

MEETING NOTES

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, November 18th, 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:

Alphonso Coles	WRN
Charles Denney	Arlington DPW
Cindy Engelhart	VDOT/NOVA
Gary Guzzeau	NCPC
Jim Hudnall	Oxon Hill
Dan Janousek	City of Gaithersburg
Ellen Jones	Downtown DC Business Improvement District
Brian V. King	VDOT
Joe Kocy	NCPC
Rich Metzinger	National Park Service
Steve Pinkus	Gorove/Slade Associates
Jim Sebastian	District of Columbia
Fred Shaffer	M-NCPPC
Betsy Thompson	City of Rockville
Maria M. White	City of Alexandria

COG Staff Attendance:

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Michael Farrell
Gerald Miller

1. General Introductions.

Participants introduced themselves.

2. Review of the Minutes of the November 18th, 2003 Meeting

Chris Wells requested that the minutes of July 15th be revised to reflect his presence. Minutes were approved.

3. Discussion of Regional Electronic Mapping of Bicycle Routes and Facilities in the Washington Region

Charlene Howard, MWCOG

Charlene discussed the electronic data she had gathered from the jurisdictions. Facility types included bike lane, shared-use roadway, and shared-use path. Many of the jurisdictions maintaining a GIS data layer showing bicycle facilities. Charlene has consolidated this information into a single layer. The layer will be sent out to the jurisdictions for review in ZIP file. The layer will be updated periodically, but not continuously.

4. Street Smart 2004

Michael Farrell, MWCOG

The first planning meeting will take place on December 3rd. Street Smart will have to be a Spring campaign. There are also a lot of new materials available, generated by the Imagine the Impact campaign, which runs in October. As a fall program, Imagine the Impact will work synergistically with Street Smart. We had discussed the need for a biannual program, and Imagine the Impact meets that need nicely. Anticipated funding will be about \$320,000 similar to last year. The lateness of Virginia DMV in paying reimbursements was discussed. COG has not been the only party affected.

5. Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Projects for FY 2005-2010

Michael Farrell, COG

The group discussed and determined that it was already too late to pick a new priority list, but that a progress report on the funding of the existing list should be created and brought to the attention of the TPB. Selection of a new list will be put on the work plan for July of 2004.

6. Professional Education & Workshops:

- Real Intersection Design Friday, November 21st, 2003

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- COG Transportation Safety Workshop Thursday, Nov. 20th, 2003
 - Walkable Communities Workshops Spring 2004
- Michael Farrell, MWCOG

Michael Farrell discussed the Real Intersection Design workshop on Friday, and encouraged members to attend the COG Transportation Safety Workshop. Walkable Communities Workshops will be taking place most likely in the first week of May. Locations will be Capitol Heights, Fort Totten, Minnesota Avenue/Benning Road, Olney Town Center, East Long Branch area of Silver Spring, Oxon Hill, the Landmark Area of Alexandria, and some section of the Route 1 corridor in Fairfax County. All eight workshops must take place in one week. Attendance by the right people, those who are in a position to make the needed changes, is critical, and the local coordinators will need to focus on getting them there. Highway and Streets Departments, politicians, planners, police, educators, and business owners should attend. The National Congress of Pedestrian Advocates will also take place in early May. Bike to Work Day will take place May 7th, which is another potential conflict for some staff people.

Mr. Farrell announced another event, hosted by the CAC, on December 3rd, on Columbia Pike revitalization. Lack of bicycle facilities on the proposed improvements were noted.

7. Walkable Communities in Northern California
Michael Farrell, MWCOG

Michael Farrell gave a slide show of Walkable Communities in Northern California seen at the Walkable Communities Workshops training. All photos are available upon request.

8. Review of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Section of the COG Unified Planning Work Program
Michael Farrell, MWCOG

Michael Farrell distributed copies of the old Unified Planning Work Program and asked for comments. He noted that the budget has not been increased significantly, so it would be hard to take on significant new activities.

Gerald Miller noted that even if more funds were allocated, the additional work might be allocated to someone else. Mr. Miller asked that the committee focus more on planning activities rather than operating programs such as Street Smart, which was incubated with planning funds but which cannot be operated on a continuing basis with planning funds. Mr. Miller noted that the work program called for a regional bike plan, which we have not yet produced, and suggested that we focus on producing one. Mr. Muchnick said that one of the most valuable roles the regional bike/ped planner could play would be to track the progress of regional bicycle and pedestrian projects. Mr. Sebastian added that the regional on-line database

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would make that job far easier and more doable than it has been in the past. Mr. Denney noted that he had not had time to enter the projects for Arlington County. Finding the staff time for this kind of work is difficult. Mr. Farrell replied that he thought the major labor input would be up front, and updating periodically would not be so difficult. Solutions to reduce the work required to set up the database were suggested, such as linking it with the electronic TIP, or having the COG Bike/Ped planner enter any existing spreadsheets or descriptions.

9. Election of New Chairs

Jim Sebastian of DDOT was elected Chair, replacing Charlie Denney of Arlington County DPW.

Adjourned.