



Howard County Bicycle Advisory Group

3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-4312

Jack Guarneri, Chair
Chris Tsien, Vice Chair

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BICYCLE ADVISORY GROUP (BAG)

September 17, 2019 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The George Howard Building – Columbia-Ellicott Room
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

MINUTES

Members Present

Jessica Bellah
Jennifer Biddle
Jack Guarneri
Deb Jung
Jon Mayer (for Peter Sotherland)
Jay Weber (for Lt Jeff Specht)
Larry Schoen
Chris Tsien
Paul Walsky

Office of Transportation Staff

Chris Eatough
Albert Guiney Engel
Bruce Gartner, Administrator

Non-Members Present

Allysha Lorber, JMT
Jenn Lishman Nunn, JMT
Christopher Ranken, State Highway Administration
Derek Riley, State Highway Administration
David Zinner, Multimodal Transportation Board

1. Approval of minutes from June 19, 2019 BAG meeting (audio 0:46)

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM. Chris Tsien moved to approve the minutes from the June 19th meeting with no amendments. Jack Guarneri seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

2. Countywide Bike Wayfinding Kickoff (audio 5:14)

Chris Eatough introduced the countywide bike wayfinding project, stating that the goal is to make it easier for people to use the bicycle facility network within the County. Allysha Lorber of JMT, the County's consultant on this project, provided additional details, and Jenn Lishman Nunn of JMT provided a demonstration of the online public input Wikimap the County planned to use to identify desired origins and destinations for the wayfinding system.



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BAG members requested a 48-hour pilot period to test and comment upon the Wikimap, to which Albert Guiney Engel and Chris Eatough agreed.

3. Hickory Ridge Bike Corridor (audio 29:13)

Albert presented an overview of the goals and process of the Hickory Ridge Bike Corridor process and distributed to those in attendance a summary of public input received through the project's online survey, which closed on September 15th. The survey accrued over 200 responses and provided feedback as to which factors most contributed to stress on various road segments within Hickory Ridge.

Attendees discussed the need to better connect Rive Hill to Columbia, proposed expanding the study area to the west. Larry Schoen asked about the possibility of a low-impact path through the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area.

Attendees also discussed the possibility of a road diet or lane on Cedar Lane between Freetown Road and Grace Drive. Chris Eatough stated that the average annual daily traffic (AADT) on the roadway exceeded guidance for road diets, but that it was possible space from the current roadway could be used instead for a sidepath.

4. HCPSS Bicycle Safety Training (audio 47:40)

Jack discussed Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) Policy 9090 and the partnerships between the Bicycle Advocates and HCPSS. He stated that while the Bicycle Advocates are in the process of delivering a new grant to HCPSS, that in the long term HCPSS must be able to take on program and maintenance expenses.

5. Patching of Cycling Roads (audio 49:40)

Jack related that he looked at what was discussed at the inaugural BAG meeting, in March 2009, and found that the issue of road maintenance—specifically, maintenance of roads in western Howard County typically used by recreation riders—had been discussed. He stated that the County had stopped using the “chip and seal” method of maintenance—which presents hazards for cycling—since then, but then restarted using that method on roads including Triadelphia Road, Underwood Road, Mount View Road, Sand Hill Road, and Route 99, and added that the quality of recent “chip and seal” patching was low.

Jack asked Jenn Biddle if the resurfacing budget had recovered from last year's depletion due to Ellicott City emergency maintenance. Jenn replied that she did not know since she is in Traffic Engineering rather than working specifically with that capital project. She added that in the case of Ellicott City, funding was restored too late in the year and there were no contractors available to perform the work.



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Jack suggested that Kris Jagarapu, Chief of the Bureau of Highways within the Department of Public Works, be invited to the next meeting. David Zinner requested that New Cut Road be reopened for bicycling, but Jenn responded that it was not yet safe. Marlene Hendler added that, as a wheelchair user, she appreciated bike lanes as an available space for her to use along the roadways.

6. Scheduling of 2020 BAG Meetings (audio 57:35)

Albert presented two schedule proposals for the following year of BAG meetings: one proposal with four meetings (as has been BAG practice as the minimum required by County code) and one proposal with five meetings (the additional meeting to be held in November to compensate for the two hours of annual BAG time that has been assigned to joint meetings since the adoption of CB20-2017). Jessica Bellah moved to adopt the five-meeting schedule. Chris Tsien seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

7. Open Discussion Period (audio 58:55)

The following announcements were made:

- Chris Tsien announced that Free Bikes 4 Kidz Maryland would be collecting bicycles for kids at Howard County fire stations.
- Chris Eatough announced that the Columbia Bikeabout would take place on September 28th.
- David Zinner suggested that the BAG conduct field trips to any project within the Bicycle Master Plan that is over a million dollars. Chris Eatough stated that it was substantial work to plan and execute such a trip, but there were only three current projects exceeding that threshold.
- Derek Riley stated that MD 108 between Centre Park Drive and MD 104, currently being resurfaced, was not wide enough for bike lanes but would be signed with Bikes May Use Full Lane signs.
- Marlene stated that she had received an award from the Maryland Association for Community Services for her work on transportation.

8. Adjournment and Transition to Joint Meeting with TPAAG (audio 1:06:29)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 PM

Action Items

- *The Office of Transportation would provide a 48-hour wayfinding Wikimap testing period to BAG members*




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- *The Office of Transportation would invite Kris Jagarapu to the next BAG meeting to discuss patching of cycling roads*



Bruce Gartner
Executive Secretary

11/18/19

Date

DRAFT