

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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MEETING NOTES

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, September 20, 2022
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
PLACE: VIRTUAL
CHAIR: Tiffany Jennings, Prince George's County DPWT

Attendance:

Bryan Barnett-Woods	City of Rockville
Bryce Barrett	Prince William County DOT Bike/Ped Coordinator
Zack Bishop	Prince George's County
Andrew Bossi	MCDOT
George Branyan	DDOT
Elliott Caldwell	East Coast Greenway Alliance
Mike DePue	NOVA Parks
Nate Evans	MDOT
Laura Ghosh	Loudoun County
Eli Glazier	Montgomery County
Laurel Hammig	National Park Service
Michael Jackson	Prince George's County Planning
Tiffany Jennings	Prince George's County DPW&T
Joe Kelley	Frederick County Division of Planning and Permitting
Kalli Krumpos	WABA
Dustin Kuzan	Loudoun County
Andrea Lasker	Prince George's County
Brian Leckie	City of Manassas
Mackenzie Love	NVTA
Heidi Mitter	VDOT
Kevin O'Brien	Washington Area Bicyclist Association
Chloe Ritter	City of Fairfax
George Phillips	Prince William County
Jim Sebastian	Toole Design

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Cynthia Spriggs	MDOT
Gail Tait-Nouri	WMATA
Michael Trinh	VDOT
Sydney Walker	Prince George's DPWT
Jennifer Wampler	Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
Nicole Wynands	Fairfax County

COG Staff Attendance:

Michael Farrell
Charlene Howard
Andrew Meese
Daniel Sheehan

1. General Introductions.

2. Review of the July meeting notes

The meeting notes were approved.

3. Jurisdictional Updates

DC will have its signature open streets event on Georgia Avenue on October 1st. The foam machine will be there. DDOT has hired a bike lane manager, Sean Burnett. The speed limit has been lowered on Connecticut Avenue, and there will be an educational campaign. DC has received RAISE grants for the South Capitol and Oxon Hill Farm Trails. The 9th Street Bike Lane will go to construction around October 1.

Prince William County is in the process of updating the mobility chapter of its comprehensive plan, which will include an enhanced bicycle and pedestrian network. Trail connections over I-95 are an issue; one will be provided on Prince William Parkway over I-95.

The City of Fairfax is building projects out of its bike plan, including several "neighbor ways" which are bike boulevards, as well as bike lanes on University Drive.

Loudoun County this Friday there will be a ribbon cutting for the Hanson trail, which is part of the National Capital Trail Network. An equity study of the sidewalk network will be presented to the board.

VDOT has published its new IIA for crosswalk markings.

City of Takoma Park is finishing a public space management plan. The New Hampshire Avenue bikeway is in design work.

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Prince George's County has some raise grants for a transit center and for micromobility. The Regional Roadway Safety Program has funded a traffic safety garden resource guide. Ager Road Complete/Green Streets project won a state engineering award. The county supported the annual ride for Natasha, an event that brings awareness for traffic safety and sharing the road with bicyclists.

Prince George's is working on a transportation master plan, to be released in 2023. The county is also doing a pedestrian/bicyclist behavior study, and a mobility study for Carroll Highlands.

WMATA is awarding a system wide contract to replace all of its bike lockers and install fix it stands at 50 stations. It will include an operations and maintenance component. The new lockers will have automated locks connected to a mobile app. Installation will take about a year and a half. Every jurisdiction will get some at the beginning. There will also be Bike N Ride facilities installed at Grosvenor and at Potomac Yards.

MDOT has Walktober coming up, as well as two Maryland Bike/Ped Advisory Group meetings. MDOT is also starting year-long update of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which will be released in January 2024.

Frederick County is doing a bikeway study for New Design Road. The County will also do three trail feasibility studies for different trails, including a connection from City of Frederick to Urbana. The County will update its street design manual based on the County's recently adopted Complete and Green Streets plan.

4. Vision Zero Prince George's County

Andrea Lasker and Zack Bishop of DPWT spoke to a powerpoint. The Vision Zero web site is being updated. DPWT works with numerous partners. The ARCGIS hub helps the county work with its partner agencies and collaborate with the public. Data is made available to the partners and the public through GIS tools. The County relies on the State to provide the crash data. The County has used that data to identify a high injury network, especially pedestrian injuries. It's a useful planning tool because it helps the County identify the locations with the greatest needs. An interactive web map shows improvement projects and the high injury network.

The County uses Pedestrian Roadway Safety Audits to identify specific problems on site. The County has used COG's TLC technical assistance program to produce plans for particular sites.

There was a question regarding roadway configuration. Mr. Kuzan wanted to know if there has been any discussion of completely changing the look and feel of Prince George's

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Counties roadways. Ms. Lasker replied that there is an urban street design guide, and the County is looking into how it can be implemented from a developer point of view. The County has also received significant funding for improvements along the Blue Line Corridor.

Ms. Howard complimented the County on the ArcGIS hub. She asked whether the County cooperates with the states on state highways where there are pedestrian crashes and missing sidewalks. Ms. Lasker suggested entering complaints into the County's 311 web site.

5. TPB Program Activities

Mr. Farrell has tentatively scheduled a Best Practices in Pedestrian Enforcement for October. We typically have a police officer give a training on how to pedestrian safety enforcement, and a transportation safety planner who explains how enforcement fits into the broader safety program.

Based on demand, we may also schedule another Micromobility workshop in December.

Lastly, we are contemplating a workshop on ADA in Emerging Designs, such as floating bus stop and curb access management techniques.

The next wave of Street Smart is coming up in November, after election day.

Car Free Metro DC is this Friday, September 22. You can still go to the web site and register.

Mackenzie Love suggested bringing in Laura McNeil on other people from the freight committee, since they also work on access management.

Laura Ghosh suggested other elements that could be added to an ADA workshop, including transitioning bike lanes onto sidewalks, as well as pedestrian signs and wayfinding.

Mr. Farrell pledged to send the announcement for the enforcement workshop to the committee when the agenda is finalized.

6. Montgomery County Pedestrian Master Plan

Mr. Glazier spoke to a powerpoint. This is County's first pedestrian master plan. All trips within a short distance should become a safe, viable option. Pedestrian fatalities are a major problem. And increasing walking has public health benefits. Sidewalks and streets have been rated for pedestrian level of comfort. The County works with the school system to understand how children are getting to school. Various issues with the pedestrian network have been identified, and a number of major recommendations made. There is a tool for

prioritizing pedestrian projects.

The County is also trying to acquire safer vehicles with fewer blind spots.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Glazier asked about clearing snow from sidewalks. In Prince George's County adjacent property owners are responsive but that is episodic and difficult to enforce for vacant lots.

Mr. Glazier replied that the County is proposing expanding the County's responsibility for clearing snow from sidewalks. There is also an issue of people who aren't physically capable of shoveling snow, DC has "snow angels" volunteer program. Mr. Glazier welcomed additional suggestions.

Ms. Ghosh asked in the plan recommendations were associated with measures that could show whether or how they are being implemented. Mr. Glazier replied that language can be made less ambiguous. These recommendations are directed at how the County agencies to show how they can change their own procedures internally. The broader language support planners who want to come up with a context-sensitive solution with property owners.

Links to the plan have been included in the chat.

7. Commuter Connections State of the Commute Survey

Mr. Sheehan spoke to a detailed powerpoint. Mr. Sheehan manages the Commuter Connections program.

This survey is carried out every three years. It is a survey of commuters only, and it is meant to evaluate how well Commuter Connections programs, which are intended to reduce solo car commutes, are working.

This survey is the most recent region-level survey of commuters that we have. It is recent enough to capture some of the effects of COVID.

Bicyclists and pedestrians reported the highest level of commute satisfaction. This result is consistent with previous years.

There was a question of whether the report was divided by jurisdiction. Mr. Sheehan replied that each jurisdiction would receive a jurisdictional report based on responses by their residents.

8. Other TPB Program Updates

Adjourned