

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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MEETING NOTES

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, November 15, 2022
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
PLACE: VIRTUAL
CHAIR: Tiffany Jennings, Prince George's County DPWT

Attendance:

Marty Baker	MDOT
Bryan Barnett-Woods	City of Rockville
Bryce Barrett	Prince William County DOT Bike/Ped Coordinator
Andrew Bossi	MCDOT
George Branyan	DDOT
Zack Bishop	
Lt Matt Bressler	Loudoun County Sheriff's Office
George Clark	Transportation Director. Tri County Council for Southern
Maryland	
Mike DePue	NOVA Parks
Major Easton L. McDonald	Loudoun County Sheriff's Office
Nate Evans	MDOT
Seth Garland	WMATA
Laura Ghosh	Loudoun County
David Goodman	WMATA (consultant)
Laurel Hammig	National Park Service
Michael Jackson	Prince George's County Planning
Dwight Jenkins	VA DMV, Ped/Bike Coordinator
Tiffany Jennings	Prince George's County DPW&T
Dustin Kuzan	Loudoun County
Alex Freedman	City of Takoma Park
Andrea Lasker	Prince George's County
Brian Leckie	City of Manassas
Mackenzie Love	NVTA

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Christine Mayeur	DDOT
Melicent Miller	Virginia Department of Health
Heidi Mitter	VDOT
Doug Mowbray	MHSO, Data Manager
Kevin O'Brien	Washington Area Bicyclist Association
Chloe Ritter	City of Fairfax
George Phillips	Prince William County
Matthew Rosenbloom-Jones	City of Bowie
Cynthia Spriggs Manager	MDOT/MVA/MHSO, Pedestrian/Bicycle/Speed Program
Debbie Spiliotopoulos	Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Gail Tait-Nouri	WMATA
Stephanie Tulowitzke,	Vision Zero Coalition Manager, WABA
Nima Upadhyay	Prince George's County
Sydney Walker	Prince George's DPWT
Jennifer Wampler	Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
Nicole Wynands	Fairfax County

COG Staff Attendance:

Michael Farrell
Pierre Gaunard
Charlene Howard
Andrew Meese
Daniel Sheehan

- 1. General Introductions.**
- 2. Review of the July meeting notes**

The meeting notes were approved.

3. Jurisdictional Updates

Prince William County has a couple of new pits stops for bike to work day. The Board is on the cusp of approving a new mobility plan update that will include a bicycle and pedestrian section.

Virginia DMV will hold a pedestrian safety task force meeting on Thursday.

Tri-County Council has started up a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council, which will have a meeting on December 8, to develop a priority list for the three counties.

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VDOT's new pedestrian bridge over 495 in the Tysons area has opened. The I-66 shared use lanes will be opened later this month but the path has not yet opened. VDOT is hiring a new statewide bicycle and pedestrian coordinator.

Fairfax County is launching the Silver Line today, which will include two new secure bike room facilities. The Board of Supervisors has allocated \$4 million for trails. Over the next six years \$100 million is expected to be allocated for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

Dustin Kuzan will be taking on the bike/ped coordinator role at Loudoun County. The County has completed an equity study, A recording is included in the chat. 11 missing segments of bicycle and pedestrian paths are in design. A sidewalk study has been completed and will be adopted in December.

The Silver Line is opening in Loudoun County today. Secretary Buttigeig attended, along with many other luminaries. The Metro is the second largest transit system in the US, after New York City. It's been a long journey to get Metro in Loudoun County. The County had to put up a significant amount of money to get it extended from Dulles. Loudoun County will be building dense development around Metrorail.

The Street Smart campaign is kicking off in DC on Thursday, on Wheeler Road in SE DC, which has seen a new corridor safety study, that has resulted in great improvements in safety on that corridor. The Rock Creek Trail zoo loop and bridge have been completed. There has been a new bike/ped path installed along Piney Branch Road. The old Rock Trail has also been rehabilitated.

WMATA is working on a plan for modernized bike lockers and racks.

Mr. O'Brien of WMATA congratulated the National Park Service on the permanent closure to motor vehicle traffic of Beach Drive on the upper end of Rock Creek Park.

The City of Frederick has received funding to finalize design for a major bike ped bridge over an interchange that will connect the city with towns further north. A new comprehensive bike ped plan is under development for the entire city, which will include global best practices for street design.

Prince George's County has completed a pedestrian/bicyclist behavioral study. The County did a survey of residents on their feelings regarding bicycle and pedestrian facilities. There were 450 responses over the course of a month. There were only 7 responses from people aged 17-24. Further analysis of the survey responses will be forthcoming. The County is interested in what facility types may affect behavior. This study will be complete in July.

Prince George's County DPWT has started its pedestrian roadway safety audits for two high injury corridors. Another project is a sidewalk project prioritization model, which will be

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completed with the aid of a consultation. All sidewalk requests will be filtered through the model.

City of Takoma Park is completing its design study for the Maple Avenue Connector, as well as an improvement to the city's section of the Metropolitan Branch Trail, and the New Avenue bikeway project.

City of Rockville has received a TAP grant for a sidewalk gap feasibility study in its Twinbrook neighborhood, as well as two Maryland bikeways grants, one for pedestrian and bicycle counters, and another for 30% design for some bike lanes.

The Maryland Highway Safety Office will hold its PBEAT meeting on December 1st. Ms. Spriggs put her email in the chat.

MDOT had a successful Walktober campaign. The State Bike/Ped Master Plan will be updated next year.

National Park Service has completed a study and applied for grants for a bike/ped facility along Military Road between Oregon Avenue and 16th Street. NPS will also kick off a study of the Mount Vernon Trail in Virginia.

4. Partnering to Improve Trail Access and Impacts in Northern Virginia

Debbie Spiliotopoulos, Melicent Miller, and Jennifer Wampler spoke to a powerpoint, originally presented at the Northern Virginia Regional Trails Summit on October 20. NVRC does not do a lot of transportation work, but they do work on the Potomac Heritage Scenic Trail. The summit focused on cross-jurisdictional trail connections. The meeting was held in person and 62 people attended. A summary is posted on the NVRC web site.

Melicent presented on the health and equity benefits of trails. Trails are sometimes considered frivolous, and rural areas have been known to oppose trails.

Jennifer presented on state level funding programs for trails, requirements for various funding programs, and opportunities for grant application training.

Debbie presented on the Potomac Heritage Scenic Trail, and the priorities identified at the the workshop roundtables. Resources and contacts were placed in the chat.

5. Vision Zero DC – 2022 Update

Christine Mayeur of DDOT spoke to powerpoint.

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DC is embracing a Safe Systems approach. Black and low-income areas have higher rates of traffic deaths and injuries. DDOT is focusing its safety efforts on the most affected communities.

DC is also making changes to its vehicle fleet to make sure they meet NCAP standards, and incorporate features such as pedestrian detection.

Christine placed a link into the chat.

6. Suitland Metro Bike and Pedestrian Access Study

Nima Upadhyay spoke to a powerpoint. The project is located within the walkshed of the Suitland Metro Station. There is high potential for redevelopment. There is high bus ridership. There are also a lot of ped and bike crashes, and numerous missing sidewalks. Silver Hill Road is very wide.

The project will improve the pedestrian and bicycle network and improve access to the Metro station.

Several design options were prepared for the residential streets. The residents favored the design shown in the powerpoint. There will be a buffered bike lane on Silver Hill Road, which is a State highway. WMATA is putting a bus lane on the road as well.

The current grant covers 30% design. Questions were placed in the chat, and Nima added a link.

7. Other TPB Program Updates

Mr. Farrell spoke to a powerpoint on the Street Smart campaign, including the Spring campaign, and the current Fall campaign, which is similar. The scheduled enforcement is useful in terms of generating press coverage. Earned media is worth more than the paid media in terms of raising awareness.

The Fall press event will take place on November 17 on Wheeler Road SE.

We held an enforcement workshop associated with the Street Smart campaign. Montgomery County has created a centralized traffic enforcement unit. The idea is more and more data driven enforcement.

Likely future workshop topics include Micromobility and ADA in Emerging Design.

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Since 2022 is coming to an end, we will need a new Chair for 2023. The Chairmanship rotates between the states, WMATA, and National Park Service. It's WMATA's turn to Chair the Subcommittee.

ADA in Emerging Design will likely focus on capital project design, but some of those designs are also intended to serve existing modes. Mr. Farrell remarked that the region is blessed with numerous subject matter experts. The workshop will take place in 2023.

Tiffany thanked the Subcommittee. And the Subcommittee thanked Tiffany for serving as Chair.

The chat will be posted on line.

Adjourned