of the walkinars in which planners can receive 1.5 American Institute of Certified Planners credits!

If you missed any of these walkinars, they were recorded and will be posted on our WALKTOBER webpage after the campaign. We will also be adding a resource page to the website as well as a complete list of partners.

WALKTOBER has generated over 70 news events from Baltimore to Frederick to Washington, D.C. on tv, radio and news print!

We hope you will join us next Thursday for our fourth and final walkinar – with our guest speakers from: Walk Wicomico, Montgomery County Walk & Ride and Walk Howard -- please register at www.mdot.maryland.gov/walktober

We look forward to “seeing” you! Happy WALKTOBER!