MEETING NOTES

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, September 16th, 2003

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

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

CHAIR: Charlie Denney,
Arlington County DPW

**VICE-
CHAIRS**: Michael Jackson
Maryland Department of Transportation,
Jim Sebastian
District Division of Transportation

Attendance:

Fatemah Allahdoust	VDOT/NOVA
Bob Baronti	Prince William County
George Branyan	MDSHA
Rick Canizales	Prince William County
Alphonso Coles	Washington Regional Network for Livable Communities
Charles Denney	Arlington DPW
Cindy Engelhart	VDOT/NOVA
Brian V. King	VDOT
Jim Sebastian	District of Columbia
Fred Shaffer	M-NCPPC
Betsy Thompson	City of Rockville
Chris Wells	Fairfax County
John Wetmore	Perils for Pedestrians
Maria M. White	City of Alexandria

COG Staff Attendance:

Andrew Austin

Michael Farrell
Charlene Howard
Andrew Meese
Owais Rafique

1. **General Introductions.**

Participants introduced themselves.

2. **Review of the Minutes of the July 15th, 2003 Meeting**

Chris Wells requested that the minutes of July 15th be revised to reflect his presence. Minutes were approved.

3. **Bikemetro.com Bicycle Route-Finding Software**
   Michael Farrell, COG

The lowest cost estimate for Geoperception to do a bicycle route-finding web site would be $40,000 plus $5,000 per year, and the actual cost would probably be substantially higher.

There is an ongoing effort on the part of Commuter Connections to develop a route-finding capability for park and ride lots. We believe that we can do the worker cheaper in-house, by taking advantage of ongoing Commuter Connections efforts. We are not confident that Geoperception would be able to deliver quality work, especially data gathering, long-distance from Los Angeles. Mr. Farrell recommended that we not pursue bicycle route-finding from Geoperception. Mr. Sebastian expressed concern about burdens on COG staff and the amount of time that might be needed. Mr. Farrell replied that the probably time line would be about two years. The plan is to start with data gathering and a static on-line map, a project Charlene Howard is already working on. Then to add route-finding we would need other data layers, and possibly some data gathering of things like entry points to bicycle trails. Once we have completed the data gathering we will have a better idea of what we will need to add route-finding. We will need a timeline, a program budget and a list of needs. Mr. Rafique added that we need to gather data first before we can know what we will need to get route-finding capability. Even if we were to hire Geoperception we would still need to provide them with the bike route data.
   - Ms. Howard will continue her data gathering efforts
   - A schedule and budget for this project will be completed when the data gathering effort is complete

4. **Discussion of Regional Electronic Mapping of Bicycle Routes and Facilities in the Washington Region**

Charlene Howard, MWCOG

Ms. Howard has made considerable progress gathering existing electronic data from the various jurisdictions. A few jurisdictions are still missing, including several of the smaller jurisdictions. A major problem is that quality and categorization of data varies tremendously. Whether side-paths should be counted as trails is an ongoing issue, as well as what standard such paths should have to meet. Do we include substandard facilities? In some cases the side-paths are narrower than eight feet yet form important links. Jim Sebastian suggested that we not spend too much time categorizing the official system, or re-do the ADC Map, but look at things that will assist route-finding in the future. We should rely more on level of service measures than official routes and facilities. Traffic volumes, speeds, and topography are all objective measures that we can get.

- Attendees should try to get their jurisdiction's data to Ms. Howard before the next Bike/Ped Meeting
- We will have to reach agreement regarding facility types and definitions to be shown on the regional map.
- Additional data such as entry and exit points for off-road facilities, names of off-road facilities, locations of bike shops, etc. would be useful.

5.   **Progress report on Regional On-Line Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Database**
     Andrew Austin, MWCOG

The Access database was sent out recently, and in some cases was blocked by firewalls. We will find other ways of distributing the database in those cases. We distributed a blank database. When all parties have sent their data back to us it will be compiled into a single database. Ms. Allahdoust asked if the projects should be stand-alone bicycle and pedestrian projects only. Mr. Farrell replied that trails being built as part of a road project, it should be included. Sidewalks, on the other hand, should not be a regional plan. Yet a major streetscaping project, meant to address pedestrian safety and access, might be significant enough to be included. Participants must use their judgement to some degree regarding what facilities should be included. Ms. Allahdoust suggested using TIP entries. However, this database includes a lot of information that is not in the TIP. Some of the entries can be cut and pasted from the TIP document.

Mr. Farrell added that this database would enable us to paint a global picture of what is happening and what is planned regionally in terms of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

- Participants should get their data to Andrew Austin two weeks prior to the next bike/ped meeting.

6.   **Progress Report on the Sixth Edition of the ADC Washington, D.C. Regional Bike Map**
     Michael Farrell, COG

A new edition will likely be available be available by early next year. A copy of the text revisions is available for anyone who is interested. Blueline copies will be available in November at the earliest.

7. **Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education in Rockville**
   Betsy Thompson, City of Rockville

Two years ago the City of Rockville received a grant from the Maryland Office of Highway Safety to develop a curriculum to be used in schools to teach pedestrian and bicycle safety. The first year was for development, the second year for a pilot, and the third to implement the program in Rockville schools. It may eventually be used statewide.

The title is "Maryland Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education Program".   Maryland averages 110 pedestrian fatalities per year, or 16% of all traffic fatalities. 25% of pedestrian crashes involve children, and 45% of bicycle crashes involve children under 15.

The program involves pedestrian lessons for children in kindergarten through second grade, and bicycle lessons for third, fourth, and fifth graders. The program is hands-on, taking children to the street to teach crossing skills.

The program was developed through a review of best practices nationwide. An advisory committee helped develop the content.

Over 3,000 children have been instructed thus far. 100 children have been taught to ride a bicycle. During the first year a trainer works for the first couple of days before handing the program over to the P.E. teacher. Parent volunteers have been helpful.

The MHSO hopes that this program will expand State and region-wide. George Branyan is the grantor and he is available to answer questions. Mr. Wells asked if the material could be shared with Virginia. Mr. Branyan replied that this program was developed with federal funds and cannot be copyrighted, so sharing is welcome. Mr. Branyan commented that pedestrian safety is underfunded relative to other aspects of highway safety considering the number of fatalities. The major cost to the schools is teacher time. Ms. Thompson remarked that the program was well-liked by teachers and students. Copies of the materials are available on disk or in hard copy. The material is not Maryland-specific, other than some materials on Maryland pedestrian and bicycle crashes.

8. **Professional Education:**
   o **Real Intersection Design Fall 2003**
   o **Walkable Communties Workshops Spring 2004**

Michael Farrell, MWCOG

Real Intersection Design will take place November 21st in Riverdale in Prince George's County. The closes Metro station is Hyattsville. There is MARC service and bus service. Publicity will start in early October.

We will know by the end of September whether we got the Walkable Communities Workshops.

9. **Bike to Work Guide**
   Michael Farrell

We are nearly out of Bike to Work Guides again – we gave away nearly 5,000 copies since April.
- Michael Farrell will make some minor changes and get some more copies printed

10. **BikeDC Ride September 20th**
    Michael Farrell

Hurricane Isabel may interfere with this ride – parts of the ride could be muddy, and others could have problems with downed trees.

11. **Six Annual BikeWalk Virginia Conference April 4th-6th**
    Charlie Denney, Arlington DPW

At the Ballston Holiday Inn. A call for presentations will go out shortly. The National Bike Summit will be held March 3rd – 5th, and a National Transportation Advocates Conference will take place May 6th – 8th in Silver Spring.

12. **Member Jurisdiction Updates**

Fairfax October 9th from 6 to 9 p.m. there will be a meeting on the Northern Virginia Trail Study. Mr. Sebastian suggested Arlington hold a tour of its bike lanes.

13. **Adjourned.**