

MEETING NOTES

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 21st, 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
Harry Cepeda	DDOT
Ellen Jones	WABA
Chuck Kines	MNCPPC-Montgomery County
Brian King	VDOT – Planning
Allen Muchnick	Virginia Bicycling Federation
Mimi Murray	Fairfax County DOT
Steve Pinkus	Grove/Slade
Jim Sebastian	District of Columbia
Kenneth Todd	NCBW
Jan Vaughn	VDOT
Heather Wallenstrom	VDOT, NOVA
Chris Wells	Fairfax County DOT
Maria M. White	City of Alexandria

COG Staff Attendance:

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Michael Farrell
Mark Hersey
Andrew Meese
Gerald Miller

1. General Introductions.

Participants introduced themselves. Since the post of Chair was vacant, Jim Sebastian served as acting Chair.

2. Review of the Minutes of the November 19, 2002 Meeting

Minutes were approved. Heather Wallenstrom asked if the minutes could be made more concise. Andy Meese said that the idea was a good one, but that shorter minutes would be paradoxically more difficult to write. And there is the risk of editing out a point someone felt was important. Michael pointed out that we had been adding bulleted action items, to ensure that needed actions did not get lost in the text. Jim Sebastian thought that five pages of minutes for a two-hour meeting was probably not too much.

3. Discuss Nominations for a new Chair/Select a new Chair

Michael Farrell, COG

Jim Sebastian expressed regret at the departure of our former Chair, Heather Wallenstrom. Since Heather had completed only half of her term, the subcommittee should accept nominations for a Chair to complete Heather's term. The States and WMATA rotate the post of Chair, and since we had had a Maryland Chair before Heather, once Heather's term is over it will be the District of Columbia's turn to provide a Chair. Each State not currently providing a Chair should provide a Vice-Chair, whose function is to serve as Chair in the event of the Chair's absence, and consult with the Chair and with staff regarding meeting agendas.

Charlie Denney of Arlington County was nominated and elected to fill out Heather's term as Chair until January, 2004.

4. Street Smart – Results of the Campaign

Michael Farrell, MWCOG

Michael presented the results of the Street Smart pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign, which was presented to the TPB on January 15. A pre- and post-campaign survey was done. Overall, the campaign did well, generating about the 13-point increase in awareness of the messages and/or the fact that pedestrian enforcement was occurring. For a \$200,000 campaign, that is a good result. We hope to do this campaign again, although we may not be able to do it again in

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October, due to problems getting the signed agreements from the States in time to pay the consultant in October. October is the best time for the campaign, but we are not able to get contracts in October. While we did it once, we cannot authorize spending by the consultant without a signed agreement. We have some cash left over for planning activities over the next year, although we will likely be re-running the same ads. We will be asking for money over the next year. Details, especially regarding the timing of the campaign, will be discussed at the next Safety Task Force meeting. A final report will be available from the consultant within a few weeks. Chris Wells asked that the proportion of the budget spent on Spanish-language media be included.

- Set up a new meeting date for the next Safety Task Force meeting
- Get information on Spanish-language media

5. **Bike to Work Day 2003**
Mark Hersey, COG

Many new sponsors and pit stops have been obtained this year. We will have fourteen pit stops. We have more than doubled the amount of sponsorship dollars this year, from \$6,000 to \$12,000. Whole Foods is one of the sponsors. The marketing materials are being prepared. Posters and brochures will be mailed out by the end of March. Our goal for registrants this year is 3,000, versus a goal last year of 2,000. Last year we got 2,600 registrants. Pit stop managers are encouraged to exchange ideas.

6. **Updated Bike to Work Guide**
Michael Farrell, COG

5,000 copies are available. Attendees were encouraged to take what they needed. This version is just a correction of errors and outdated text. Harry Cepeda asked about a Spanish version. Jim Sebastian asked, if D.C. could get the translating done, could COG do the printing? The subcommittee felt that there was a need.

- Investigate budget/possibilities for a Spanish-language version of the Bike to Work Guide, as well as a fully revised version of the Bike to Work Guide

7. **“Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility Workshop” Feb. 6 at the Reeves Center**
Michael Farrell, COG

This all-day workshop will be taught by Barbara McMillen of the Federal Highway Administration, and Andy Clarke of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. A flyer was distributed. About 45 people have registered thus far, though we have room for a maximum of 100. Registration by e-mail is preferred. This is the first time this course has ever

been taught. If it is popular, it could always be held again at a new location.

8. **Regional Bike/Ped Plan**
Michael Farrell, COG

The database can be put up by the end of February, when the new COG web site is scheduled to go live. When it does I will send out a link to the group, and a form that they can use to correct the information. The data for the data chapter is available and it can be done in a few days. The Policies and Principles Chapter is done. The Top Ten priority projects list is done. Beyond that, paper maps need to be prepared. Michael suggested mapping the top ten, all existing facilities, and whatever is funded. So the maps will show existing facilities, facilities that are being done, and top priority planned facilities. A question was posed regarding what constituted a major project. Michael suggested any multi-use trail over a mile. In terms of major regional facilities we have already prepared maps as part of the TCSP reports. For planned projects, we can use our top ten list. For funded and under-construction projects, I can prepare a list of such projects longer than a mile, which the subcommittee can vet. We do have a list of criteria for regional priority projects. Big-ticket items such as trails and major intersection redesigns met the cut, signed routes and bike lanes did not. The purpose of the paper map is to have something for the TPB to bless. Over the long run it might be more useful to have an ARC/IMS systems which could link up our database with a GIS mapping system, enabling the user to produce a map of a customized list of projects.

Andy Meese cautioned that a database is only useful if it is kept up to date, and the more information is on the database the harder it will be to maintain. Ellen Jones suggested including the data source. We do have a column for sponsoring agency. We should include a column for project directors, as well as project web sites. Heather asked about schedule. Michael replied that only the maps were a question mark. A full production document is not needed even in July, when the TPB will adopt the plan, after which it will go out for public comment.

- Finish data chapter
- Put database on-line, and make an entry form available.
- Provide a list of existing facilities and funded facilities that will be mapped.

9. **Bicycle and Pedestrian Legislation in Virginia**
Allen Muchnick, Virginia Bicycling Federation

Allen discussed bills currently in the Virginia legislature.

10. **The East Coast Greenway in the Washington Region/Upcoming National Trails Day (June 7) Events**
Allen Muchnick, Virginia Bicycling Federation

The East Coast Greenway will be having a dedication ceremony on June 5. The National Park

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Service will be a sponsor of this event, which will occur either on the White House Lawn or the Mall. The trails through the mall and the Mt. Vernon Trail will be formally designated as part of the East Coast Greenway, and the markers will be set up. The goal is to complete the Greenway by 2010. There is a congressional sign-on letter circulating in Congress supporting the Greenway. The Greenway will for the most part will be a single route, with alternates through urban areas. www.greenway.org is the web site.

11. **Schedule for new TERMS/Discussion of TERM Proposals**
Michael Farrell, MWCOG

The deadline for proposing new TERMS is coming up on March 28, so now is a good time to propose new bicycle and pedestrian TERMS. Jim asked where we are with the TIP approval process. Andy Meese replied that we have a TIP in place until January, 2004. But we are unlikely to be able to get a new one due to the high projected exceedance in Nox. All the TERMS will have to be re-calculated with the new model. One of the new features of the modeling will be better differentiation of vehicle types. The net effect may to be reduce the effectiveness of many of the TERMS. The \$40 million in TERMS adopted in 2002 will be implemented. But starting in January 2004 we will not be able to do anything not in the current TIP. We should created a list of implemented TERMS, TERMS that we are currently charged with implementing, and bike/ped TERMS that have been considered in the past but not implemented, before we submit a list of new bike/ped TERMS. We should also include the projected emissions reductions, and how the TERM was implemented.

The TERMS are not a separate pot of money; they are just a way of taking credit, for air-quality purposes, for what the agencies are already willing to do.

The group floated a number of ideas for TERMS, including:

- i. On-line routing software
- ii. On-street bike racks
- iii. Off-street bike racks – a matching grant for employer-based (garage) bike parking
- iv. Bike racks on local buses
- v. Bike lockers at park and ride lots
- vi. Safe routes to school
- vii. Safe routes to transit
- viii. Trail information at Metro Stations

TERM evaluation has already been done on Safe Routes to Transit; it was not cost-effective. Safe Routes to school has not been analyzed, but if we could get a couple of case studies we could take the numbers from them to get trip-reduction estimates.

- Michael promised to prepare a list of implemented bike/ped TERMS, current bike/ped TERMS, and bike/ped TERMS evaluated but not adopted.

- Michael will talk with Eric at WABA to scope out the on-line routing software TERM, and investigate the feasibility of the other proposed TERMS.

12. Discussion of Relevant TRB Sessions

Members discussed various sessions, including a session on the Segway. The consensus of the Pedestrian advocates was that they did not want it on the sidewalk. Andy Meese discussed a poster session on multi-modal level of service. Jim Sebastian agreed that getting everything into one number would be very valuable, and would likely appeal strongly to engineers.

John Wetmore thought that Dean Kamen was coming to TRB and talking with pedestrian advocates now because San Francisco had banned the Segway from the sidewalks.

13. Member Jurisdiction Updates

Fairfax County is discussing the issue of sidewalks on one side versus two sides of the street. Fairfax County recommends sidewalks on both sides of the street on bus routes, school districts, and commercial districts. The District of Columbia has its new bike plan posted on its web site at www.ddot.dc.gov.

Jim suggested that the bicycle project database include links to all project web sites and study web sites. Once projects are listed on the web, people will be motivated to ensure that the list is complete. Allen suggested that the project manager be included as well.

Maryland may declare walking to be its State exercise. The State sport is jousting.

14. Adjourned.