

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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MEETING NOTES

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, September 17, 2024

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Virtual

CHAIR: Heidi Mitter, VDOT

Attendance:

Bryan Barnett-Woods	City of Rockville
Bryce Barrett	Prince William County DOT Bike/Ped Coordinator
George Phillips	Prince William County
David Cook	State Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner, VDOT
Griffin Frank	NVTA
Laura Ghosh	Loudoun County DOT
Wade Holland	Montgomery County
Michael Jackson	Prince George's Planning
Dwight Jenkins	VA Highway Safety Office
Tiffany Jennings	Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager, Prince George's County DPW&T
Jill Kaneff	Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Brian Leckie	VDOT-NOVA
Heidi Mitter	VDOT NOVA District Bike/Ped Coordinator
Antonio Rossi	WMATA
David Patton	Arlington Division of Transportation
Chloe Ritter	City of Fairfax
Shane Sarver	Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner MDOT SHA
Brian Shelton	Active Transportation Planner, Arlington County
Linnea Sherman	NVRC
Nicole Wynands	Fairfax County
Anne Welch	DDOT Active Transportation Planner
Ryan Yowell	WMATA

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COG Staff Attendance:

Michael Farrell
Yu Gao
Andrew Meese
Janie Nham

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

July meeting notes were approved.

- 3. Jurisdictional Updates**

WMATA released updated bike and ped sheds, which he will present later in the meeting.

VDOT-NOVA has been installing bike lanes and shared use paths as part of their repaving program. In FY 24 9.4 lane-miles of bike lane have been installed. Since 2009 the number of bike lanes striped in Northern Virginia is approaching 330 miles. Several segments of shared use paths are currently being designed or constructed, primarily in Fairfax County. The goal is to create regional connectivity for multimodal travel and add to the National Capital Trail Network.

Marion(?) from BMC is attending for the first time.

DC is wrapping up its existing conditions report that is part of its District-wide strategic plan. The Bicycle Counts dashboard will soon be published, featuring the manual counts as well as automated counts. It will be on the new bike lanes web site.

VA DMV recently announced a new pedestrian safety campaign called “you’re not a duck”. It will run in Virginia Beach. There will be radio spots and transit placards. Ms. Mitter has seen the ducks campaign.

Fairfax County is in the outreach phase for the ActiveFairfax plan. There have been a lot of public engagement meetings, and more will come up in October and November. Ms. Mitter asked if Nicole would be willing to present the plan at the November 19 meeting. Nicole should expect a follow up email. Sandy (Klanfer?) will be the new liaison for some regional trails groups such as the Potomac Heritage Trail. A Safe Routes to School coordinator was also present. Fairfax is adding more staff and is looking forward to improving its program.

Prince Willam County is developing a Comprehensive safety action plan which is in early phases, including gap analysis and crash data analysis for targeted improvements. It will be

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completed next year. Transportation Planning is partnering with the parks and rec department for trails master plan to connect recreational trails with road network, including the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.

Loudoun County is working on bicycle and pedestrian wayfinding program, safety action plans, and intersection improvement projects. A link is available in the chat.

Arlington is kicking off their master transportation planning process on October 16 at the Arlington Central Library. The County has selected a consultant. The existing plan dates from 2007. It will be an 18-month engagement process. The Arlington County Commuter Services program will also be developing a plan that will go beyond commuter trips. Arlington is also working on a bicycle comfort index. A draft map has been developed.

City of Fairfax is starting on a Safety Action Plan, which will be completed next year. Another link is being added on the spur to the 66 Trail.

The NVTa is doing "Lunch and Learn" webinars on transportation technology, including elements such as electric vehicle charging. On October 9 there will be an event at their brand new office location at Dunn Loring, on Artificial Intelligence. There will be discussion of incentives for people traveling by active transportation. Registration is open now; a link is available in the chat. It's free for government employees.

Applications for SHA's Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Area program are being accepted through the end of October.

SHA's Department of Active Transportation has updated its Complete Streets policy on June 1, announced bike/ped grants for FY 25 through transportation alternatives, rec trails, and bikeways. SHA is also started a new statewide bicycle planning effort, as well as a statewide sidewalk data and mapping effort. The jurisdictions will be inputting their data. Walktober will feature a series of webinars. Ms. Mitter suggested that she contact the VA State Trails Office.

Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation plans to install 12 new capital bike share stations by the end of the year. There are 27 stations in the County now. The annual ride for Natasha, which promotes bicycle safety and honors those who have died in crashes, will take place this Saturday. This is the 13th year of the ride.

City of Rockville is constructing a road diet on W? Avenue, reducing it from four lanes to two.

4. National Capital Region Trail Monitoring and Analysis Program

Ms. Nordbeck spoke to powerpoint. This effort is funded by the National Park Service. It is a

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five year project. There are 160 trail counters around the region, most of them not owned by the National Park Service. Data gathering, data analysis, and distribution via a web page are all important elements of the program.

The Virginia Tech team is working on validating and troubleshooting trail counters to ensure accurate data collection. Video cameras record 30 hours of trail use. Human counts are compared to video counts.

Validation makes for better data which makes for better decisions.

The Data Dashboard covers the entire region. The Key Bridge is the top location for bicyclists and pedestrians. Snow events, marathons, construction etc show up.

You can get an account on the Bike Ped Portal if you want to make queries on the data.

There was a question regarding counts on a particular path. We can zoom into the map. Green dots indicate automated counters, while orange dots indicate a manual count. You can zoom into Arlington to see the trails and counts. This site has multiple years of data.

Ms. Howard said that she is involved in the working group. Ms. Howard asked if the data is being presented in a way that is consistent with the way the jurisdictions are presenting it. Are the jurisdictions using this resource? We'd like to put out a consistent product on our data dashboard.

Ms. Nordbeck replied that we have an API from Eco-Counter. There is download every night from the counter to the BikePed Portal. If changes get made at the jurisdiction Bike Ped Portal is consistent with the what the jurisdictions or Eco-Counter have.

Do the jurisdictions use your site, or do they just want to ingest your API's? Answers in the chat.

Ms. Mitter suggested that we move on the next item.

5. 66 Parallel Trail Counter Program

Mr. Leckie spoke to a powerpoint. Eight Eco-Counters were installed as part of the 66 Shared Use path. They are included in a statewide counter dashboard. The Virginia Center Boulevard counter has the highest counts in the corridor. Issues have included debris, unexplained data spikes, and dead batteries.

Ms. Jennings asked about the cost of the counters.

6. Metrorail Station Pedshed and Bikeshed Access Atlas 2.0

Mr. Yowell spoke to a powerpoint. Metro's goal is to increase bike access to Metro to 3.5%. Two thirds already reach stations by walking. However, at some stations it's as little as one in ten. Inner ring and end of the line stations typically have very low bike access, less than 1%.

The new Atlas 2.0 tool includes bike sheds and ped sheds, which show areas accessible to pedestrians, bicyclists, and micromobility users. The ped and bike sheds deal with physical barriers to access. For bikesheds Metro used the low stress street network, or in Virginia speeds of 30 mph or less.

The pedesheds are being used to evaluate potential changes, such as adding additional access points to the station.

7. Other TPB Program Updates

Mr. Farrell made a quick announcement about the Fall Street Smart campaign, which will be rolled out at the press event, date TBA. The old "Shattered Lives" creative is being retired in favor of the new creative, "Life Ahead".

The regional Safety Summit will take place on October 31.

8. ADAPT – Accessibility Design, Assessment, and Planning Tool

The Citian Software Company representative, Daniel Moore, spoke to a powerpoint.

- Citian has designed software called ADAPT to streamline decision-making for accessibility in transportation planning.
- Benefits include compliance with ADA guidelines is important for avoiding litigation and improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.
- It's important to know what you have, and to know what is compliant and what isn't.
- The use of Lidar technology and artificial intelligence can significantly reduce time and cost in building inventories of pedestrian assets.
- Prioritizing upgrades based on compliance and liability risk can be done using data-driven analysis and cost estimates.

Ms. Mitter asked what States have worked with Citian. Mr. Moore cited DC, LA Metro, Minnesota, and a number of other jurisdictions large and small.

Mr. Farrell added that here at COG we're always looking for better ways to inventory facilities, so we've been looking at things like AI analysis of aerial photography, to give us a uniform data set at one point in time, which in turn lets us better measure progress that we are making towards meeting our goals. The costs have come in high relative to our budget,

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so we need partners. The ADA angle might be a good one to pursue because ADA compliance is a high priority.

Mr. Moore replied that the purpose of today's presentation is to show what this is possible.

Ms. Mitter noted that we have Daniel's email address for those who have any other questions.

9. Announcements and Other Business

The next meeting, the last meeting of the year, is November 19. It will be virtual.

Adjourned