



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
www.pgplanning.org

Active Transportation Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 1, 2021

7:00 to 8:45 PM

Attendees:

1. Victor Weissberg, Prince George's County Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T)
2. Bryan Barnett-Woods, Prince George's County Planning Department (M-NCPPC)
3. Michael Jackson, M-NCPPC
4. Marian Dombroski, Citizen
5. Stephanie Piperno, Capital Trails Coalition
6. Robert Patten, Department of Parks and Recreation
7. Nima Upadhyay, DPW&T
8. Pat Jackman, Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee
9. Stacey M. King, DPW&T
10. Bradley Hutt, Brandywine resident
11. Jim Titus, Maryland Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
12. Mitch Williams, Citizen
13. Kipling Reynolds, M-NCPPC
14. Robert Patten, Department of Parks and Recreation (M-NCPPC)
15. Dave Helms, Citizen
16. Deborah Gebhardt, Citizen
17. Jeremiah Lowery, Washington Area Bicyclists Association
18. Andrea Lasker, DPW&T
19. Jack Koczela, Citizen
20. Sgt. Charles Calvin, M-NCPPC Police
21. Joshi Madhusudan, Guest
22. Carmen, Guest
23. Patrick Wojahn, Mayor of College Park
24. Emmett Jordan, Mayor Pro Tem of Greenbelt
25. Chawndese Hylton
26. Dana Nau, Guest

27. Karyn McAlister, D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT).
28. Troy Lilly, Guest

Welcome & Introductions

Michael Jackson started the meeting with a brief round of introductions at 7:05 PM.

ATAG Purpose and Meeting Frequency

Michael discussed ATAG's purpose and noted that meeting times were shifted from the afternoon to evenings for increasing opportunities for citizen participation. Meetings are quarterly on the first Mondays in March, June and December and the second Monday in September from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Follow Up Items from December meeting

Updates on the retail bicycle parking legislative proposal and the Bill Kelly Memorial Bicycle Facility proposal were shared by Michael.

Retail Bike Parking

Michael said following an internal discussion by staff, strategy considerations to increase bicycle parking at existing retail locations have expanded beyond legislative proposals. Attendees noted they locked their bicycles to objects like trees or shopping cart corrals when bicycle racks are not provided. Dave Helms said Montgomery County has budgeted funds to provide bicycle racks within the public right-of-way. Mitch Williams said there is a DC based app called Our Streets that tracks bike rack locations. Andrea Lasker and Nima Upadhyay mentioned that DPW&T have identified 25 locations within the county to install publically funded bike racks.

Bill Kelly Memorial

Pursuant to the support of a memorial to long time Prince George's County resident and citizen bicycle advocate, Bill Kelly at the December 2020 ATAG meeting, M-NCPPC staff have been researching the procedure for naming Commission facilities after an individual, Michael reported. Bob Patten suggested the new segment of the Little Paint Branch Trail along Cherry Hill Road or the trail rest area at the intersection of the Little Paint Branch and Cherry Hill Road as candidates. Patrick Wojahn, College Park mayor expressed his support of honoring Bill Kelly.

Upcoming Area Master Plans

Bryan Barnett-Woods shared information on the Adelphi Road/Purple Line Station, Bowie, and West Hyattsville area master plan updates including notifying attendees of a virtual West Hyattsville Area Master Plan Virtual Open House scheduled for Saturday, March 13th. He also provided a link in the chat room to the virtual open house and gave details on the Langley Park Bicycle Boulevards virtual community meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 18th including a

link in the chat room. Finally, he informed attendees of the anticipated summer 2021 commencement of the Master Plan of Transportation (MPOT) update, noting the MPOT update website is not yet posted. Chawndese Hylton inquired about the status of the Central Avenue Connector Trail project. Bob replied there is a sector plan for this project and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is the lead agency. He anticipates the Central Avenue Connector Trail project will take years to complete. One of the next tasks is to refine the path alignment.

Troy Lilly from the Forest Heights/Oxon Hills community sought a status update on Oxon Run Trail. Bob said the path is currently discontinuous as two bridges are needed to cross streams but assured attendees DPR plans to construct the needed bridges. Attendees wanted to learn whether there are plans to expand Capital Bikeshare within Prince George's County. It was recommended that Tiffany Jennings, the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator, be invited to the June ATAG meeting to discuss bikeshare expansion in the county.

Vision Zero Update

Vision Zero coordinator Andrea Lasker noted the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) adopted Vision Zero in 2019 and County Executive Angela Alsobrooks is committed to the program. She described a Vision Zero public outreach event at Prince George's Plaza featuring the Street Smart public information campaign, "Lives Shatter On Impact". Andrea provided attendees information on the March 4th Climate Action Plan.

DPR Shared Use Path Update

Bob Patten, DPR Trails Program Manager provided a detailed update on various shared use path projects being undertaken by DPR. Below is a summary listing:

Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail Extension is being led by the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA).

Little Paint Branch Trail was recently extended parallel to Cherry Hill Road and Sellman Road to connect existing path segments south of Cherry Hill Road and north of Sellman Road.

The College Woods Trail opened last fall. It connects the College Woods neighborhood to the Little Paint Branch Trail.

Design continues on the Central Avenue Connector Trail project.

The WB&A bridge project which will cross the Patuxent River and connect existing WB&A Trail segments in Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties is undergoing design.

The planned Center of Bowie Heritage Trail will connect Bowie State University with Old Town Bowie.

DNR is improving existing underpasses that are subject to flooding along the Paint Branch Trail at US 1/Baltimore Avenue and at the Metrorail Green Line undercrossing at Lake Artemesia, including the installation of solar powered lighting.

The scope of work for design and construction of the Oxon Run Trail is completed and has been put out to bid. The Suitland Parkway Trail project is moving forward with a feasibility study being conducted by the National Park Service. Bob noted that the existing DC portion of the Suitland Parkway Trail is poorly designed and maintained and would need upgrading to reach its full potential. He opined the Maryland portion of this planned shared use path should be located away from the roadway to improve the aesthetic, aural and environment experience of path users.

There are plans to extend the Anacostia Trail segment in Colmar Manor to connect with a planned Dueling Grounds Trail on the south side of Alternative US 1/Bladensburg Road, adjacent to Fort Lincoln Cemetery. Working with PEPCO to secure permission to build a shared use path along their overhead power line right-of-way through northwestern Prince George's County is a possibility.

Additional DPR initiatives to improve the shared use path user experience include removing bollards because users collide into them, modifying path bridge decks to reduce slippery surfaces and implementing a Trail Ambassador program, particularly favored by DPR Director Bill Tyler. Bob is contemplating applying for a Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) grant to fund design of a shared use path which would connect the Fort Totten Metrorail station and the extension of the Metropolitan Branch Trail in N.E. DC to the N.W Branch Trail near the West Hyattsville Metrorail station. A new map of the Anacostia River Trails network has been published.

Bob is also reviewing the intersections of the Sligo Creek Trail and MD 410/East-West Highway and MD 212/Riggs Road for potential improvements for path users. He is also reviewing strategies to adopt address and reference mile post systems for DPR shared use paths which would aid in pinpointing exact locations along the paths. Dave Helms said improving the dispatch of emergency and law enforcement personnel should be a priority.

Karyn McAllister noted there are social media feeds regarding existing and future shared use paths. Dave wondered if government staff monitored these feeds to gain information as to public opinion of paths their agencies are responsible for. Michael said the ATAG website lists contact information for reported maintenance needs for state highways, county highways and DNR shared use paths.

Miscellaneous

It was noted that Sunnyside Avenue needs safety improvements along its alignment between US 1/Baltimore Avenue and MD 201/Edmonston Road. Attendees were informed that Michael would be briefing the Prince George's County Planning Commissioners on ATAG on March 11th.

Andrea asked how will attendees be notified about future ATAG meetings. Bryan responded that notification will be handled through the Planning Department's social media staff.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:48 PM

