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BALTIMORE COUNTY PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Sheldon S. Epstein, Chair

--Approved April 22, 2014--

MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, March 11, 2014
4:00 p.m.

Attendees: Chair Sheldon Epstein, Ray Bahr, Gene Bertoni, Hir Bhandari, Jay Burman, Laura Cook, Ted Levin, Allysha Lorber, Carol Silldorff, Linda Grossman, Pat McDougall, Steve Weber

Absent:

Jim Kelly, Myron Williams, Bob Barrett

Department of Planning staff present included Jeff Mayhew, Kathy Schlabach, Matthew Diana and Janice Graves.

1. Opening Remarks

Mr. Sheldon Epstein opened the meeting at 4:15 p.m. once a quorum of members arrived. After introductions, Mr. Epstein made the following announcement:

- A new member has joined the committee, Ms. Allysha Lorber, who represents the fifth district.

2. Review of Today's Agenda

There was a change to the agenda for the meeting. The revised agenda includes a short presentation from the Maryland Transit Administration.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes from November 12, 2013 Meeting

Mr. Epstein called for a motion to approve the meeting notes from the November 12, 2013 meeting. Mr. Ted Levin made the motion and Mr. Jay Burman seconded. The approval was unanimous.

4. Special Presentation: Maryland State Highway Administration's Pedestrian and Bicycle Retrofit Program

Mr. Jeff Folden, Assistant Chief of the Innovative Contracting Division of the Maryland State Highway Administration, presented the state's Pedestrian and Bicycle Retrofit Program. The Retrofit program involves two major initiatives: The System Preservation Program and the Bike Retrofit Program.

The Pedestrian System Preservation Program includes:

- Sidewalk construction
- Reconstruction to address ADA compliance

These projects are prioritized by input from local government and by pedestrian generators such as transit stops.

The Bike Retrofit Program includes:

- Creating bike lanes and shared use paths on state roads.

Other current initiatives include:

- Conducting research to identify funding sources for pedestrian access projects.
- Exploring multi-modal access on state roads.
- Increasing the number of on-road miles for bicycle access through resurfacing and restriping.

5. Special Presentation: Maryland Transit Administration, Bicycle Parking at Rail Stops

Mr. Patrick McMahon, a Bicycle and Pedestrian Sustainability Planner with the Maryland Transit Administration, made a presentation to the group regarding bicycle parking at Baltimore County rail stops. Mr. McMahon asked for the PBAC's guidance in prioritizing bike parking improvements at rail stops, and offered to partner with the county on any improvements that would improve access to the stops, such as:

- Extending the Torrey C. Brown trail to Warren Road Light Rail stop.
- Creating bicycle access from the city south to BWI Trail at the airport.

6. Report from the Baltimore Metropolitan Council Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Group

Mr. Ross Ulrich, an Outreach Coordinator for the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's Air Quality and Traffic Safety Program, presented an overview of the activities of the regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Group. Those activities included:

- Ads and commercials promoting the Street Smart Program for pedestrian safety
- Assisting with a bicycle and pedestrian master plan for the Maryland Department of Transportation
- Assisting with a bike sharing program for Baltimore City
- Scheduling Bike to Work days. This year's event is May 16.

[Note: The meeting was continued after a break for the Citizen Input Meeting]

7. Report from the Fifth District Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee

Ms. Allysha Lorber, committee member and Chair of the Fifth District Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, reported on the committee's priorities for pedestrian, bicycle and trail improvements.

8. Other Business

Ms. Schlabach requested that the committee revise the meeting date for the November meeting. The scheduled date is November 11, 2014, which is a holiday. Ms. Schlabach requests that November 18, 2014 be the new date for the meeting. The Chair asked for a motion to change the meeting date from November 11, 2014 to November 18, 2014. Mr. Levin made the motion and Ms. Lorber seconded. The approval was unanimous.

Ms. Linda Grossman and Mr. Pat McDougall reported on an initiative with the Office of Information Technology to produce online site maps to promote parks and other places where families can walk together.

Ms. Lorber noted that the District 5 Committee held two successful bike parties, and will resume them again this spring.

Ms. Laura Cook asked Mr. Weber when the Edmondson Avenue bicycle improvements would be completed. Mr. Weber responded that this project along with the Towson Bike Beltway is scheduled for completion by the end of June.

Mr. McDougall reported that the Indian Rock segment of the Northeast Trail is expected in April, when the several sources of grant funding should be in place.

9. Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bhandari made the motion and Mr. Levin seconded. The approval was unanimous.