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Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
Sheldon S. Epstein, Chair

--APPROVED MARCH 10, 2015--

MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, November 18, 2014
4:00 p.m.

Attendees: Chair Sheldon Epstein, Ray Bahr, Gene Bertoni, Hir Bhandari, Jay Burman, Jim Kelly, Ted Levin, Allysha Lorber, Myron Williams, Pat McDougall

Absent: Laura Cook, Linda Grossman, Carol Silldorff, Robert Barrett, Kris Nebre

Department of Planning staff present included Jeff Mayhew, Kathy Schlabach, and Jessie Bialek.

1. Introduction of Members and Announcements

Mr. Sheldon Epstein opened the meeting at 4:07 p.m. After introductions, Mr. Epstein made the following announcement:

- The Department of Planning invites the committee to its annual Holiday Celebration on Tuesday, December 9th. Flyers are at your seats.

2. Review of Today's Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes of the April 22, 2014 Meeting

Mr. Epstein called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the April 22, 2014 meeting. Ms. Allysha Lorber made the motion and Mr. Jim Kelly seconded. The approval was unanimous.

4. Staff Report Introduction and Vote: Proposed 2015 Meeting Schedule and Work Program

Ms. Kathy Schlabach reviewed the proposed 2015 meeting schedule and work program.

During the September 9, 2014 meeting, Ms. Schlabach had suggested, that for the March 10, 2015 meeting, that instead of having a CIM (citizen input meeting), the meeting could focus on the efforts of local and state agencies and groups. However, the since the committee members at the previous meeting concurred that they would rather keep the CIM meeting, the proposed meeting schedule now includes it.

During the discussion committee members made the following points:

Mr. Ray Bahr thanked Ms. Schlabach for adding the CIM back into the Proposed 2015 Meeting Schedule and Work Program and asked that a County status report be given during the meeting.

A motion was then made by Mr. Bahr to request that the Department of Planning prepare a project status update to be included and presented at the March 10, 2015 CIM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jim Kelly. Approval was unanimous.

A motion was then made to approve the Proposed 2015 Meeting Schedule and Work Program including the approved amendment. Mr. Bahr made the final motion and Mr. Kelly seconded. Approval was unanimous.

5. Staff Report Introduction and Vote: Recommendations for the Legislative Amendments in Support of Pedestrian and Bicycle Access

Ms. Schlabach presented a summary of the staff report recommendations for legislative amendments in support of pedestrian and bicycle access. A search of both the County Code and the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations did not reveal any significant need for legislative amendments, other than what was already identified in the Eastern and Western Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Plans. These recommended revisions included bicycle parking, easements for sidewalks instead of right-of-ways, adoption of Complete Street Guidelines into the Comprehensive Manual of Development Policies, a fee-in-lieu payments when developers are granted waivers for sidewalks and sidepaths, revising the Local Open Space Manual to allow paths to meet local open space requirements and addressing the legal, maintenance, and liability issue associated with the construction of sidepaths.

In general, the group concurred with staff recommendations except on the issue of fee-in-lieu payments.

In explaining the staff's recommendation, Ms. Schlabach noted that with the implementation of the complete streets policy and updating of the Public Works Design Manual, the county is not

granting many waivers, and if they do, developers would still have to provide an area for the sidewalk or bike facility and make sure that they are in a public right-of-way. During the last calendar year only one waiver was applied for and it was denied.

Considerable discussion ensued about how the fee-in-lieu legislation would be structured, and the process that would be needed to enact it. Ms. Schlabach explained that the inclusion of a fee-in-lieu option in the complete street policy was a guideline, not a standard, and therefore separate legislation would need to be created and passed by the County Council. Mr. Jeff Mayhew stated that a part of the legislative process is bringing other stakeholders to the table to discuss the proposal and that the final outcome may not achieve the PBAC's desired result.

Most committee members thought that getting this type of rule on the books would be beneficial, giving the complete streets policy some teeth. A motion was made by Mr. Bahr to request that the Department of Planning pursue fee-in-lieu legislation for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kelly. Approval was not unanimous, with Mr. Ted Levin voting nay. Mr. Levin expressed his concern that developers would opt to pay a fee-in-lieu instead of installing the pedestrian or bicycle improvement.

Following additional discussion on the remaining items in the staff report, a motion was made to approve the recommendations of Legislative Amendments in Support of Pedestrian and Bicycle Access including the amendment previously approved. Ms. Lorber made the final motion and Mr. Hir Bhandari seconded. Approval was unanimous.

6. Staff Report Introduction and Vote: Draft 2014 Annual Report

Ms. Schlabach stated that she had changed the annual report from the calendar year 2014, to fiscal year 2014. The county's development review calendar also follows the fiscal year, therefore making reporting on the implementation of the county's complete streets policy easier to follow. The beginning of the report has an introduction followed by the PBAC committee member information, meeting summaries, PBAC progress, Baltimore County government implementation progress, Baltimore County physical infrastructure improvements, and finally educational, encouragement, and enforcement programs.

During the discussion committee members made the following points:

Mr. Bahr noted that there seems to be a lag time between the county's review of projects and the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) hearing decisions, accounting for the lack of data in this report on the progress of Complete Streets implementation. Ms. Schlabach responded that agency comments for pedestrian and bicycle improvements have been submitted, but final decisions by the ALJ have not yet been made. Mr. Bahr asked that future reports contain tables or charts with numbers and mileages to help the committee see how the complete street policy is being implemented.

A motion was made to approve the Draft 2014 Annual Report. Ms. Levin made the final motion and Mr. Bhandari seconded. Approval was unanimous.

7. Other Business

Mr. Epstein asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak. Mr. Charlie Murphy addressed the committee, asking about the repaving of Red Run Boulevard.

Ms. Schlabach asked the group whether they thought the meeting time should be changed to a later time to allow people more time to get to the meeting. The committee agreed that the 4:00 meeting time was acceptable.

Ms. Schlabach then mentioned that this is the last meeting of 2014 and that some of the committee members terms will be expiring at the end of the year. Ms. Schlabach announced that Ms. Carol Silldorff is stepping down and that Mr. Gene Bertoni will not be returning next year. Ms. Schlabach thanked them for their service and extended her thanks to anyone else who might not be returning in the coming year.

8. Adjournment

The chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Levin made the motion and Mr. Bertoni seconded. The approval was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 5:35.