

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Minutes of June Meeting

Friday, June 9, 2000

10 am till noon

Maryland Department of Transportation

BWI Airport, MD

ATTENDEES:

MBPAC Members Present (no quorum):

Randy Mardres, Metro DC Area, 301- 890- 0064, Rmardres@juno.com

Sgt. Dave Jones, Maryland State Police, 410-582-5618x5605, jones3@sha.state.md.us

Mike Levengood, Baltimore Area, 410-876-3373, rideleader@msn.com

Chair: Randy Mardres

Visitors from Maryland State Agencies:

Doug Simmons, SHA 410-545-5674, dsimmons@sha.state.md.us

Others:

Paul Lebow, One Less Car, 202-767-3006, info@onelesscar.org

Barry Bergman, Baltimore Metropolitan Council, 410-732-0500 x 1048 bbergman@balmetro.org

Steve McHenry, TSC-CAC 410-789-8705, srmchenry@mindspring.com

Old Business:

MBPAC Retreat

In response to question posed by Mike Levengood, Doug Simmons indicated that SHA would fund the retreat; MTA would fund a group dynamics and communications facilitator (and an SHA facilitator?). No time or date was set for the retreat.

MBPAC/MDOT Communications

Paul Lebow raised the issue of improved communications between the committee and MDOT. Pending the appointment of the Director of Bicycle and Pedestrian Access a point of contact is needed for updates on bike/ped activities within the administration.

Steve McHenry expressed concern about the timing of notification of various bike/ped activities conducted by the state. The concern is that information is passed to the committee with little or no time for input from the members. He cited the safety campaign presented at the May meeting and the employment notice presented at the special meeting with the Secretary. Mike Levengood concurred.

Doug Simmons said he would look into identifying a point of contact in the administration for more efficient and timely communications with the BAC. He also pointed out that there needs to be more inclusion of the SHA bike/ped coordinator, Harvey Muller, in legislative and policy discussions.

There was a general consensus that the existence of the Director will go a long way to solving these communications issues.

Field Review – “Hot Spots” Tours

General discussion of planned SHA tours in July to identify bicycle problem areas in need of immediate attention. The designations, “Hot Spots”, “Field Review” and “Bicycle Retrofit Program” have all been used. The question was raised “is there a preferred term?” There appears not.

Doug Simmons stressed Parker’s “Field Review” is an addition to the “Hot Spot” program and emphasized that the opportunity for dialogue between MBPAC members and SHA officials during the tours was very important. He considers it a pilot program but at the same time other bike/ped programs are underway, independent of the field review.

It was noted the dates for the Carroll and Howard County tour conflicts with the July 20 meeting scheduled with the Governor.

Randy Mardres requested the dates for the Montgomery and Prince Georges County tour be confirmed. Barry Bergman asked to be notified of the dates for the Baltimore tour. Doug Simmons said he would do that.

Randy Mardres reviewed the history of the “Hot Spots” program, and suggested there were indications that not all locations submitted by MBAC members were considered or evaluated. He requested an updated list of SHA District contacts be sent to the committee and for the BAC to be formally notified when Bike/Ped Point of Contacts changes in SHA take place in the future.

May Meeting Minutes approval

Approved as modified with Barry Bergman’s correct telephone number, 410-732-0500 ext. 1048.

MBAC Annual Report

Jim Hudnall expects to return from Amsterdam by July 6. Wants to finish report by August. There were suggestions to include additional information such as a status of the Field Review with photographs, the result of the rail on-site evaluation with Diane Ratcliff, input from the Department of Health, Education and Development (Mike Levengood), the Governors Council on Physical Fitness (Paul Lebow) and the Baltimore region (Barry Bergman)

Bikes on Trains

Mike Levengood discussed the approach New Jersey is taking to accommodate bicycles on trains. He said no permits are required, no peak period or directional restrictions and they are much more lax regarding precautions that must be taken to secure bikes on board. No tie-downs are required. Two bicycles are allowed on cars designated by a blue symbol and 40% of the cars are so designated. There is no extra charge for bicycles and there are free racks and leased lockers available to accommodate 1800 bikes throughout the system. Mike said he would present this to Diane Ratcliff for her comments on the New Jersey situation verses Maryland.

Randy Mardres commented that Secretary Porcari has made bicycles aboard trains a high priority. He relayed the statement from Diane Ratcliff that the process of obtaining locker keys is being streamlined. Doug Simmons said he would give an update on the bike locker situation.

New Business:**July Meeting with Governor Glendening**

The discussion dealt with the meeting set up by Chairman Kelly to meet with the Governor on July 20. Mike Levensgood mentioned that the report should be ready by then and relayed and supported Jim Hudnall's desire to present it to the Governor prior to the meeting. Doug Simmons stated that Harvey Muller plans to attend the meeting.

The point was made that Chairman Kelly should set the agenda for the meeting. A suggestion for an agenda item was to ask for the Governor's support and assistance in increasing the involvement of other state agencies with bicycle and pedestrian concerns. There was a general consensus that there should be regular attendance at the MBPAC meeting by representatives from these agencies.

State Police Report

Sgt. Dave Jones, MBPAC representative from the Maryland State Police, presented a press release regarding Bicycle Safety Month.

The question was raised regarding whether there was a reward being offered for the capture of driver involved in a hit-and-run bicycle fatality in College Park this spring. Officer Jones did not think there was one.

Office Jones has passed his exam for promotion. He is not sure if there will be a change of command and if he would still retain his association with the MBPAC.

Summary of Action Items:

Doug Simmons:

- Identify interim MDOT point of contact.
- Resolve schedule conflict and notification of field bus tour dates.
- Update on bicycle locker and key availability status.

Mike Levensgood:

- Brief Diane Ratcliff on NJ bikes-on-trains policy.

Paul Lebow:

- Contact Charles Chester of MD Council on Physical Fitness for MBPAC annual report.

Barry Bergman:

- Include contribution from Baltimore Metro Council for MBPAC annual report.