

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP

January 15, 2025

1:02 to 2:43 PM

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Mr. Eric Leshinsky (City of Annapolis) welcomed attendees and then Ms. Charlene Mingus (BMC) held a roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

The minutes from the November BPAG meeting were previously distributed to the group. Mr. Chris Eatough (Howard County) motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Meg Young (MDOT TSO) seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

3. PRESENTATION: COMPLETE STREETS DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Ms. Young presented updates on the Complete Streets Leadership Academy. The 2024 Complete Streets Leadership Academy was launched last summer to improve cross-jurisdictional collaboration, test safety improvements, build buy-in, and remove barriers to Complete Streets and quick-builds. The academy brought together staff from the state and local jurisdictions including the City of Hagerstown, Town of Bel Air, and Howard County. Each local jurisdiction planned and installed temporary quick-build Complete Streets demonstration projects. These demonstration projects were planned, designed, constructed, and evaluated between June and November 2024. A report on the quick-builds published by Smart Growth America is coming soon. Ms. Young shared the outcomes from the Leadership Academy and the next steps in Complete Streets implementation. Learn more about the [Model Complete Streets Initiative](#) here.

[PowerPoint: MDOT Complete Streets Leadership Academy]

Mr. Eatough presented on the US 1 quick-build demonstration project that piloted street designs to better support walking, biking, and other multimodal road users. The quick-build project was located on southbound US 1 between Davis Avenue and North Laurel Road. In the study area, US 1 has four travel lanes and does not have sidewalks or bicycle infrastructure. In mid-August 2024, one travel lane on US 1 was repurposed as a walking and biking facility using pavement markings and flex-posts. The demonstration project lasted until late November

2024. Mr. Eatough shared pre and post installation crash data, speed data, and bicycle and pedestrian counts. [Learn more about the project.](#)

This project will inform the MDOT SHA Pedestrian Safety Action Plan project on US 1 from Gorman Road to the City of Laurel.

[PowerPoint: Howard County Complete Streets Demo]

Mr. Kevin Small (Town of Bel Air), presented on the Bel Air Main Street quick-build demonstration project that piloted traffic calming devices to reduce motorist speeds and to improve pedestrian visibility. Mr. Small shared details on the quick-build site, which is located at the intersection of Gordon Street and Main/Bond Street. This intersection is the main entry point from residential areas in north Harford County with a significant number of vehicles approaching the intersection at high speeds.

Mr. Small said that existing conditions analysis and community engagement was conducted before design and installation. Mr. Small shared that certain elements of the quick-build demonstration project such as speed cushions, labeled crosswalks, and the closure of a left turn lane were retained after the demonstration project ended. Next steps include conducting speed and volume measurements, coordinating with other studies, and discussing possible permanent changes to the intersection with SHA. [Learn more about the project.](#)

[PowerPoint: Howard County Complete Streets Demo; PowerPoint: Bel Air Complete Streets Demo]

Ms. Young responded to a question by sharing that the quick-builds do allow for temporary reductions in lane widths and that the new Manual of Uniform Traffic Control and Design (MUTCD) allows for more context-sensitive designs. A participant shared a link to a [2023 Johns Hopkins report](#) around narrower lane widths increasing safety. Ms. Young shared that MDOT is planning another round of quick-builds in 2025, but there is not yet a plan to create a permanent quick-build program.

4. PRESENTATION: TORREY C. BROWN TRAIL EXTENSION FEASIBILITY STUDY

Ms. Jessie Bialek (Baltimore County) shared that the Torrey C. Brown Trail, also known as the North Central Railroad (NCR) trail currently extends 19.7 miles from Ashland Road north to the Pennsylvania/Maryland State Line. The trail continues 21 miles north into Pennsylvania as the York County Heritage Rail trail.

Ms. Bialek presented on the feasibility study to evaluate options for extending the existing Torrey C. Brown Trail approximately 7 miles south from its current terminus at Ashland Road to Lake Roland Park at the Baltimore City line. The study was funded by a Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program. Facility types such as shared-use paths, sidepaths, and separated bike lanes were considered for the alignment options. [The full study can be read here.](#)

[PowerPoint: NCR Trail Extension]

5. PRESENTATION: BIKEABLE BALTIMORE REGION UPDATE

Ms. Mingus (BMC) presented an update on the Bikeable Baltimore Region (BBR) project. The second comment period, which presented the Proposed Regional Bike Network and solicited feedback, ran from November 10, 2024 to January 10, 2025. Ms. Mingus presented engagement numbers from the two public meetings, the online map, the survey, and the StoryMap and webpage views. Ms. Mingus shared the number of comments by jurisdiction received on the online map.

The project team is currently analyzing and processing comments from the second comment period. Public input will be used to identify needed updates to the Regional Bike Network, shape the project's recommendations for implementation strategies, and identify ways to measure the success of the regional network. Ms. Mingus thanked local jurisdiction, state, and community partners that helped spread the word about the comment period. The call for input was shared in newsletters, on social media, and in news articles.

[PowerPoint: Bikeable Baltimore Region Update]

6. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

City of Annapolis – Mr. Leshinsky shared that multiple capital projects are in progress. The West East Express trail is nearing completion of final design. Construction is anticipated to start early fall 2025. A Request for Proposals for the Bay Bridge Avenue Bikeway project will be released February or early March. A project to develop trail, bikeway, and water access signage-standards will be completed late spring 2025, with signs being installed after standard development. Mr. Leshinsky added, on behalf of Anne Arundel County, that parts of the Broadneck Trail along US 50 are open for use.

Baltimore County – Ms. Bialek shared that a public meeting will take place for the County's first Complete Streets project on Old Court Road at 6 pm on February 5.

Howard County – Mr. Eatough shared that Howard County will hold a Transportation Open House at 4 pm on January 30. The County will present on projects and take public input at the event.

Queen Anne's County – Mr. Steve Cohoon shared that the County is continuing construction on the South Island Trail on Kent Island. Mr. Cohoon also shared that the County has received funding through the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) Transportation and Land Use Connections Grant to look at the feasibility of extending the Cross County Connector Trail two miles east. The County is also looking to assess the feasibility of an overpass over US 50/301 on Kent Island which would provide a key connection between the Cross County Connector Trail and the South Island Trail.

Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) – Ms. Catherine Salarano reported that they had no updates at this time.

MDOT Maryland Highway Safety Office (MDOT MSHO) – Ms. Young shared that applications for [safety grants](#) are open until the end of February. These grants can be used for educational opportunities. In particular, MSHO is looking for applications regarding bicycle safety and helmet giveaways.

MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) – Ms. Molly Porter shared that SHA is wrapping up the first phase of public engagement for the second round of [Pedestrian Safety Action Plan \(PSAP\)](#) projects. Ms. Porter thanked anyone who participated and shared that she will report on results moving forward.

MDOT Transportation Secretary's Office (MDOT TSO) – Ms. Young shared that the Maryland State Transportation Trails Strategic Plan development is ongoing, and to email her, or mbpac@mdot.maryland.gov, to join the meetings. The next Advisory Committee meeting is February 7. Dates for annual grant workshops for sustainable transportation grants will be released near the end of February. Workshops will be held throughout the state.

Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) – Ms. Mingus shared that 30% design for the Stoney Run Trail segment and the Guinness to Southwest Area Park segment of the Patapsco Regional Greenway (PRG) is close to being finished. While the project to develop 30% design plans for the PRG: Cherry Hill Trail segment has recently begun. Ms. Regina Aris shared that calls for proposals for the BRTB Transportation and Land Use Connections Grant program will likely occur in April. Ms. Cindy Burch shared that the MDOT is updating the state Strategic Highway Safety Plan and holding four public meetings to gather feedback on driving behaviors that negatively impact residents. The meeting in the Baltimore region will be held at Community College of Baltimore County Dundalk, on the evening of February 19. [Learn more here](#). Ms. Burch also shared that the [Highway Safety Summit](#) will be held on April 29, and registration will open on January 30.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 19, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Jessie Bialek – Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T)
Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne's County Department of Planning
Chris Eatough – Howard County Office of Transportation
Eric Leshinsky – City of Annapolis Department of Planning
Catherine Salarano – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Brittany Sink – Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)
Brooks Phelps – Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)

Molly Porter – MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)
Meg Young – MDOT the Secretary's Office (MDOT TSO)

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Laura Bianca-Pruett – Town of Bel Air Planning Department
Timothy Briggs – BMC
Cindy Burch – BMC
Rochelle Carpenter –MDOT MTA
Omar Faison – Virginia State University
Dan Hudson – Department of Natural Resources
Andrea Jackson – BMC
Charlene Mingus – BMC
Daniel Paschall – East Coast Greenway Alliance
William Rowel – City of Annapolis
Kevin Small – Town of Bel Air Planning Department
Marium Sultan – BMC
Patrick Smith – Howard County Office of Transportation
Francine Waters – MDOT TSO
Jed Weeks – Bikemore
Antoine Wright – Morgan State University