

MINUTES

Howard County Bicycle Advisory Group (BAG) Quarterly Meeting, 1/15/2019

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

In Attendance

BAG Members

Peter Sotherland (State Highway Administration)
Jane Dembner (Columbia Association)
Jack Guarneri (Bicycling Advocates of Howard County)
Jeff Specht (Howard County Police Department)
Jen Terrasa (County Council)
Paul Walsky (Dept. of Recreation and Parks)
Chris Tsien (Environmental Sustainability Board)

Non-Members

Kris Singleton
Eric Bishop
Matt Tanis
Kevin McAliley
Katie DiSalvo-Thronson
Yan Zhang
Derek Riley

Office of Transportation Staff

Chris Eatough
Albert Guiney Engel
David Cookson
Allison Calkins
Lauren Frank

The meeting was called to order by Chris Eatough at 3:02 pm.

1. Transition Updates (audio :01)

Chris Eatough announced he is now the Acting Administrator for the Office of Transportation and Angela Cabellon was introduced as the Office of Transportation's Liaison to the new administration. Individual introductions followed.

Chris Eatough announced that the BAG is required to have a representative from the County Council attend all meetings. The Council is working through the process to find out who they will designate as their official member.

2. Approval of September 20, 2018 minutes (audio 0:03)

Jack Guarneri moved to approve the September 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded by Jeff Specht and was approved unanimously.

3. BikeHoward Open House (audio :04)

Chris Eatough announced the BikeHoward Open House is scheduled for January 15, 2019 at 7pm at the Central Library. Information will be shared regarding the Bicycle Master Plan & progress on current projects.

4. FY2019 Current Projects (audio :09)

a. Complete Streets Corridor Studies (Tamar Dr, Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia Rd)

Albert Guiney Engel explained that the Office of Transportation has decided to look at three roads expressed by the community needing improvements; Tamar Drive, Oakland Mills Road, and Columbia Road. Three Public meetings were held to help develop a collaborative vision for each road, which will help guide any future concepts and ideas for the planning process.

Albert stated the public concerns of Tamar Drive, from a public meeting January 3rd, included lack of bicycle connectivity, good bike infrastructure, and concerns with speed. Jack Guarneri asked why the study stopped at Flamepool instead of 175. Albert explained that the intersection of 175 is a state controlled intersection and the Flamepool intersection is the last intersection that changes could feasibly be made.

Albert said Oakland Mills Road concerns are like Tamar Drive at a higher degree. The community expressed the road is too fast and many community members brought up the idea of a road diet.

Regarding Columbia Road, Albert explained there is a strong desire to manage travel speeds, increase safety of pedestrians and provide bike accommodations along the road. Derrick Riley asked if there was interest in extending bicycle compatibility signs, currently along MD 108 from Mellonbrook and Howard High School, to Columbia Road. Several BAG members expressed interest.

Albert said the next steps include the completion of public input, detailed traffic data collection, and analysis of the data. OoT is hoping to be able to provide the public with concepts in the Summer/Fall.

Jack asked if there was any idea on when DPW will be repaving any of the streets. Chris Eatough said it won't be in the next few years. The streets are not on the list of pending road resurfacing segments that DPW provides to OOT. Kris Singleton suggested scheduling a meeting with Bureau of Highways.

b. Current Grant Projects (MD Bikeways, Transportation Alternatives, Rec Trails) (audio :29)

MD Bikeways

Albert discussed three Maryland Bikeway Projects.

- HCC Connector – Design is complete & OoT is working on construction documentation. There will be a refuge median at the south end of the pathway crossing Hickory Ridge Road to connect to the CA pathway south of Hickory Ridge Road.
- South Entrance Trail – Wetland Delineation is complete & the alignment adjustments are underway.

- North Laurel Connections is mostly an on-road route from Savage Park to Laurel. Focus has been on the pathway segment for the design effort. The plan also includes developing pavement marking concepts for one sided bike lanes on Knights Bridge Road.

Transportation Alternatives

Albert expressed there are not a lot of updates. Oot is working through procurement issues with SHA team which is a slow process.

Rec Trails

Albert said OoT is also working on procurement for the installation of the bike counters.

c. Patuxent Branch Trail connection at Old Guilford Road (audio :37)

Albert announced that the Department of Recs and Parks has most of the work complete on the Patuxent Branch Trail connection.

Peter Sotherland extended an invitation to four grant workshops held end of February/early March.

5. FY2020 Proposed Projects and Grant Cycle (audio :41)

Chris Eatough presented and discussed the following table.

Project	Category	FY2020			Notes
		County	Grant	Total	
Cedar Lane Pathway	Closed Out	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Edgar Road and Mellenbrook Road	Closed Out	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Misc. signage, stencilling, storm drain grates, etc	Construction	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	
North Laurel Connections	Construction	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	
Downtown Columbia to Stevens Forest Road	Design & Engineering (60%)	\$0	\$0	\$0	Ongoing from FY19
Dobbin to McGaw Pathway	Construction	\$150,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,500,000	Most likely will be deferred
Oakland Mills Rd Road Diet	Feasibility Study	\$0	\$0	\$0	Ongoing from FY19
Tamar Dr Road Diet	Feasibility Study	\$0	\$0	\$0	Ongoing from FY19
Robert Fulton Drive Shared-Use Path	Design & Engineering (100%)	\$180,000	\$0	\$180,000	
Sebring to Hickory Ridge Connection	Design & Engineering (90%)	\$0	\$0	\$0	Ongoing from FY19
Columbia Road	On hold for resurfacing	\$0	\$0	\$0	Ongoing from FY19
Harriet Tubman Lane and Martin Road W of Freetown	On hold for resurfacing	\$0	\$0	\$0	Waiting for Resurfacing
Martin Road and Owen Brown Road	On hold for resurfacing	\$0	\$0	\$0	Waiting for Resurfacing
River Road, Levering Avenue, Furnace Avenue	Construction Levering Avenue	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000	
Patuxent Branch Trail Paving	Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	Funds carried over
Elkridge to Patapsco Regional Greenway Bridge	Feasibility Study	\$20,000	\$100,000	\$120,000	MD Bikeways or UPWP Grant
Dobbin SUP (McGaw to Snowden River Pkwy)	Feasibility Study	\$275,000	\$0	\$275,000	
North Chatham Road Contraflow Bike Lane	Not Started Yet	\$0	\$0	\$0	
FY20 Total:		\$1,250,000	\$1,450,000	\$2,700,000	

The Oot has submitted a request for 1.25 million of county funds with the expectation to go after 1.45 million in grant funds for 2 proposed projects. The next step is waiting for the funding amount from the County Council.

-Due to technical difficulty, there is a gap at audio :48-

6. Strategic Highway Safety Plan (audio :52)

Chris Eatough explained that this is the first time Howard County has done the Strategic Highway Safety Plan, used to come up with long term strategies and goals to reduce crashes. The Transportation Secretary sent out a letter to county and city officials requesting they do their own studies for their own municipalities. Howard County decided to move forward. The kickoff meeting occurred January 7th with Howard County, SHA & BMC participating.

Jack asked if there was any citizen participation? David Cookson suggested taking it to the Multimodal Advisory Board.

Discussion continue around funding for county and state roads.

7. Bicycle Accessibility in New Developments (audio 1:06)

Jack explained that the bicycle advocates submitted a letter regarding the new development on the milk producers site on Leisher and Gorman Road. Jack mentioned this area is already unsafe for bicyclist and inquired what could be done.

David Cookson gave an overview of the plan, which is in the sketch plan stage, to create shared-use pathways connecting the two communities in the areas. This will include access to the schools.

8. Impact of Police Department Fees on Bicycle Events (audio 1:26)

Jeff Specht explained that as of January 1 the permit fees became effective and May 12 the application fees will become effective. Bill CB12-2018 was passed spring of 2018. Jack announced that the Clyde's race, after 40 years, has been cancelled and other bike events are in the process of deciding whether to hold the events due to the increase fees and police support. Jeff stated that there are no fees for County sponsored events and there is a separate fee schedule for nonprofit and for-profit sponsors.

9. Open Discussion Period

Chris announced the next BAG meeting will be held March 9th, 2019 at 2pm. The meeting will be a joint meeting with TPAG.

Allison Calkins announced Bike to Work Day is scheduled for May 17th, 2019.

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

Action Items

- *Schedule a meeting with Howard at DPW to discuss paving conditions. Evaluate these roads for the next study group.*
- *Office of Transportation will coordinate with the Administration and Council to seat a new County Council representative on the Bicycle Advisory Group.*