

# National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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## MEETING NOTES

### BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 28, 2024

**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** In Person at  
Ronald Kirby Training Center  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
777 North Capitol Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002

**CHAIR:** Heidi Mitter, VDOT

#### Attendance:

Bryan Barnett-Woods	City of Rockville
Bryce Barrett	Prince William County DOT Bike/Ped Coordinator
Andrew Bernish	
Sandra Brecher	Montgomery County
Alexandra Carroll	City of Alexandria
Maddy Cirineo	UMD
Presley Connor	DDOT
Mary Dallou	Director of Active Transportation, Arlington Commuter Services
Lauren Delmare, Active Transportation Section Chief	Fairfax County DOT
Mike Doyle	Alexandria Families for Safer Streets
David Edmondson	City of Frederick
Nate Evans	Active Transportation Planner, Maryland Department of Transportation
Seth Garland	WMATA
Elwyn Gonzalez	Transportation Planner, Arlington DES
Frank Griffin	NVTA
Laura Ghosh	Loudoun County DOT
Michael Hackman	City of Gaithersburg, Long Range Planner

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Laurel Hammig	NPS
Kandese Holford	MDOT
Wade Holland	Montgomery County
Michael Jackson	Prince George's Planning
Tiffany Jennings	Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager, Prince George's County DPW&T
Dwight Jenkins	Virginia DMV
Jill Kaneff	Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Joe Kelley	Frederick County
DPW&T	
Brian Leckie	VDOT
Heidi Mitter	VDOT NOVA District Bike/Ped Coordinator
David Patton	Arlington Division of Transportation
Chloe Ritter	City of Fairfax
Jon Ryder	Montgomery Planning
Shane Sarver	MDOT SHA
Anne Welch	DDOT
Cynthia Spriggs	MDOT/MVA/MHSO, Pedestrian/Bicycle/Speed Program Manager
Brian Shelton	Active Transportation Manager, Arlington County
Eloisa Thring	Loudoun County
Ann Welch	DDOT
Kate Widness	Kimley-Horn
Nicole Wynands	Fairfax County
Meg Young	MDOT
Ryan Yowell	WMATA

**COG Staff Attendance:**

Tim Canan  
Michael Farrell  
Cristina Finch  
Charlene Howard  
Andrew Meese  
Janie Nham  
John Swanson

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

March meeting notes were approved, with suggested changes.

### **3. Jurisdictional Updates**

Arlington has finished the Custis Trail Study, including an assessment of current conditions and recommendations to improve the trail. The county master transportation plan will be updated soon. The Boundary Channel Driver interchange will connect the aquatic center to the Mount Vernon Trail. There will be a ribbon cutting soon. Arlington will also prepare a bicycle level of comfort map.

Loudoun is going to present a bike ped wayfinding system on June 20. Loudoun is also looking at adding crosswalks in school zones.

Montgomery planning is updating its complete streets design guide. There be a parking lot design study, and a bikeway finding pilot project, which will be implemented in North Bethesda. Both the bicycle and pedestrian master plans will have monitoring elements.

WMATA is working on bike sheds and bike parking. There will be new racks and smart docking stations. There will be a demo event in June, where locker vendors will display their technology.

DDOT is developing protected bike lanes along Arizona Avenue, to be opened soon. DDOT is also working on a strategic bikeways plan, which will be used to inform the annual work plans. The strategic plan will be updated on a five year cycle. Public feedback will happen through FY 2025. DDOT is applying for an ATIIP grant for its Suitland Parkway Trail.

NVTA has concluded its public comment for its six year program. Four of the projects are primarily bike ped, while 19 have bike ped elements. NVTA is also working on its Bus Rapid Transit preliminary deployment plan.

Montgomery County is dealing with a Red Line shut down. Temporary bus-only lanes have been deployed for the summer along Georgia Avenue, with a bus every 8 minutes. Montgomery County welcomed 30 youth Vision Zero Safety Day ambassadors. Bike to Work Day was successful. Ms. Mitter asked if Mr. Holland would be interested in presenting on the project at a future meeting.

City of Frederick has numerous bike/ped projects under development, and has nearly finished its comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan. The city is aiming for a 25% bicycling mode share for all trips. After it is adopted, the city will update its design guidelines for consistency with the new MUTCD guidelines, which will include protected bikeways.

NVRC is doing a feasibility study for a gap in the Potomac Heritage Trail. There will also be a wayfinding and amenities study for the trail, to determine where they are needed. NVRC is

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doing a survey for a Northern Virginia Trails system.

VDOT recently opened the Route 7 project in Fairfax County that built 7 miles of shared use path on each side of Route 7, for 14 miles total. This will be a big improvement in bicycle connectivity for Northern Virginia.

Prince George's County has finished its Carole Highlands mobility study. It is a small neighborhood in NW Prince George's County near Takoma Park. Pedestrian fatalities are a major problem. The community is surrounded by major highways and is in need of facilities to access. A link to the study was placed in the chat. Mr. Jackson was a pit stop manager for bike to work day.

Prince William County is wrapping up its Yorkshire corridor study. Prince William and City of Manassas will also submit an ATIP grant application for a rail with trail along VRE.

Virginia DMV has reached out to three Northern Virginia jurisdictions in order to address pedestrian fatalities, including Prince William County. Statewide pedestrian fatalities are currently up 6% statewide.

#### **4. Regional Active Transportation Counts Project**

Mr. Canan spoke to a powerpoint. Mr. Canan's team focuses on interactive data products to support planning. The Regional Transportation Database houses many of these products. They are also scoping an effort to gather active transportation counts, and fill gaps in that data. TPB has numerous partners in this effort, including National Park Service.

Mr. Canan asked the group what kinds of things they would like to see included in this effort. The data will be made available both interactively and as downloads in the TPB Resources Application Page (TRAP).

Ms. Howard will also work on this project.

Ms. Mitter looked forward to hear more about the project. There was a question about whether the survey would be sent to all the subcommittee members. Mr. Canan replied that we will figure that out internally.

Ms. Howard asked if anyone did not like this idea.

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David Patton asked how TPB would coordinate with the region trail counts program being led by the National Park Service.

Data from Capital Bikeshare is available and up to date.

Ms. Howard said that we are willing to share any information we receive.

**5. NORTHERN VIRGINIA BIKE/PEDESTRIAN NETWORK STUDY**

Ms. Mitter spoke to a powerpoint. The study identifies planned ped bike infrastructure in Northern Virginia. The study took a little over a year to complete. A planned network map has been developed. There are nearly 5000 miles of planned facilities that the jurisdictions sent. The study developed median cost estimates for various facility types based on regional construction cost. Total cost numbers to build the entire network are significant.

The report should be finalized and the on line map launched shortly.

One lesson learned from this project is that it is really helpful when jurisdictions have up to date data with consistent names.

Mr. Holland asked whether the network was prioritized. Ms. Mitter replied that they were not, but instead were focusing on the regional goals, showing what facilities provided access that promoted regional and state goals.

Most bike and ped projects are likely to be built in the context of construction of other facilities.

Ms. Ghosh asked if VDOT was using the COG definition of activity centers. Ms. Mitter replied that they were. Activity Centers have a specific meaning, development but not necessarily walkable. They don't include everything.

Ms. Howard said that COG will update its bike ped plan soon, and it would be helpful to get better spatial data than we were able to in the last update.

**6. VIRGINIA STATE TRAILS PLAN**

Ms. Mitter spoke to a powerpoint on the State Trails Plan, which was prepared by the staff at then new State Trails Office. It's statewide, and it focuses on multi-use trails. This does not replace the Department of Conservation and Recreation's recreational paths. The state trails plan focusses on shared use paths. There was a lot of inventory of existing facilities and cleaning up the data, similar to the Northern Virginia Trails Study. There will be a resource hub for the public. It will show existing facilities.

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Mr. Jackson asked whether VDOT maintained sidewalks and shared use paths in its right of way. Ms. Mitter replied that they maintain some of them; sometimes it's the locality.

**7. MDOT Complete Streets Policy Rollout**

Ms. Holford spoke to a powerpoint on MDOT's Complete Streets policy rollout. Work on Pedestrian Safety Action Plans in high-crash corridors continues.

**8. Other TPB Program Updates**

Visualize 2050 is being developed, and non-regionally significant for air quality projects are currently being added. These projects will have to be added to the Project Infotrak database. A powerpoint has been posted on the Subcommittee web site that includes the names of the people at the jurisdictions which have access to the PIT database. You should contact these people if have projects for which you have funding, and which you will be executing within the next four years, since this plan is updated every four years.

Mr. Farrell also quickly went over progress on the Street Smart campaign, and announced the COG Board's Adopted Tree Canopy Plan and Goal of 50% tree canopy for the region. Even though this is mostly an environmental product, with temperatures rising maintaining a tree canopy is important for pedestrians.

**9. Announcements and Other Business**

Ms. Mitter suggested that the September meeting should be in-person as well.

**Adjourned**