

MINUTES

Howard County Bicycle Advisory Group (BAG) Quarterly Meeting, 01/25/18

Columbia/Ellicott City Room, George Howard Building, 3pm to 5pm.

In Attendance

BAG Members

Jennifer Biddle (Dept. of Public Works)
Jane Dembner (Columbia Association)
Kevin Dolan (Howard County bicycle retailers)
Jack Guarnieri (Bicycling Advocates of Howard County)
Larry Schoen (Multimodal Transportation Board)
Peter Sotherland (MDOT State Highway Administration)
Lt. Jeff Specht (Howard County Police Department)
Jen Terrasa (County Council)
Chris Tsien (Environmental Sustainability Board)
Paul Walsky (Dept. of Recreation and Parks)

Non-Members

Jessica Bellah
Katie DiSalvo-Thronson
Yan Zhang
Kori D. Jones
Phil Nichols
Jeannie DeCray
Mark DeLuca
Holger Serrano
Kris Singleton

Office of Transportation Staff

Chris Eatough Eatough
Albert Guiney Engel
Clive Graham

The meeting was called to order by Jack Guarnieri at 3:05 pm. Jack opened the meeting by informing those in attendance of the passing of former BAG attendee and bicycle advocate Bill Kelly. He briefly described Bill's life and commitment to bicycling and bicycling advocacy, and informed those in attendance of the viewing and funeral details. Chris Eatough suggested that some element of biking in Howard County—such as a future bike ride—should be named after Bill as a tribute.

1. Procedural items (audio 5:48)

Chris Eatough stated that although it was not on the agenda, the first object of business for the BAG to consider was the approval of minutes from the two prior meetings on October 24, 2017 and October 31, 2017. Jane Dembner moved to accept the minutes of the October 24 meeting. The motion was seconded by Jen Terrasa, and was unanimously approved by voice vote. Chris Tsien moved to accept the minutes of the October 31 meeting. There were no objections to accepting the minutes of the October 31 meeting.

a. Rules of Procedure (audio 11:02)

Chris Eatough introduced the draft rules of procedure, and explained that they had been explained in detail at the October 24, 2017 meeting and had also been sent out to members for comment. Larry Schoen proposed a change to Section 1.101 clarifying that member-appointed proxies could vote. There were no objections to the change, so it was implemented by inserting the word "voting" before the word "proxy"

in the section. Larry also suggested that the rules of procedure did not adequately describe how the code specified the membership requirements in Section 1.101. There were no objections to this change, so it was implemented by removing the phrase “lists the members of the BAG,” and by inserting the phrase “Members of the BAG shall be as specified in...” before the phrase “Howard County Code Section 6.408.”

Larry then moved to approve the rules of procedure with these edits. Jane seconded the motion, and the BAG unanimously approved the rules by voice vote.

b. Chair and Vice Chair (audio 18:46)

Jack asked for nominations for chair. Chris Tsien nominated Jack to serve as chair, and the nomination was seconded by Jane.

Jack then asked for nominations for vice chair. Hearing none, he nominated Chris Tsien to serve as vice chair, and the nomination was seconded by Kevin Dolan.

The nominations were then unanimously approved by voice vote.

2. BikeHoward Projects and Grants Status for Fiscal Year 2019 (audio 20:41)

Jack introduced this item by announcing the BikeHoward Open House, to be held on January 30th. Chris Eatough then reviewed BikeHoward accomplishments over the past year, and discussed bikeshare trends, the upcoming bikeshare stations at the George Howard Building and at La Palapa/Su Casa in Ellicott City, and the cost model of new stations.

Members discussed the pace of the projects, and focused on the amount of time that the State Highway Administration takes to review project submissions. Peter Sotherland agreed to look into the status of the Patuxent Branch Trail paving project and report back to the BAG.

Chris Eatough then advanced agenda item 4 (Bike and Pedestrian Bridge over US29 Status) to discussion, explaining that the bridge was open during daylight hours and that the only outstanding project element was the lighting work. Chris Tsien asked if the surface of the bridge would be cleaned or repainted, and Holger Serrano and Phil Nichols explained that the cost for that would be high, and may be included in a future budget year. Lt. Specht suggested placing a memorial plaque to Bill Kelly at the bridge, but Phil Nichols stated that, as a result of conversations with Bridge Columbia, the pedestrian bridge would most likely be given a plaque with that name. Phil also described the improvements to the security cameras.

Jane then suggested adding a highway sign with the name of the pathway along the bridge. Holger stated that a sign could not be attached to the bridge itself, but many in attendance agreed that a sign denoting the pathway name would be desirable.

Chris Eatough directed those in attendance to a table of proposed projects for FY2019 (audio 43:55). He explained the various project status definitions as listed on the proposed projects table, and estimated that the total proposal would cost \$800,000 to \$900,000. Larry asked how many miles of improvements the proposal represented, but Albert responded that it was difficult to have an accurate total because each project was

at a different stage. Mark DeLuca, Chris Eatough, and Peter commented that the pavement resurfacing schedule was inherently unpredictable. Larry asked if there was a way to track new bicycle facility installations, including developer-installed improvements. Chris responded that the Office of Transportation reviews site plans, so they provide comments on bicycle facilities, but that the only way the Office of Transportation knows about actual facility implementation is by seeing it installed.

Jack then asked if there was consideration of more frequent cleaning of bike lanes, and mentioned that he had previously suggested an “adopt-a-bike-lane” program to support bike lane maintenance. Chris responded that he had discussed the idea with Kris Jagarapu, and that Kris was considering this suggestion.

3. BikeHoward interaction with WalkHoward (audio 59:51)

Albert Guiney Engel gave an overview of the WalkHoward plan, and explained that the “priority connection” projects, as well as the plan’s proposed “Share the Path Safety and Respect Program” were areas of crossover between the plans.

Albert also announced that there would be a public information session and meeting at 6:30PM on February 13th at Howard Community College, and that comments would be accepted until March 31st.

Jen Terrasa asked whether prioritization had been given to projects if they were also in BikeHoward, and Albert responded that it had not. Members asked if there would be implementation coordination between the two plans, and Chris Eatough and Albert explained that there was no formal coordination, but that both plans would be consulted, especially when there would be an opportunity to combine bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

4. Bike and Pedestrian Bridge over US29 Status

This agenda item was addressed during agenda item 2 (BikeHoward Projects and Grants Status for Fiscal Year 2019)

5. Columbia Triathlons Cancelled (audio 1:19:24)

Jack announced that the Columbia Triathlon and Iron Girl had been cancelled for this year, and stated that one of the reasons was that the Police Department had required the event to be moved from May to June. He added that these events provided a lot of visibility for bicycling in Howard County. Chris Eatough stated that it was his impression that triathlons were declining in popularity, and Lt. Specht added that he had worked that event in the past and that participation was declining.

Members discussed the idea that this had been a signature event for bicycling in Howard County, and that the now-popular cyclocross and mountain biking events were usually located in park areas that did not have visibility outside the event. Kevin added that the triathlons’ use of MD 108 meant that many drivers found themselves delayed, and thus had a negative impression of the events.

Jack concluded by suggesting that a new signature bicycling event in a park be developed, and asking that this be discussed at a future BAG meeting.

6. Bike to Work Day Sponsorship (audio 1:27:08)

Chris announced that Bike to Work Day would be held on Friday, May 18th, and distributed sponsorship forms and pamphlets, asking that attendees reach out to potential regionwide Bike to Work Day sponsors.

7. Open Discussion Period (audio 1:29:12)

Jack brought up the issue of maintenance, and Mark responded by discussing the ongoing maintenance costs and challenges of bicycling infrastructure, and suggesting that a future BAG topic ought to be a focused discussion of that issue to identify the needs of the bicycling community and to communicate those needs to the Department of Public Works. DPW could then work with the bicycling community to develop a maintenance concept that is acceptable to people who bike while manageable fiscally for the County.

Other suggested topics for future meetings included the following:

- **Trends in retail – Kevin Dolan.**
- **Ideas for biking events in Centennial Park – Paul Walsky and Jeff Specht.**
- **Progress with Complete Streets, Design Manual Updates, Subdivision Regulations Updates.**
- **Route 32 alternative biking route, specifically Tridelphia Road Bridge**

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Eatough at 4:53 pm

Clive Graham

Clive Graham
Executive Secretary

1/25/2018

Date