

# Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

## Minutes of December Meeting

Friday, December 8, 2000

10 am till noon

Maryland Department of Transportation

BWI Airport, MD

### ATTENDEES

#### MBPAC Members Present:

Bill Kelly, Chairman, DC Metro Area, 301-441-2740, [ws.kelly@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ws.kelly@worldnet.att.net)  
Michael Jackson, Dept. of Transportation, 410-865-1237, [mjackson3@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:mjackson3@mdot.state.md.us)  
Don LaFond, Dept. of Education, 410-767-0209, [dlafond@msde.state.md.us](mailto:dlafond@msde.state.md.us)  
Mike Levengood, Baltimore Area, 410-876-3373, [rideleader@msn.com](mailto:rideleader@msn.com)  
Randy Mardres, Metro DC Area, 301-890-0064, [rmardres@juno.com](mailto:rmardres@juno.com)  
Matt Miller, Dept. of Economic Dev., 410-767-6272, [mmiller@mdbusiness.state.md.us](mailto:mmiller@mdbusiness.state.md.us)  
Bill Siwak, Southern Maryland, 410-757-1318, [bsiwak@annapolis.net](mailto:bsiwak@annapolis.net)  
David Taylor, Dept. of Natural Resources, 410-260-8162, [dtaylor@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:dtaylor@dnr.state.md.us)  
Gregg Ukaegbu, Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene, 410-767-5780, [gukaegbu@dhmh.state.md.us](mailto:gukaegbu@dhmh.state.md.us)

#### MBPAC Members Absent:

Dave Jones, Maryland State Police, 410-582-5618x5605, [djones3@sha.state.md.us](mailto:djones3@sha.state.md.us)  
Bob Moore, Baltimore Area, 410-435-6623, [bikemoore@smart.net](mailto:bikemoore@smart.net)  
Jim Phillips, Eastern Shore, 410-543-6007, [jlphillips@ssu.edu](mailto:jlphillips@ssu.edu)  
Carl Rebele, Western Maryland, 301-387-6399, [creb@mail2.gcnet.net](mailto:creb@mail2.gcnet.net)

#### Visitors from Maryland State Agencies:

Jill Adler, Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene, 410-767-5032, [adlerj@dhmh.state.md.us](mailto:adlerj@dhmh.state.md.us)  
George Branyan, SHA/MHSO, 410-582-5578, [gbranyan@sha.state.md.us](mailto:gbranyan@sha.state.md.us)  
Bob Herstein, SHA Office of Traffic and Safety, 410-787-5867, [rherstein@sha.state.md.us](mailto:rherstein@sha.state.md.us)  
Marsha Kaiser, MDOT, 410-865-1275, [mkaiser@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:mkaiser@mdot.state.md.us)  
Harvey Muller, SHA, 410-545-5656, [hmuller@sha.state.md.us](mailto:hmuller@sha.state.md.us)  
Diane Ratcliff, MTA, 410-767-3771, [dratcliff@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:dratcliff@mdot.state.md.us)  
Sharon Reichlyn, Md. Dept. of Planning, 410-767-4512, [sreichlyn@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:sreichlyn@mdp.state.md.us)  
Doug Simmons, SHA 410-545-5674, [dsimmons@sha.state.md.us](mailto:dsimmons@sha.state.md.us)

#### Other Visitors:

Barry Bergman, Baltimore Metro. Council, 410-732-0500 ext.1048, [bbergman@baltometro.org](mailto:bbergman@baltometro.org)  
Bob Chauncey, One Less Car, 410-810-9011, [execdir@onelesscar.org](mailto:execdir@onelesscar.org)  
Stan Doore, Calverton Citizens Association, 301-572-4939, [stan.doore@att.net](mailto:stan.doore@att.net)  
Jim Hudnall, Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club, 301-567-0089, [judnall@concentric.net](mailto:judnall@concentric.net)  
Paul Lebow, One Less Car, 202-767-3006, [info@onelesscar.org](mailto:info@onelesscar.org)  
Debbie Mayer, Rockville Bike Coordinator, 301-315-5796, [demayer@ci.rockville.md.us](mailto:demayer@ci.rockville.md.us)  
Steven R. McHenry, BRTB-CAC, 410-789-8705, [srmchenry@mindspring.com](mailto:srmchenry@mindspring.com)  
Brian Muldoon, Howard County Transportation Planning Division, 410-313-4363  
John Overstreet, Baltimore Bicycling Club, 410-969-4717  
Tom Robertson, M-NCPPC Montgomery Co., 301-495-4563, [robertson@mncppc.state.md.us](mailto:robertson@mncppc.state.md.us)  
Fred Shaffer, M-NCPPC Prince George's BTAG, 301-952-3661, [fshaffer@mncppc.state.md.us](mailto:fshaffer@mncppc.state.md.us)  
John Z. Wetmore, Perils For Pedestrians TV, 301-654-5305, [john@pedestrians.org](mailto:john@pedestrians.org)

## MINUTES

### Introductions

During the introductions, George Branyan was asked about the Maryland Safe Communities Program. George and others spoke on some of the issues in pedestrian safety: crosswalks not where the bus stops are; light timing too short, especially for seniors; safety campaigns need to be in more languages; overtime for enforcement; vehicular speeds; pedestrian access to private facilities such as stadiums; planning for pedestrian access; technical assistance needed by local jurisdictions for planning and building facilities; ADA requirements; levels of law enforcement in different states; and the need for training for judges to increase levels of enforcement and penalties when motorists violate laws against pedestrians.

### Approval of November Meeting Minutes

Minutes are online at the MBPAC Web site (<http://ohbike.org/mbpac>). Marsha Kaiser said that MDOT will have a link to the MBPAC Web site.

### Director of Bicycle and Pedestrian Access

Michael Jackson started on November 15 as Maryland's Director of Bicycle and Pedestrian Access. Michael is a native of the District of Columbia and started his career as assistant bike coordinator in the DC Public Works Department. From 1982 to 1985 he was the DC Bike Coordinator. He then went to San Diego as the city bike coordinator for ten years, during which time there were more than 100 miles of new bike ways. He earned a law degree, worked as a consultant for a civil engineering company, and became the Bicycle Coordinator for Contra Costa County. While in California he was active in bicycling advocacy, working with the San Diego Bicycle Coalition and East Bay Bicycle Coalition, serving as president of California Association of Bicycle Organizations, and being one of the founders of the California Bicycling Coalition. For the 14 months prior to coming to Maryland, Michael was the State Bicycle Coordinator in Minnesota.

Michael was asked about his background and interest in pedestrian issues. He said he would like to see pedestrians represented on the committee and to learn who are the pedestrian spokespeople. He wants to promote walking as a legitimate way of getting around. He would like to see pedestrian activity centers, more and better-located sidewalks, and community design and land use that are attractive to pedestrians. He would like to look at causes of pedestrian injuries and what is being done to reduce injuries.

Michael was also asked about his experience and vision for schools and bicycle education. He said his philosophy is to design education programs that everyone can relate to, and then branch out to specific groups. He cited the success of the "Only you can prevent forest fires" campaign that was aimed at everyone. Michael spoke of his successes in bicycle education, starting with a video produced in DC in the early 80's, "Bicycling is Serious Business." He had a successful campaign with messages on transit: wear helmets - be smart - helmets save lives; bicyclists must obey traffic control devices; bicyclists, be seen, use lights and be visible; and never ride against traffic - go with the flow. He developed the 32 page San Diego Bicyclist Guide. He wants to work with mass media to get the message out and he wants to analyze crash and injury records to focus attention to likely problems.

Michael spoke of the increasing number of Spanish speaking people and the need to reach them and overcome the distrust of government that many have. He wants road design in such a way there are more friendly roads for all users. He wants to be of assistance to Baltimore and help Baltimore set an example of good bike/ped design that can be emulated by others. Michael spoke of the need for a strong "iron triangle" - citizens, elected officials, and staff. He wants to make Maryland the best in the nation for bike/ped.

Marsh Kaiser said that Michael, as Director of Bicycle and Pedestrian Access, is Secretary Pocari's "lynchpin" in his vision of a more proactive and aggressive MDOT that will give Maryland the best bike/ped access in the nation. She said that state agencies want to support the MBPAC and that MDOT can provide a facilitator to help the MBPAC develop a mission-vision-values statement and a work plan.

### **Public Health, Fitness, and Exercise**

Jill Adler, Coordinator of Physical Activity Programs in the Division of Cardiovascular Health & Nutrition of the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, reported that cardiovascular disease is the number one killer in Maryland and the United States. One quarter of the population has some form of cardiovascular disease. Obesity is considered an epidemic. Over 50% of Marylanders are not doing enough physical activity for health benefits, with seniors the least active. Health people are not recommending "exercise" (because "exercise" intimidates people), but they are recommending "physical activity" (natural activity, with no need for vigorous exercise.) Individual behavior change has not worked, so the focus now is on environment and policy changes, such as better neighborhood design (walkable communities).

Jill chairs MOVE IT Maryland! - a coalition of organizations working to promote physical activity and healthful eating throughout Maryland for the purpose of improving health and preventing chronic diseases. (see <http://mdpublichealth.org/ocd/cardio/html/mim.html>) She funds thirteen county health departments and wants to connect MBPAC members to health people. She recently put on a conference for twenty-three county health departments focusing on bike/ped issues and encouraging partnerships. Counties are promoting physical activity in schools, businesses, and the faith community.

Gregg Ukaegbu, MBPAC representative from Office of Injury & Disability Prevention in the Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene, said he would like to establish areas of cooperation.

Steve McHenry asked how the MBPAC could help in better neighborhood design. Jill answered, "We need to work together to get better infrastructure and be technical assistants to each other."

John Wetmore said the average block size is key in people walking more. He recommended the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Web site on Active Community Environments (<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/aces.htm>).

Paul Lebow said the bike/ped community needs help from the health professions on the benefits justifying the needs for bike/ped facilities.

### **Potomac Heritage Trail**

Fred Shaffer made a presentation on the Potomac Heritage Trail (PHT) being planned in Prince George's County as part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, a planned long-distance trail that will travel along or near the Potomac River shoreline the entire length of the river from the Appalachians to the Chesapeake Bay. The trail was originally proposed in the mid-1960's and was designated by Congress as a component of the National Trails System on March 28, 1983.

In 1999, a subcommittee of the County's Bicycle and Trails Advisory Group (BTAG) was formed to further explore potential routes for both a Potomac Heritage Trail on-road bicycle route and a future off-road trail. The bike route uses existing county roads and highlights Prince George's County 20-mile shoreline of the Potomac River by linking the many scenic, recreational, natural, cultural, and historical features found along and near the river. Fred distributed copies of the new PHT map produced by M-NCPPC in partnership with the Potomac Heritage Partnership, the National Park Service, the Southern Prince George's County Trails Coalition, and the Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club.

The BTAG subcommittee has also explored possible routes for a future multi-use trail. Such a trail could potentially accommodate hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, and others. A water trail could even be incorporated into the plans. While many obstacles to the completion of such a trail exist, many opportunities are also present as over 45 percent of the Potomac River shoreline in Prince George's County is publicly-owned and many natural surface and multi-use trails do exist or are planned on or near the river. Much work needs to be done with the communities along the river to determine the most desirable route.

### **Bikes on Rails/Buses**

Diane Ratcliff gave an update on bikes on trains and buses, reporting that progress is being made on both.

### **2012 Olympics, Bridges, and a Bike/Ped Coordination Committee**

Stan Doore stated that the Olympic Committee predicts a windfall of \$5 billion for the local economy and emphasized the importance of getting projects developed that are already planned. He talked about wooden bridges and their benefits, referring to the Web site of York Bridge Concepts (<http://www.ybc.com/>). Stan also suggested that consideration be given to having a Maryland State Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordination Committee to provide a structure for bringing different projects and agencies together. It would coordinate policy, direction and agreements, and produce an annual plan for bicycle and pedestrian activities.

### **Workshop on Walkable Communities**

Saturday, January 13, 2001, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

Auditorium of the School of Architecture, University of Maryland

Mowatt Lane and Campus Drive, College Park.

To register, phone the Washington Area Bicyclist Association at 202-628-2500 or register online at <http://www.waba.org>. Registration fee of \$15 includes lunch and refreshments. For more info on the workshop, see <http://ohbike.org/mbpac>.

### **Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Information Symposium - Wed. Feb 7, 2001 in Annapolis**

Exhibits in St. John's Hall of the Lowe Office Building during the day (9:00 am to 6:00 pm) and a discussion and Q&A with elected and state officials in the evening (6:30 pm to 9:00 pm). For more info on the workshop, see <http://ohbike.org/mbpac>.

### **MBPAC Meeting Dates in First Half of 2001**

- January 12
- February 7 (the Symposium in Annapolis)
- March 9
- April 13
- May 11
- June 8

### **Conference Dates**

- January 7-11, 2001 Transportation Research Board, Washington DC (Dan Burden will be the Key note speaker). <http://nationalacademies.org/trb/>
- March 28-30, 2001, National Bike Summit convened by the League of American Bicyclists, Washington, DC.
- September 17-21, 2001 Velo-city 2001, Edinburgh and Glasgow, Scotland. <http://velo-city2001.org/>
- September 26-29, TrailLink 2001 -The 3rd International Trails & Greenways Conference, St. Louis, MO. <http://www.railtrails.org/>.