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

--APPROVED November 18, 2014--

MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, April 22, 2014
4:00 p.m.

Attendees: Chair Sheldon Epstein, Hir Bhandari, Laura Cook, Jim Kelly, Allysha Lorber, Carol Silldorff, Myron Williams, Linda Grossman, Steve Weber

Absent: Ray Bahr, Gene Bertoni, Jay Burman, Ted Levin, Robert Barrett, Pat McDougall

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

1. Introduction of Members and Announcements

Mr. Sheldon Epstein opened the meeting at 4:05 p.m. After introductions, Mr. Epstein made the following announcement:

- Baltimore County is rehabbing 17 storm water inlets on the Catonsville Bike Trail (ed.— i.e., bike route and bike lanes on Edmonson Avenue) at a cost of \$100,000.

2. Review of Today's Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes of the March 11, 2014 Meeting

Mr. Epstein called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the March 11, 2014 meeting. Ms. Carol Silldorff made the motion and Mr. Jim Kelly seconded. The approval was unanimous.

4. Potential Priority Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

Ms. Kathy Schlabach reviewed the citizen comments from the previous month's Citizen Input Meeting, and then presented the staff recommendations. Projects recommended for completion using current capital funding included:

- Countdown signals and timing on Bosley Avenue
- Sidewalk on Rolling Road between Route 40 and Security Boulevard if all residents request it.

Additional projects recommended for potential funding through the Maryland Bikeways Program for Minor Retrofits, with no match required included:

- Security-Ingleside Connection
- Dundalk Loop, Phase 2

Other points Ms. Schlabach suggested for prioritizing bicycling improvement efforts:

- The approach is to build on and extend bicycle projects that are already funded.
- Once projects are built, attention should be shifted to the educational, encouragement and enforcement programs to promote their safe use.
- In the Towson area, the Towson Bike Loop will be completed soon, and the Towson Spokes project will create wider connection to surrounding communities. In addition, there is a lot of development coming in Towson. It would be beneficial to let the development take place and then see exactly where the future need is and how great it is.
- Partnering with the Towson Chamber of Commerce to do outreach, education and promotion could be a good place to start.

During discussion committee members made the following points:

- County should be proactive and devote more funding to building infrastructure, providing matching funds for more costly projects and increasing staff capacity. There was concern that lack of adequate staff delays the implementation of projects even when funding is available.
- More support should be shown for Star Spangled Banner related projects.
- More bike racks should be placed in Towson. Placing them around county facilities would be a good way to lead by example.

Ms. Laura Cook made a motion to request the County Executive to add a \$100,000 line item in the capital program for bike and pedestrian related projects. Discussion ensued on how much

funding should be requested. Ms. Cook later withdrew the motion since the members of the committee were not able to establish a dollar figure.

A motion was then made by Ms. Allysha Lorber to request that the Department of Planning compare the funding structures of Baltimore County and other metropolitan jurisdictions in providing matching funds for grants. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hir Bhandari. Approval was unanimous.

Following additional discussion, a motion was made to approve the staff recommendations with the addition of bicycle parking at public facilities in Towson plus other priority projects as funds become available. Mr. Kelly made the final motion and Ms. Silldorff seconded. Approval was unanimous.

5. Other Business

Mr. Fran Taylor, a member of the public who had signed up to speak, discussed the Star Spangled Banner Trail sidewalks and the progress being made. He noted that the influence of the committee has been felt by the County Council and the Executive but that the need to prioritize path projects is still great.

6. Adjournment

The chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kelly made the motion and Mr. Bhandari seconded. The approval was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 5:27.