

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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MEETING NOTES

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, July 19, 2022

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: VIRTUAL

CHAIR: Tiffany Jennings, Prince George's County DPWT

VICE-CHAIRS:
Jamie Carrington, WMATA
Laurel Hammig, National Park Service

Attendance:

David Anspacher	Montgomery Planning
Marty Baker	MDOT
Bryan Barnett-Woods	City of Rockville
Bryce Barrett	Prince William County DOT Bike/Ped Coordinator
Andrew Bossi	MCDOT
Cindy Burch	Baltimore Metropolitan Council
George Branyan	DDOT
Elliott Caldwell	East Coast Greenway Alliance
Lisa Campbell	BikeLoudoun
Cheryl Cort	Coalition for Smarter Growth
Kelly Crumpos	Capital Trails Coalition/WABA
Henry Dunbar	BikeArlington
David Edmundson	City of Frederick
Nate Evans	MDOT
Seth Garland	WMATA
Charnelle Hicks	Inspiregreen
Yolanda Hipski,	Regional Transit Coordinator, TCCSMD
Michael Jackson	Prince George's County Planning
Tiffany Jennings	Prince George's County DPW&T
George Kandathil	Tri County Council for Southern Maryland

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Joe Kelley	Frederick County Division of Planning and Permitting
Makena Kirkham	Takoma Park
Mackenzie Love	NVTA
Jesse McGowan	Montgomery Planning
Charlene Mingus	Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Doug Mowbray	MDOT
Heidi Mitter	VDOT
Kevin O'Brien	Washington Area Bicyclist Association
David Patton	Arlington County
Chloe Ritter	City of Fairfax
George Phillips	Prince William County
Cynthia Spriggs	MDOT
Jennifer Wampler	Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation

COG Staff Attendance:

Mackenzie Bosco
Michael Farrell
Andrew Meese
Yue Zhang

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

The meeting notes were approved.

3. Jurisdictional Updates

The District of Columbia is having a open streets event on July 30 on Benning Road NE. DDOT is doing six of these events over the course of the year. There is a large protected bike lane along C Street NE near Florida. It will involve a road diet and a full reconstruction. DDOT has a safety study of Alabama Avenue, and of M Street. There is a road diet and safety project on Wheeler Road. DDOT has hired two additional staffers, a trails planner and a bike lanes planner.

Montgomery County is working on a pedestrian master plan. A draft of the policy design and programming recommendations has been released in advance of the plan.

Tomorrow Prince George's County will have a Suitland project meeting. On July 27 there will be a bicycle rodeo, and a back to school bicycle and pedestrian safety event will take place at the traffic garden on August 27. The Washington Commanders will also host a safety

event on August 19.

The City of Frederick is working on its first complete protected bike lane, as well as shared use paths, and a bike ped bridge over an interchange. The City of Frederick will soon release a bicycle and pedestrian plan. The plan takes a lot of inspiration from NACTO and the Dutch Bicycling Manual. The designs will guide greenfield development, so the planners need to be able to enforce them. The City of Frederick wants to become one of the best cycling cities in the US.

MDSHA has been working on a pedestrian safety action plan. Several slides on the plan process were shared. For more information on the MDOT SHA Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP), visit the website at roads.maryland.gov/psap.

Jurisdictional updates were stopped to ensure that the presentations could be finished.

4. Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Outreach in Prince George's County

Ms. Jennings spoke to a powerpoint on Prince Georges pedestrian and bicycle safety outreach activities. Prince George's has numerous child-oriented safety events and giveaways, including bicycling rodeos. Prince George's has cameras around school zones, and the county uses these events to make sure that people are aware of them. The traffic garden is teaching tool for children, to explain traffic safety. Variable message signs are another tool that can be used to alert motorists of bicycle rides. The Be Seen, Be Safe, Be Alert campaign promotes wearing bright colors and being alert, walking against traffic if a sidewalk is not available, wearing a helmet on a bike. The Vision Zero team is at the motor vehicle administration every Thursday, to educate new and old drivers, and holds numerous school-based events. Prince George's also does outreach to the senior walking club. Last Fall Prince George's hosted the Street Smart regional press event, as well as the testimonial video wall tour at Prince George's plaza.

Ms. Lasker spoke briefly to the Prince George's Vision Zero effort. There is a monthly bulletin that summarizes both the outreach events and the county's engineering efforts to make safer streets.

Subcommittee members congratulated Prince George's County on its extensive safety outreach efforts.

5. Predictive Safety Analysis

Ms. McGowan spoke to a powerpoint on Montgomery County's Predictive Safety Analysis tool. Fatalities and serious injuries are relatively infrequent events. The tool is meant to show where safety improvements are needed based on roadway and land use

characteristics before the fatality occurs.

High crash risk areas include downtowns and activity centers. High risk locations account for a disproportionate number of crashes. Countermeasures are identified, including estimated cost per crash reduction. The tool gives you a guide for which countermeasures to implement where.

On page 6 of the presentation there are definitions of key crash types. Is that a pedestrian going straight through an intersection in the crosswalk and getting hit? Ms. McGowan replied that it was.

Ms. Love congratulated Jesse on the tool, and asked if there was any consideration of the types of intersections. Ms. McGowan replied that not much had been done in that area, and that it probably should be in future efforts. Three-legged intersections were not modelled.

6. Maryland FY 2022 TAP Grants

Mr. Farrell spoke to a presentation on the FY 2022 MD TAP grants.

TA is often a source of funding for bike and ped projects. The most recent bill, the IIJA, increases transportation alternatives funds. The Metropolitan Planning Organization has a role in selecting projects for a sub-allocated portion of a State's TA funds. The FY 2022 MD TAP recommendations were recently presented. Only one project, the most expensive, the Frederick and Walkersville Railroad, was selected for construction funding. It is part of the National Capital Trail Network. It is a rail with trail project; it shares the right of way with a tourist train.

MDOT will still have the ability to fund another four projects in the region, which we thought were good projects.

7. IIJA Funding and Grant Opportunities

Mr. Farrell spoke to a powerpoint on the IIJA grant funding opportunities.

A memo was recently sent to the TPB outlining the provisions of the IIJA.

The IIJA was signed into law in November 2021. It is an omnibus bill. It increases funding for existing transportation programs, and added new funding for competitive grants.

Mr. Farrell summarized several new competitive grant programs relevant to bicycle and pedestrian projects. Safe Streets for All will help fund Vision Zero programs.

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Under Complete Streets, bicycle and pedestrian facilities can still be part of almost any kind of transportation project.

The Metropolitan Planning Organizations are now eligible applicants for many of these competitive grant programs, so the question has come up of whether the TPB will apply. So far, the thinking is yes, but only if the TPB members request it, make a firm commitment to provide the matching funds, and agree to work with TPB staff to develop the application. TPB lacks taxing authority, and TPB staff has less localized expertise than TPB member agency staff. TPB is also likely to be reluctant to choose between competing applications. There would need to be a consensus on any application.

8. TPB Jurisdictional Updates (continued)

Prince George's had a community and accessibility walk in Carole Highlands, just east of Takoma Park. Prince George's is studying the types of behaviors likely to cause pedestrian crashes and injuries. These conclusions will affect the infrastructure requirements for developers. The study will be completed in August 2015.

There will be a meeting at Creative Suitland on the pedestrian improvement projects in Suitland.

There will be a Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting on Friday.

VDOT has numerous projects under way. VDOT NOVA projects/studies page:
<https://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northern%20virginia/default.asp>

Virginia 2022-2026 Strategic Highway Safety Plan (recently adopted) -
<https://www.virginiadot.org/info/hwysafetyplan.asp>

Ms. Mitter will be on extended leave through mid-August.

VDOT is collaborating with Fairfax on a strategic communications plan for bike/ped safety.

Prince William County is doing a major update to its bike ped plan. The public approval process will happen later this year.
<https://www.pwcva.gov/department/planning-office/pathway-to-2040>

NVTA highlights included adoption of their multimodal SYP and opening of public comment on TransAction: <https://mailchi.mp/f218efbcb925/authority-meeting-highlights-july-2022?e=97cf1a7fb9>

Mr. Edmundson announced that the City of Frederick high wheel race was recently

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completed, and it was a big success. No one was hurt. Mr. Farrell noted that the modern two wheel bicycle used to be called the “safety bicycle”.

9. Other TPB Program Updates

- Dockless Micromobility workshop took place June 23. The presentations are posted on the web site. We will likely go back to holding these events every six months. Meeting recordings will be made available.
- TPB had a Car Free Day declaration. You are encouraged to go to the web site and sign up.
- The published version of the plan and interactive map is available; links were provided with the agenda.
- Mr. Farrell promised to post the chat onto the web site.

Ms. Jennings thanked TPB and Mr. Farrell for hosting the Micromobility workshop.

Adjourned