



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION
3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-4312

Jack Guarneri, Chair
Chris Tsien, Vice Chair

Transportation@howardcountymd.gov
FAX 410-313-1655
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BICYCLE ADVISORY GROUP (BAG)

November 18, 2019 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
The George Howard Building – Columbia-Ellicott Room
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

MINUTES

Members Present:

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

Office of Transportation Staff:

Bruce Gartner, Administrator
Chris Eatough
Rashidi Jackson
Allison Calkins
Albert Engel
Kimberly Woods

Non-Members Present:

Allysha Lorber, JMT
Jenn Lishman Nunn, JMT
Derek Riley, State Highway Administration
Kris Jagarapu, DPW/Highways
Kevin McAliley, Bike HoCo
Kristen Russell, Columbia Association
Kris Singleton, DPW
Mary Chiu
Drew Roth
Alan Heck
James Denny
Eric Miller



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1. Approval of minutes from September 17, 2019 BAG meeting (audio 0:46)

Deb Jung moved to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2019 meeting with no amendments. Chris Tsien seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

2. Upcoming Events Announcements (audio 3:37)

Chris Eatough began the meeting by informing attendees of upcoming events. A public meeting will be held November 19th related to bicycle and pedestrian access to the bikeway area (Oakland Mills and Robert Fulton Dr). There will be a Transportation Forum on December 2nd at the Elkrige Fire station. January 14th is the next scheduled BAG meeting, and the following day there will be a public meeting discussing the Hickory Ridge bike corridor project. The annual Bike Howard open house will be held on January 29th.

3. Complete Streets Implementation Update (5:30)

Chris Eatough informed attendees that there is now an official Complete Streets Policy, passed on October 7th by County Council. Complete Streets is now a resolution in Howard County. Chris Eatough provided attendees with a summary of the Complete Street Policy informing them that safety is the #1 factor and all road users need to be considered in planning, design, operation and maintenance of streets. The next step of the process is to update the design manual within the next 24 months according to the policy. The county is aiming for 18 months. Jack Guarneri asked whether the traffic impact studies analyzed pedestrians and bicycles. A discussion followed about the lack of pedestrian and bicycle studies and how all modes should be considered in all decisions. Chris informed attendees that within the next 24 months the County Administration must make updates to developmental regulations in the short term. In addition, the County Administration has 12 months to complete public engagement procedures as part of the Complete Streets Policy, as well as 12 months to establish a new project prioritization process. Semi-annual reports will be due to the County Council the first report is due by May 2020.

4. Robert Fulton Drive Pathway- Concept Options (audio 21:48)

Albert Engel informed the group that Option 2C was added to the list of concept options since the last BAG meeting. Albert Engel presented a map containing all the concept options as well as table with key takeaways from



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each concept option. Albert Engel informed the group that all the information presented will be available online tomorrow for anyone who was interested. The group discussed and asked Albert Engel a few questions regarding the concept options. Albert informed the group that he will be looking to the public to find out where they should be prioritizing their design efforts.

5. Road Patching (audio 29:33)

Kris Jagarapu, DPW Bureau of Highways (BoH) Chief, was introduced to answer questions and concerns regarding road patching. Chris Tien inquired about BoH plans for next year regarding road patching, priority areas, and how would people be able to find out more information like when work will be done and where. Kris Jagarapu gave attendees a brief overview on how BoH come up with a tentative road repaving list. Every two years assessments are done on the county roadways. 2017 was the most recent year the assessment was done. Kris Jagarapu announced that the 2019 assessment should be completed by the 2nd week of December. The purpose of the assessment is to find out what roadways need to be repaved and create a priority list. Kris Jagarapu informed the group that the needs are much higher than the funding levels. The last couple of years BoH have been receiving just five million dollars in funds to resurface roadways, when two to three times that amount is needed. Kris Jagarapu was asked how the Complete Streets Policy would affect his department's policies and procedures. Kris Jagarapu answered by informing the group that there will be a transition period to adjust to the Complete Streets Policy and gave a few examples. Kris Jagarapu announced to the group that his goal is to prioritize the work. Bruce Gartner added to the discussion by mentioning that there has been more dialogue between the departments (OoT and BoH) due to the Complete Streets Policy.

6. FY2021 Capital Budget Discussion (audio 51:15)

Albert Engel distributed a handout to the group that showed how the Office of Transportation's requested budget would be distributed for the upcoming Fiscal Year. Albert Engel informed the group that Project #5 (South Entrance Trail) construction budget increased based on new estimates. \$1.1 million is proposed to be allocated by the county and \$3.6 million in grants totaling \$4.7 million which qualified the project for the Transportation Alternatives Grant. Albert Engel informed the group that he is optimistic that the grant will be awarded because the state has been supportive of the project since the beginning. Albert Engel briefly discussed Projects #17 and #19, wrapping up the discussion with Project #16.



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Chris Tsien asked whether the order of the projects listed on the handout were by priority, to which the answer was no. Chris Eatough informed the group that for FY2021 the Office of Transportation is requesting \$3.5 million from the Capital Budget for bicycle infrastructure projects. A brief discussion ensued regarding the capital budget with Angela Cabellon (Deputy Chief Administrative Officer). An attendee, Drew Roth, voiced concerns about the lack of funding projects in District One specifically in Elkridge. Drew Roth was informed that Columbia Road and North Chatham Road are District One projects which were listed on the Bike Howard Express Budget Request handout and that bike lanes through resurfacing in District 1 are not individually listed.

7. Countywide Bike Wayfinding (audio 1:12)

i. Draft Sign Logos

JMT consultant Allysha Lorber presented a presentation regarding potential logos and sign concept designs. Allysha Lorber informed the group that the wayfinding goal is to help people feel confident in choosing bicycling over other modes of transportation, with the primary focus being on the eastern half of the county. Allysha presented four potential logos for the sign and attendees were asked to vote for their favorite log. ptions B & D were majority favorites.

ii. Draft Wayfinding Routes

At the previous meeting, attendees were asked to participate in an online crowdsourcing WikiMap survey. The goal of the survey was to determine the desired bike routes for wayfinding in Howard County. Allysha Lorber informed the group that 255 people participated in the survey. Allysha Lorber wanted to know whether the routes highlighted from the survey were the right destination routes to be considered as the primary biking routes. Attendees were asked to draw lines on maps bought in by Allysha Lorber to figure out what routes should be considered as primary routes. The purpose of the activity was to help JMT figure out whether they are moving in the correct direction.

[Audio was paused from 4:30 pm to 4:44 pm while the group participated in an interactive activity.]

After the interactive activity Allysha Lorbr informed the group that they would be refining the primary route map and posting it online.



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The next step in the process will be to physically review the routes to help them identify where signs might be best placed. Phase two of the project will be implementing a plan on the specific information for each sign.

8. Open Discussion Period (1:30)

Chris Tsien informed the group about a recent Bike Maryland meeting regarding legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session. Vulnerable Road Users were one of the main priorities discussed at the meeting. Chris Tsien announced that Bike Maryland is trying to figure out why Senator Zirkin isn't on board with the idea and the group plan on meeting with Senator Zirkin to further discuss the issue. Chris Tsien further explained that bikeway funding from the state was vetoed by Governor Hogan last year. There will be opportunity coming up to override the veto within the first 10 days of the legislative session. Chris suggested that attendees reach out to their representatives and senators to encourage them to support override of the veto.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Bruce Gartner Date
Executive Secretary

Kimberly Woods

Recording Secretary Date