

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290 (202) 962-3310 Fax: (202) 962-3202 TDD: (202) 962-3213

MEETING NOTES

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, September 15, 2020

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: VIRTUAL

CHAIR: Laurel Hammig, National Park Service

**VICE-
CHAIRS:**

Jeff Dunckel, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Jamie Carrington, WMATA

Attendance:

Jamie Carrington	WMATA
Jeff Dunckel	Maryland Highway Safety Office
David Edmondson	City of Frederick
Nate Evans	MDOT
Oscar Garcia	
Leah Gerber	Arlington County
Laura Ghosh	Loudoun County
Eli Glazier	Montgomery County Council
Laurel Hammig	National Park Service
Wade Holland	Montgomery County DOT
Michael Jackson	M-NCPPC Prince George's County
Dwight Jenkins	Virginia Highway Safety Office
Mackenzie Jarvis	Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
Joe Kelley	Frederick County
Christine Mayeur	City of Alexandria
Karyn McAlister	DDOT
Heidi Mitter	VDOT-NOVA
Miyoung Park	City of Gaithersburg

Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
Notes from the November 17, 2020 Meeting
Page 2

David Patton	Arlington
Haley Peckett	DDOT
Alyssa Roff	City of Rockville
Debbie Spiliotopoulos	Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Tiffany Williams-Jennings	Prince George's County

COG Staff Attendance:

Michael Farrell
Charlene Howard
Andrew Meese
Jon Schermann
Jackie Sellman
John Swanson

1. General Introductions.

Laurel Hammig of National Park Service Chaired the meeting.

2. Review of the September 15 Meeting Notes

Approval was deferred.

3. Jurisdictional Updates

Montgomery County has updated its growth and development policies to help improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, including pedestrian level of comfort as part of the land development review process. Work continues on resurfacing the Capitol Crescent Trail from downtown Bethesda to Wisconsin Avenue.

City of Rockville has added signage to about a mile of shared roadways. An analysis of gaps in bike racks was done, and twelve bike racks have been added to city parks.

Prince George's County honored world day of remembrance for traffic victims this week-end. COG/Street Smart installed a "lives shattered" testimonial memorial wall at the Mall at Prince George's. The exhibit got a lot of positive attention. The Vision Zero Prince George's initiative also displayed memorial wreaths at four locations in Prince George's County.

Maryland is developing the final draft of the Maryland Highway Safety Plan, to be released in January. The next pedestrian safety task force meeting will be on December 3. 110 cases of pedestrian and bicycle crashes have been studied, and the results will be presented to the Subcommittee in January. The purpose is to identify counter-measures. There will be a safety grant workshop scheduled in February. These grants fund education outreach efforts such as

Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
Notes from the November 17, 2020 Meeting
Page 3

Street Smart.

In DC there has been an increase in fatalities due to increased speeds. This may affect the required federal safety targets. Mr. Dunckel agreed that crashes were up. People seem to be driving more aggressively.

The City of Frederick is developing a comprehensive bike/ped plan, as well as the East Street Rails with Trails projects, and developing a plan to upgrade its sidewalks, so the responsibility will not fall entirely on the adjacent homeowner. Other shared-use paths are under design within the city, with construction planned within the next twelve months.

MDOT has issued \$3.8 million in bikeways awards to projects across the State. MDOT held Walktober in October, with four Walkinars.

M-NCPPC is developing development regulations for bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The trails advisory group will be re-branded the ATAG, the Active Transportation Advisory Group.

Ms. Howard asked if the group was recruiting members. Mr. Jackson offered to send a message to Michael Farrell. Mr. Jackson is also working with Stephanie Piperno of the Capital Trails Coalition. There will be a public forum. Ms. Howard congratulated Park and Planning for promptly fixing rain-damaged bridges. Bob Patton, the trails coordinator, is responsible for that.

VDOT and the Department of Public Health will be hosting a webinar this Friday on improving walkability in Virginia. There will be a public meeting this Friday on the I-495 trail this Wednesday. VDOT will soon open a new bike/ped bridge over Lee Highway in Arlington for the W&OD. VDOT will install US Bike Route 1 signs in Prince William County and Fairfax County.

Dwight Jenkins of Virginia's Highway Safety Office announced that an application workshop will likely take place in January, since the grant application is due February 28. Fatalities are down slightly in Virginia.

Mr. Farrell was dropped out of the meeting and sent a text to Jeff Dunckel asking people to keep going. Laurel Hammig called in and chaired the meeting.

DDOT is updating MoveDC. DDOT's signals division just finished its annual signal timing update. The northwest section was recently completed. There are pedestrian and bicycle benefits, as well as reduction of transit running time. 90% of DC's traffic signals are on pedestrian recall. No pushing a button! There are pedestrian-only movements at certain intersections, as well as 864 lead pedestrian intervals. Safety around senior centers is getting more attention, giving them more time to cross. A Slow Streets program was enacted around the time Covid hit, to make it safer for people to walk into the street to maintain social distance.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
Notes from the November 17, 2020 Meeting
Page 4

Barricades and a 15 mph speed limit. Phase 3 will increase it to 27 miles of Slow Streets. These streets were selected because they were bicycle boulevards. 4.12 miles of bike lanes have been built so far this year.

National Park Service recently engaged the Volpe Center to investigate options for a regional trail counting program. There will be a meeting in the Spring.

The current round of TLC/TAP projects are underway. Applications for next year's TLC program will be open in January. Projects advancing the National Capital Trail Network and the Transit Access Focus areas are encouraged. The pre-application for TAP in Virginia will open in May. TAP projects for DC will be announced tomorrow.

4. MoveDC Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. Peckett spoke to a powerpoint on MoveDC, DC's long range transportation plan.

A modal network survey closed on Saturday.

MoveDC is a 25 year transportation plan, federally mandated. The final plan will be completed by summer. MoveDC.org is the web site. "Enjoyable spaces" is a new goal, which deals mostly with the pedestrian experience.

Equity is incorporated in all the goals.

Mr. Jackson asked about the Anacostia Trail. Are there plans to connect the aquatic gardens with Fort Lincoln? Karyn McAlister promised to check it out and get back to him. Ms. Hammig said that DDOT recently included a connection feasibility study, which will go forward as part of the US 50 bridge rehab study.

5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Project Database

TPB and Agency staff have completed the bulk import phase of the bicycle/pedestrian project database. Further additions/edits will go through the Infotrak on-line portal.

The project has started fresh with new data from new plans. Some of the facility types had to be translated into our terms as best we could. This database is the foundation for the new bicycle and pedestrian plan. We would like the data to be as good as it can be.

The deadline to complete the database is February 26. That's what we need to get the bicycle and pedestrian plan finished in this fiscal year.

Ms. Bhatti explained how to register for the on-line portal. Agency staff will need to register in

Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
Notes from the November 17, 2020 Meeting
Page 5

order to access the database and complete the training. A date for the training session for the on-line portal will be scheduled shortly.

Ms. Bhatti pasted the link to the database into the chat, and invited participants to follow along with the sign-up process.

Mr. Farrell will have to approve your requests for access.

Mr. Farrell noted that getting people signed up to access the database is the most important task for today. Once you are signed up the 30 minute training will teach people how to use the system.

Ms. Jennings asked how many people from each jurisdiction would be allowed to sign up. Mr. Farrell replied that more than one person per agency could have access to the database.

6. Regional Safety Program

Jon Schermann was not able to present due to technical difficulties. This is an information, not an action item; it can be deferred.

The details that Mr. Schermann was going to present on the Safety Program are in the memo that is posted on the Subcommittee web site. The Regional Safety Program is going to be a copy of the TLC program. Agencies can apply for technical assistance grants. The rules described in the memo are not final.

7. Other TPB Program Updates

The Street Smart pedestrian and bicycle safety program has developed the testimonial wall with Ms. Jennings mentioned, which will also be at DCUSA. The digital buy has been delayed until after the election, and the evaluation survey will take place in December. Speakers have been identified for a Vision Zero Arterial Workshop. MWCOC is also developing a new public involvement plan which you may want to take a look at, including new requirements for choosing Citizens Advisory Committee.

Mr. Farrell re-iterated the request for at least one person from each jurisdiction to sign up for the bike/ped project database and for the training.

Adjourned