

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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MEETING NOTES

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, September 18, 2007

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

PLACE: COG, 777 North Capitol Street, NE
First Floor, Room 1

CHAIR: Kristin Haldeman
Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority

**VICE-
CHAIRS:** Charlie Denney
Arlington County DES
Michael Jackson
Maryland Department of Transportation
Jim Sebastian, DDOT

Attendance:

Fatemeh Allahdoust	VDOT/NOVA
George Branyan	DDOT
Charlie Denney	Arlington County
Kristin Haldeman	WMATA
Lauren Hassel	Arlington County/DES
Jeffrey Herman	Fairfax County DOT
Michael Jackson	MDOT
Rich Metzinger	National Park Service
Allen Muchnick	Virginia Bicycling Federation
Jim Sebastian	DDOT
Fred Shaffer	M-NCPPC, Prince George's County
Charlie Strunk	Fairfax County DOT
Chris Wells	Fairfax County DOT

COG Staff Attendance:

Andrew Austin
Sarah Crawford
Michael Farrell
Andrew Meese

1. General Introductions.

Participants introduced themselves.

2. Review of the Minutes of the July 17, 2007 Meeting

Minutes were approved.

3. Top Priority Unfunded Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

Mr. Farrell distributed the list of top priority unfunded bicycle and pedestrian projects and requested that jurisdictional staff send him updated project information and, if necessary, nominate new projects for the list. We should adopt a new list at the November meeting.

4. Fall Training Seminar: Shared-Use Path Management and Safety

- Location. The event will be held at COG
- Date. The target month is November – the exact date will depend on speaker availability.
- Topics and Format. The topics for consideration include trail promotion, economic development, realizing the transportation value of trails, safety, and security. Final topics will depend partly on panelist availability and expertise. The format will be panels of peer experts from the region, who will discuss each issue. A maximum of three panels will be convened, to allow ample time for discussion.

5. Status of Electronic Bicycle Route-Finding

Status of this project is currently unknown, due to lack of response from the contractor.

6. WMATA Bicycle and Pedestrian Issues Update

- **WMATA Reorganization**

Ms. Haldeman discussed the WMATA reorganization. Bicycle and Pedestrian planning functions will be housed in the Office of Long-Range Planning and the Office of Joint Development. Bike locker and rack management will be in Customer Service under Akua John, who attend the July meeting of this subcommittee. 300 racks were purchased last year, and 250 were installed. The locker program might be taken on by a contractor.

Mr. Farrell asked if there had been any more discussion of placing racks behind the faregates, as has been done by BART in the Northern California. Ms. Haldeman replied that no bicycles were allowed inside the system during rush hour, which would make racks inside the fare gates problematic. The parking garages might be a better location. Mr. Meese noted that parking problems had their own issues relating drill holes and structural integrity.

The issue of a letter requesting a pedestrian and bicycle coordinator was discussed. The former WMATA director, Mr. Tangherlini, had promised that a pedestrian and bicycle coordinator would be appointed. Ms. Haldeman suggested that if the subcommittee wanted to write a letter renewing the request, that it focus on the needs rather than the request for staffing.

Mr. Denney requested a priority list for replacement racks.

Mr. Strunk asked if WMATA could install racks in Fairfax County if Fairfax supplied the racks. Ms. Haldeman replied that that was possible.

- **Metrobus Driver Training**

Mr. Branyan spoke to the training powerpoint that is used to train metrobus drivers. Training started on May 8th, and will end at the end of October. Mr. Branyan asked for volunteer instructors.

7. TPB Program Updates

- **Safety Planning**

Mr. Farrell briefly discussed progress on Safety planning. Safety committee activities had been placed on hold until the TPB Technical Committee could be briefed.

- **Street Smart**

Mr. Farrell distributed a hand-out, which was to be presented to the TPB on the following day,

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covering the results of the Spring 2007 campaign and funding status for the FY 2008 campaign. Copies of the Annual Report were also made available. Mr. Farrell discussed the re-bid process for consultant support for the Street Smart program, which was still in progress with the selection committee having met that morning to review the proposals, and an interview of the finalists scheduled for the following week. Nonetheless, Mr. Farrell believed the program was on track for a November wave, as the TPB requested. Sufficient funds have been raised to do two campaign waves per year. The November campaign will re-use existing materials from the Spring campaign.

- ADC Bike Map Seventh Edition

Revisions have been submitted to the ADC Map Company. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee will have one more opportunity to review the map after the revisions have been incorporated. We do not have a firm date yet from the ADC Map Company as to when it will incorporate the revisions.

- On-line Bike-Ped Project Database

Mr. Austin briefly discussed the draft on-line bike-ped project database, which he believed addressed most of the concerns the Subcommittee had expressed previously. The following changes have been made:

1. The Agency ID and Secondary Agency columns have been removed from the Search Results index.
2. The Description field has been included on the Search Results index.
3. The COG ID field was removed from the Search Results index, and the link for project detail has been moved to the Project Name field.
4. The Length column label had "(miles)" added to it.
5. The Cost column label had "\$1,000s" added to it.
6. The Status field has been added as a column.

The publicly searchable database currently resides on the COG test server at <http://wwwtest.mwcog.org/bikepedplan/>.

8. TPB Public Participation Plan

Ms. Crawford spoke to a hand-out on the TPB Public Participation Plan. Members of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee were asked to provide any comments by October 28.

9. Jurisdictional Updates

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Mr. Shaffer announced that Prince George's County would renew its master transportation plan, which will have a bicycle and pedestrian element.

Mr. Metzinger discussed progress on the Potomac Heritage Trail, which will encompass 443 miles of recreational trails.

Mr. Jackson announced the creation of a video guide to bicyclist safety and distributed a reference guide to cycling laws in Maryland.

Mr. Sebastian announced that Heather Deutsch will be managing the Metropolitan Branch Trail in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Strunk announced that Fairfax County would be creating a bicycle map, that Fairfax Connector buses would add bike racks by October 18, and that \$3 million had been included in a bond issue for bicycle infrastructure. Mr. Wells added that Fairfax County now had plenty money for pedestrian projects, nearly \$60 million, implementation was the issue. \$40 million will be committed over the next 1.5 years.

Mr. Denney announced that Arlington had committed \$4 million for a trail past Shirlington. Mr. Denney announced that he would leave the employment of Arlington County in December.

Ms. Allahdoust announced that VDOT has submitted plans to relocate US Bike Route 1. Two percent of maintenance funds, or \$600,000, will be set aside for shoulder paving. VDOT is also planning a bicycle traffic calming program at problem locations and locations where there are conflicts with cars and pedestrians. VDOT will be doing bicycle counts; Subcommittee members are requested to send suggested locations to Ms. Allahdoust. There is a chance that Virginia law may change from Yield to Pedestrians to Stop for Pedestrians.

10. Adjourned