

MEETING NOTES

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, July 16, 2002

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

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

CHAIR: Heather Wallenstrom
Virginia Department of Transportation

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

Attendance:

Don Barclay-	WalkDC
Harry Cepeda	DDOT
Chris Holben	DDOT
Paul DeMaio	City of Alexandria
Charlie Denney	Arlington County
Eric Gilliland	WABA
Jim Hudnall	Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club
Michael Jackson	Maryland Department of Transportation
Daniel Janousek	City of Gaithersburg
Shen Leu	Fairfax County Planning
Debbie Mayer	City of Rockville
Rich Metzinger	National Park Service
Allen Muchnick	WABA
Fred Shaffer	MNCPPC
Lois Thibault	U.S. Access Board
Sharonlee Vogel	WMATA
Heather Wallenstrom	VDOT, NOVA
Chris Wells	Fairfax County DOT

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COG Staff Attendance:

Michael Farrell
Andrew Meese

1. **General Introductions.**

Participants introduced themselves.

2. **Review of the Minutes of the May 21, 2002 Meeting**

Minutes were approved.

3. **Bike on Bus Status Report**
Sharonlee Vogel, WMATA

The bike racks on buses have been funded, and will start being installed within the next six months, with the exception of old buses slated for retirement. Sharonlee thanked everyone for talking with their board members and getting these racks funded. The racks will be publicized, with posters, brochures, and press conferences. Someone asked whether advertising could be applied to the racks. Sharonlee said probably not.

Latecomers were introduced.

4. **Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Outreach**
Michael Farrell, COG

Some materials have been prepared, but the consultant, Design House, needs to know how much money will be available. Only the Maryland contribution is known for sure, approximately \$62,000. The Virginia DOT wants it demonstrated that the regional pedestrian safety program is not duplicative of the statewide Safe Routes to School program. The bottom line is that the amount of money from Virginia will not be known until late September. The D.C. money is more certain.

5. **Education: Walkable Communities Workshops, ADA Course**
Michael Farrell,

FHWA is preparing an ADA course, which is supposed to be nearly complete. Once we have it in hand, we can decide how to customize it for the region and add field workshops. There is no

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cost associated with these materials. The course is designed to be a two-day course, but we will endeavor to add outdoor fieldwork. The date has not been picked, but will probably be in November.

Lois Thibault discussed draft Design Guidelines for Access. The guidelines recommend against roundabouts. Good solutions for handicapped and visually impaired crossing of roundabout intersections have been difficult to find. The blind depend on the sound of starting and stopping traffic. The new guidelines will not require retrofit of existing roads.

The access board has a video available on visually impaired pedestrian access.

Michael Farrell discussed the offer from the National Center for Bicycling and Walking to fund eight walkable communities workshops. Given that substantial commitment of time, and some commitment of funds, would be necessary to secure these workshops and make them successful, Michael Farrell wanted to know what the level of interest was from the group. The consultants involved are good. Charlie Denney, who was present, has done such workshops. Politicians, Chamber of Commerce, engineers, educators, and police all get together and talk about making their community more walkable. It needs a focused, well-defined location where people can get together to talk about the issues. The local coordinator has to put in a fair amount of work to get the right people invited, and make sure that enough of them attend.

No less than eight communities must be lined up to host these events, \$7,000 in match money is required, and someone, probably Michael, is required to attend a three-day training. Michael asked the Director of the NCBW why this application was sent to the MPO's, rather than local governments, and was told that it was a logistical issue – there are too many local governments. Michael expressed some qualms about the time commitment involved to assure participation in eight communities. Only two communities have expressed interest thus far. Michael asked that a local coordinator volunteer to do the necessary legwork. Charlie Denney agreed that that would be necessary if these workshops were to be successful.

Michael Farrell agreed that these workshops are essentially local planning. The role of the MPO is to promote the workshops with the local communities. Gerald Miller asked about the schedule – why all in a week? Charlie Denney replied that it could be done somewhat differently here because their staff is here. The workshops take four hours each. Gerald asked why the MPO planner needed to be trained. What is he being trained for? Heather replied that these concerns, and the money, could be worked out, if there is enough interest. Michael added that he was looking for not just communities, but someone within those communities who is willing to do the work needed to make the workshop a success. We have until August 15 to line up host communities and submit the application.

Apart from Fred Shaffer, no strong interest was expressed from the group. Given that time is needed to put together the application, Michael suggested that communities express interest by August 5.

Action Items:

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- Communities interested in hosting workshops should contact Michael Farrell by August 5.

6. Bike Plan Update/Schedule
Michael Farrell

Due to the need to work on emergency response, no Bike Plan Work Group meeting is scheduled for this summer. The on-line database is not likely to be running until December in any case. A top ten list should be created. Members should start thinking about which projects in their jurisdiction they would like to be on that list. The on-line database will make it easier to track the progress of the top ten projects. ARC/IMS mapping is on a wish list with no definite time line. As far as a guide to local planning, the implementation sections of the existing COG TCSP reports on Greenways and Circulation systems are fairly detailed, at least as detailed as anything Michael is likely to create. Details, in any case, are less important than political support. Allan Muchnick suggested that a priority list be developed sooner rather than later, since funding decisions are often made in the fall.

The on-line plan is the most useful, but a paper plan is still necessary. Michael will work on it in the Fall when he has more time. Heather asked for a time-line. We should have a top ten list developed by the November meeting. The group suggested that a draft list be developed for the September meeting. Michael asked that people provide their nominations to him by September 10. Gerald Miller suggested nominating fewer projects, that make key connections or are large.

Allen Muchnick asked about criteria that had once been agreed upon. Michael replied that those criteria would be in the database, but we can't be bound by a checklist. We are looking for the list of projects that we really want to get funded. If we pick our top priorities and announce them to the TPB, we might be able to get some movement.

Fred Shaffer said that it was helpful to have some sort of objective criteria. Plug the three to five projects from each jurisdiction into Jim's selection criteria. If something is going to be funded for sure, it does not need to be on the list.

In the past, one of the criteria was lack of designated funding.

- Each jurisdiction should submit two to three projects to Michael Farrell for consideration as one of the regional top ten

7. Pedsafe: The District of Columbia Pedestrian Agenda
Harry Cepeda, DDOT

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Harry discussed PedSafe, the District's new pedestrian safety program. DDOT is trying to find partners for this program, such as the DMV, the police, and the Department of Education. The goal is that the Mayor will be able to announce a memorandum of understanding in September.

Six areas with high levels of pedestrian collisions have been identified.

8. **Bicycle Routing Software**

No news.

9. **Glebe Road Study**

Charlie Denney, Arlington County DPW

Charlie Denney explained plans to improve pedestrian crossings at several intersections on Glebe Road in Arlington County.

10. **Other Member Jurisdiction Updates**

Tape inaudible.

Adjourned.