

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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MEETING NOTES

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 30, 2024

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: VIRTUAL

CHAIR: Heidi Mitter, VDOT

Attendance:

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|---|---|
| Bryan Barnett-Woods | City of Rockville |
| Rick Birt | DDOT |
| Bryce Bundens | WMATA (consultant) |
| Bryce Barrett | Prince William County DOT Bike/Ped Coordinator |
| Andrew Bossi | Montgomery County DOT |
| Hannah Cacner | |
| Lisa Campbell | Bike Loudoun |
| George Clark | Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland |
| Presley Connor | DDOT |
| Mary Dallou | Director of Active Transportation, Arlington Commuter Services |
| Lauren Delmare, Active Transportation Section Chief | Fairfax County DOT |
| David Edmondson | City of Frederick |
| Mike Doyle | Alexandria Families for Safer Streets |
| Nate Evans | Active Transportation Planner, Maryland Department of Transportation |
| Seth Garland | WMATA |
| Elwyn Gonzalez | Transportation Planner, Arlington DES |
| Frank Griffin | NVTA |
| Alex Freedman | City of Takoma Park |
| Laura Ghosh | Loudoun County DOT |
| Michael Hackman | City of Gaithersburg, Long Range Planner |

Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
Notes from the January 30, 2024 Meeting

Page 2

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| Yolanda Hipski | Tri County Council for Southern Maryland |
| Michael Jackson | Prince George's County Planning |
| Dwight Jenkins | VA DMV, Highway Safety Office |
| Tiffany Jennings | Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager, Prince George's County DPW&T |
| Jill Kaneff | Northern Virginia Regional Commission |
| Joe Kelley | Frederick County |
| Aisha Khan | Vision Zero Program Coordinator, Prince George's County DPW&T |
| Kalli Krumpos | Capital Trails Coalition |
| Dustin Kuzan | Loudoun County DOT |
| Brian Leckie | City of Manassas |
| Mackenzie Love | NVRC |
| Sean Martin | City of Alexandria |
| Christine Mayeur | DDOT |
| Charlene Mingus | BMC |
| Heidi Mitter | VDOT NOVA District Bike/Ped Coordinator |
| Doug Mowbray | MHSO, Data Manager |
| Allen Muchnick | Active Prince William |
| Rebecca Murphy | NVRC |
| Kevin O'Brien | Washington Area Bicyclist Association |
| Hannah Pajewski | |
| George Phillips | Prince William County |
| Natalie Roach, Vision Zero Program Coordinator, | Prince George's County DPW&T |
| Chloe Ritter | City of Fairfax |
| Jon Tygret | WMATA |
| Cynthia Spriggs | MDOT/MVA/MHSO, Pedestrian/Bicycle/Speed Program Manager |
| Brian Shelton | Active Transportation Manager, Arlington County |
| Eileen Sheridan | Greater Prince William Trails Coalition |
| Kimberly Vacca | DDOT |
| Kaysi-Ann Webley, Special Projects Coordinator - City of Takoma Park | |
| Ann Welch | DDOT |
| Nicole Wynands | Fairfax County |

COG Staff Attendance:

Michael Farrell
Tim Canan

Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
Notes from the January 30, 2024 Meeting
Page 3

Cristina Finch
Pierre Gaunard
Charlene Howard
Andrew Meese
Janie Nham

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

November meeting notes were approved.

- 3. Approve new Chair for 2024**

Heidi Mitter, the VDOT/Northern Virginia Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, was approved as the 2024 Chair.

- 4. Jurisdictional Updates**

Prince George's County recently completed the College Park Trolley trail, connecting it to the northwest branch of the Anacostia River Trail. Mr. Jackson is a member of the National Committee of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The Federal Highway Administration recently issued the new Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, MUTCD, the 11th edition. It governs signs and signals on roadways and shared use paths. Maryland generally issues its own slightly modified version. The new manual is 1000 pages long and includes significant revisions to part 9, the bicycle section.

The WB&A trail bridge completion has been delayed due to quality problems with the construction materials. It will be finished next year.

The City of Rockville recently completed the city's first separated bike lanes in the Rockville Town Center. The city has a grant to study some other streets on the south side of the city, and a TAP project for pedestrian crossings several intersections.

The City of Takoma Park is also working on several bikeways, including a redesign of Maple Avenue.

The State of Maryland will reduce its awards for bikeways next year. The State has also completed a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The State will conduct a series of funding workshops covering the various programs that fund the bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
Notes from the January 30, 2024 Meeting
Page 4

The City of Frederick has nearly completed its comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan, including some changes that are also in the new MUTCD. The plan discussed best practices from around the world. Approval is anticipated in May or June.

Frederick County is working on five feasibility studies and four design projects for trails, a complete streets design manual, and a new bicycle and pedestrian master plan.

Ms. Mitter suggested that people watching on Youtube send questions or comments to Michael Farrell mfarrell@mwkog.org.

It is DC's turn to host the Street Smart campaign. DC has also just wrapping up its NHTSA traffic safety assessment, including bicycle and pedestrian safety. The final report will be available shortly. DC was also notified that it will be recipient of a grant from the Ford Foundation targeting pedestrian and bicycle safety for the unhoused population.

Ms. Mitter encouraged people who are new to the committee to speak up.

Anne Welch, who is DDOT's representative on the Subcommittee, introduced herself. A new cycle track will open soon. The bikeways committee will kick off its new bikeways planning process. The goal is a safe, equitable and connected bikeway network. Lastly, the sidewalks team has launched its sidewalk portal, link in the chat. The goal is to fill 88 segments of sidewalk gaps this year, for a total of a little over 8 miles.

WMATA has hired a new active transportation planner in the station planning group. He should be present at the next meeting. Mr. Rossi is the new bicycle and pedestrian project manager at WMATA. WMATA will soon award a new bike parking contract.

VDOT is hiring a new bicycle and pedestrian coordinator. The job closes tomorrow evening. Virginia has its quarterly bike/ped advisory committee (BPAC) meeting recently; the next one is April 23, in Richmond. Heidi put a link to receive the newsletter in the chat. A new State trails plan is in the works. It will focus on paved shared use paths. There's also the Northern Virginia Bicycle and Pedestrian study, based on locality projects. The study will wrap up in the Spring.

Prince William County has been awarded TLC assistance for the Yorkshire corridor. PWC has also received a federal trails grant from the federal land access program to look at gaps in the Potomac Heritage Scenic Trail. The new county transportation plan will include a bike/ped component.

Loudoun County has 26 sidewalk and trail projects under way. Loudoun is also developing a request based school crosswalk improvement program. There is also a multimodal feasibility study for Algonquian Parkway. Loudoun County DES is doing a study on the Custis trail. The report should be released in May.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
Notes from the January 30, 2024 Meeting
Page 5

Mr. Brian Shelton is the new active transportation planner for the Department of Environmental Services in Arlington. Arlington is working on a wayfinding plan for Arlington Boulevard, and the Long Bridge Bike Bridge, and a bridge to National Airport.

The George Snyder Trail in City of Fairfax will continue.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority has four projects that are primarily bike/ped. Public engagement on those projects will happen in the Spring. Arlington has a performance parking pilot project; the link was posted to the chat.

5. National Capital Trail Network Update

Mr. Farrell spoke to a powerpoint, presenting the changes made to the [National Capital Trail Network](#) since the November meeting, including the interactive map and web site. The National Capital Trail Network is anticipated to be presented to the TPB for approval at its February meeting.

The main thing that is new since November is the web site. We've been able to respond to the few questions we had from the TPB. This is pretty close to wrapped up. Ms. Howard did most of the presenting to the TPB, since she created the web site.

The link to the NCTN web page was posted in the chat. Ms. Mitter praised the web site. Going forward, to make updates easier, it would be helpful if jurisdictions, as they complete segments, they could notify COG of that. Mr. Farrell replied that ideally it should happen within the PIT software. However the current mapping software is inadequate, so we are eagerly awaiting the launch of PIT 2.0, which will enable the agencies to map off-road projects.

The benefit of having the jurisdictions enter the information themselves is that it reduces miscommunication about changes and limits between the agency staff and COG staff. There should be less going back and forth clearing up misunderstandings.

Mr. Farrell suggested holding off on the update both of the NCTN and the regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan until the PIT 2.0 is ready, so the the agencies can enter that data themselves. We probably still have obsolete information, which may pre-date the tenure of current jurisdictional staff. In the next update we need to make sure that the status of existing projects is updated.

6. Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

Mr. Evans presented selected highlights of the newly completed Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Mr. Evans spoke to a powerpoint.

What makes this plan different from previous plans is a more data driven approach to evaluating the network. The document is posted on line.

Mr. Clark of Tri County Council asked about sidewalks. MD State Highway Administration is prohibited from maintaining sidewalks. A new bill would remove that prohibition and allow MDSHA to build and maintain sidewalks.

Ms. Mitter asked whether the level of traffic stress was for state highways only or for all highways. Mr. Evans replied that all roads were included. Maryland has four active transportation planners.

7. Other TPB Program Updates

The Commuter Connections Bike to Work Guide update is due February 19. It's posted on the Subcommittee web site and we welcome comments. Rules for bicyclists need to be reviewed to see if they're still accurate. Mr. Farrell will check the local contacts page.

For TLC and Regional Roadway Safety we're in the process of accepting applications for FY 2025. The application period is open through March. 8. These programs provide short term engineering assistance to jurisdictions. The web site includes a database of all the projects that have been funded through the program. Ms. Nham dropped a link in the chat.

The Spring Street Smart campaign is coming up, likely in April. The kick off press event will be in the District of Columbia. We will have a Best Practices in Pedestrian Enforcement workshop, like last year. We're also overdue for a Micromobility workshop. There have been a lot of changes in the field.

The meeting schedule for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee 2024 is listed at the bottom of agenda, and it is also posted on bike ped subcommittee section of mwcog.org web site, which will also show the live stream link which will be functional on the day of the meeting. Meetings take place at 1 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every other month.

Adjourned