

## MINUTES

Howard County Bicycle Advisory Group (BAG) Quarterly Meeting, 09/20/18

Columbia/Ellicott City Room, George Howard Building, 2:00pm to 3:00pm.

### In Attendance

#### **BAG Members**

Jennifer Biddle (Dept. of Public Works)  
Ryan Channel (Howard County Public School System)  
Jessica Bellah for Jane Dembner (Columbia Association)  
Jack Guarneri (Bicycling Advocates of Howard County)  
Larry Schoen (Multimodal Transportation Board)  
Jeff Specht (Howard County Police Department)  
Jen Terrasa (County Council)  
Paul Walsky (Dept. of Recreation and Parks)

#### **Non-Members**

Kris Singleton  
Eric Bishop  
Matt Tanis  
Kevin McAliley

#### **Office of Transportation Staff**

Allison Calkins  
Chris Eatough  
Albert Guiney Engel  
Clive Graham

The meeting was called to order by Chris Eatough at 2:04 pm.

#### **1. Approval of June 19, 2018 minutes and previous action items progress (audio 0:00)**

The meeting began with introductions. Jack Guarneri then moved to approve the June 19, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded by Kris Singleton and was approved unanimously by voice vote.

#### **2. Bike lanes with resurfacing (audio 8:23)**

Albert Guiney Engel gave an overview of the current bike lane projects related to resurfacing, which were Lightning View Road, Hickory Ridge Road, and Summer Sunrise Drive/River Run. He gave an account of the public meetings that had been held for each roadway and described the status of each. Lightning View Road was recommended to move forward based on positive feedback from the community. Hickory Ridge Road had received feedback from the community that was qualified support, so Albert told those in attendance that the Office of Transportation would present again once a more detailed design had been developed. Albert also told those in attendance that the Office of Transportation had received a mix of comments on Summer Sunrise Drive and River Run, and that the primary concern communicated by community members was the aesthetic of the proposed roadway markings.

Kris asked whether River Run would include signage to indicate the one-way "climbing" nature of the bike lanes. Albert explained that it was not necessary, because riders would not have to switch sides in the middle of the road. Jenn Biddle added that the Lightning View climbing lanes would include the same "Bike Lane Begins" and "Bike Lane Ends" sign as every other bike lane in Howard County, including Mellenbrook Road.

#### **3. Bikeshare update (audio 20:40)**

Chris Eatough introduced this item by mentioning the Baltimore City had recently fired its bikeshare vendor, and the Howard County had the same vendor. He stated that while Howard County has had minor theft and vandalism issues, it is continuing to move forward with the vendor.

Sgt. Matt Tanis of the Howard County Police Department Pathway Patrol unit recounted that he met with the vendor and discussed the concerns. He committed that HCPD would investigate and the State's Attorney would prosecute bikeshare thefts. He added that cameras have been put up at the Oakland Mills and Blandair Park stations, and that they have seen a reduction in bike breaching. He also said he has met with his counterparts in Montgomery County and reported that the bikeshare system there was better; specifically, he said that the docking mechanism was more secure. He added that people like it, calling it a "phenomenal program," and that currently, the focus in Howard County was on target hardening, i.e. making the bikeshare stations as theft-proof as possible.

Jack asked about dockless bikeshare, which he noted had been introduced in Baltimore City. Chris responded that dockless bikeshare doesn't arrive by means of an invitation from a local government, but systems place bikes "uninvited" where they think there is a market for them.

#### **4. Bike education at schools (audio 27:30)**

Chris introduced Eric Bishop from the Howard County Public School System, who is the new head of physical education systemwide. Jack stated that the Bike Advocates' goal was to have bike education in every school in the County.

Eric said that currently HCPSS offered bike education in 5 schools and that next year it could be offered in 7 to 8 schools. He added that HCPSS would give the time to the teachers, but that the limiting factor was serviceable bike, which could be transported by HCPSS Facilities but were still limited in number.

Jack asked if recovered stolen bikes could be donated to the school system. Sgt. Tanis stated that currently, recovered bikes were held for a period of time in case they could be returned to their owners, and after that were disposed of as surplus property. He said that currently, the amount of money received per bike was very small, so it was possible that they could be donated to the schools instead. He and Eric agreed that the communities where stolen bikes were most often found were also the communities that have the most issues with bikeshare. Sgt. Tanis also offered that the Pathway Patrol could help with teaching.

Jessica Bellah asked if bike repair could be taught in schools as well as a program, but Eric responded that while elementary bike maintenance is covered in the bike education program, more comprehensive repair training would require too much time.

Sgt. Tanis said that HCPD bike education was currently bike rodeos and "bike with a cop" events, and that HCPD recently partnered with the Howard County Library System to have bike events in library parking lots. He also announced that there would be a bike event at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center the following Saturday.

Chris asked Eric what the cost of the program was, and Eric responded that he was working with Betsy to see what the current costs were, so they could be scaled up into a full cost estimate. He also stated that they had gotten a grant for helmets from Race Pace.

Albert then gave an update on the bike rack program, stating that the grant would close out soon and that County had installed 45 racks, which was about 25 percent of what had been hoped for, at 24 locations mostly in Columbia and Ellicott City.

**5. Old Guilford Road and the Patuxent Branch Trail – Paul Walsky, Rec and Parks (audio 40:25)**

Chris described the history of the project, and then introduced Paul Walsky of the Department of Recreation and Parks. Paul stated that the pathway project was in the submittal and permitting process with the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE), Soil Conservation District, and Columbia Association. Jack asked whether the pathway would be subject to flooding, and Paul responded that the whole Patuxent Branch Trail was in the floodplain, and this segment would be no different. Jen Terrasa asked if there would be trouble with the MDE permit, and Paul responded that none was expected.

Kevin McAliley asked about the status of the trail paving project, and Chris responded that the project was preparing for procurement.

Eric asked if bikeshare could be made free for kids. Chris responded that those under 18 are technically not allowed on the system because of insurance issues. Eric further asked who paid for vandalism, and Chris replied that the vendor paid.

The meeting was adjourned by Chris Eatough at 2:55pm.

**Action Items**

- *There were no action items at this meeting.*