



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
TDD 410-313-2323

BICYCLE ADVISORY GROUP (BAG)

April 6, 2021 3 p.m.

Held via WebEx event

3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

MINUTES

Members Present:

Jack Guarneri, Chair
Jon Mayer
Paul Walsky
Larry Schoen
Lt Dombrowsky

Office of Transportation Staff:

Bruce Gartner
Chris Eatough
Molly Nur
Brian Muldoon
Kimberly Woods
David Cookson
Brooks Phelps

Non-Members Present:

Warren Wortman Kris Jagarapu
Kris Singleton Emily Ranson
Trinity Cheng Marlene Hendler
Matt Tanis Marian Vessels
David Ramsay Ted Cochran
Subin George

1. Approval of January 12, 2021 minutes

a. Jack Guarneri moved to approve the minutes. Larry Schoen seconded the motion.

2. Brief Updates

a. Legislation

1. MTB/TPAG legislation – CR18-2021

- Council passed last night. The previous TPAG meeting was the last and final TPAG meeting. Marlene Hendler (previous TPAG chair) will be transitioning over to be a member of MTB.

2. Shared Streets Program – CR43-2021

- Council passed last night. This is essentially a response to the situation with COVID. There is been more people out and about walking, and some jurisdictions are finding ways to dedicate



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
TDD 410-313-2323

additional space on the streets temporarily to assist with social distancing since more people are out walking and biking.

b. E-scooter deployment

- SPIN's (e-scooter company) permit started in March 2021. The company is not ready to start citing concerns about COVID. While no official start dates have been given, they are optimistic it will happen sometime towards the end of the summer or fall. There are advertising challenges SPIN is addressing with Howard Hughes.
- Jack G. requested diagrams of the operating locations. OoT will provide.

c. Complete Streets

- Additional monthly meetings have been added to the CSIT schedule due to the increased workload and as the revised Design Manual deadline of October 2021 approaches. The next CSIT meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.
- OoT has been using and testing the Community Engagement Plan which was drafted earlier this year. OoT has started using the outreach methods and checklists that were developed from the plan for recent public meetings and the Active Transportation Open House.
- There is Complete Streets six-month update due to Council later this month that addresses tracking of performance measures from the Complete Streets policy.

d. Wayfinding project

- OoT was pursuing an experimental approval through FHWA for the signs because they were not in standards with MUTCD existing standards. OoT discovered there is an existing community wayfinding signage system that is very close to what OoT has been working on for Bikeway Finding, which includes the ability to use a color coded system and will pursue this signage instead. OoT is waiting on verification from MDOT before we proceed. The project is already funded fabrication and installation; the signs for phase one could possibly be in place possibly this fall.



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
TDD 410-313-2323

- Jack G. asked about which routes will be installed first. Chris Eatough said he can share the map of phase one and phase two with the group. Phase one routes are most complete with their infrastructure and safety. Phase two group has some routes that still have some gaps in them. They are the same as the group was shown last year.

e. Priority Letter

- OoT is currently in the process of getting signatures on it from the County Executive, state delegates, and other parties that normally sign the letter. While the goal is usually to submit the letter to the state by April 1, there is been a little bit of a delay this year.
- This year the structure of the letter has changed slightly to focus on two corridors: US1 and US29.
 - US1: to focus MDOT attention on project delivery related to projects that came out of the US1 safety evaluation.
 - US29: to focus MDOT attention on the need for both transit capacity for building transit on the corridor and enhancing coordination with partners in Montgomery County regarding the flash system. Also, to focus on some of the safety challenges on US29 related to the single traffic light at MD32 by the Rivers Edge community.

f. MD Routes 103/104/108

- OoT is in the process of finalizing and reviewing the final draft report, which is a list of recommendations and concepts that came out of the study.
- There is currently no deadline for the release of the study. OoT is still in the process of editing the study.
- The concept is to develop a framework based on solid metrics (e.g., access to community amenities) that helps prioritize the County's work on bike and pedestrian access in certain areas along the three roadways.



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
TDD 410-313-2323

g. HCPSS

- March 1 - HCPSS started phasing into a hybrid re-opening. By April 12 schools will be officially open for all grade levels.
- As of right now a little over 15,000 students have signed up for bus service.
- HCPSS has lost 19% of their bus drivers and has led to over 80 bus routes being consolidated.
- Surprisingly, there is been an uptick in people appealing their walking routes to school, possibly from last year's redistricting.
- Buses may be seen running empty as drivers are practicing before their runs with students on board.
- Summer schools will have more students than usual. HCPSS is working with HCPD to provide crossing guard coverage as needed to ensure students have safe walking routes.
- While the training video link that was discussed at a previous meeting wasn't incorporated into the "Safe Schools" training, but it is being embedding into the pre-service instruction.
- Appeals process allows parents to request a review of the route their child has to walk if they consider it unsafe. A committee of context experts reviews the route and issues a non-binding decision. Sometimes the recommendations consist of infrastructure improvements like crosswalks. Often the requests come from the far end of the students' walk zone (e.g., 1 and 1-1/2 miles from the school) or due to the use of the pathway system as part of the student route.
- Jack G. asked David Ramsay if bicycling instruction was provided to students this year as BikeHoCo provided some funding for that. David will find out.

h. OoT staff changes

- Brooks Phelps is the newest member of the Office of Transportation. Brooks started last month filling the vacancy left by Rashidi Jackson.



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
TDD 410-313-2323

- Jason Quan is now the new General Manager at the RTA, leaving a Transit Manager vacancy at the OoT. Interviews were held in March to find a new Transit Manager. OoT hopes to fill the vacancy by the end of April.

i. BAG membership

- The OoT is currently looking to fill some current BAG membership vacancies and have been reaching out to potential candidates.

3. **Key Topics: Upcoming Bike Infrastructure Projects**

a. BAG leadership

- Chair - two-year term (Jack Guarneri served as chair)
- Vice-Chair- two-year term (Chris Tsien served as vice-chair)
- OoT is currently transitioning to a new chair and vice chair. There are two strong candidates for consideration. Emily Ranson for chair and Ted Cochran for vice-chair. The BAG members unanimously voted in favor of officially making Emily and Ted the group's new Chair and Vice-Chair. Larry made a motion to accept the candidates. Jack seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Report on Active Transportation Open House

- Active Transportation Open House was held virtually in February. There were over 700 attendees and over 200 survey responses.
- The full Open House report and materials are available for viewing on the County's Active Transportation Open House website.
- OoT appreciates the responses to the BAG survey on the Open House and will incorporate those comments into our planning for next year.

c. FY Capital Budget Update

- The County Executive proposed Capital Budget was posted online last week. Which still needs to go through the public and County Council process.



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
TDD 410-313-2323

- \$825K new County funding in K5066 for bike projects (adds to existing fund balance of \$3.7 million)
- \$675K new County funding in N3963 for Patuxent Branch Trail surface upgrade.

K5066 Spending Plan for FY21 and FY22

Project	Category	County FY21	County FY22
Misc. signage, stencilling, storm drain grates, etc	Construction	\$100,000	\$97,000
Dobbin to McGaw Pathway, phase 1, Oakland Mills Road to McGaw	Design	\$55,000	
Dobbin to McGaw Pathway, phase 2, McGaw Road to MD175	Design	Already has purchase order	
Oakland Mills Rd Road Diet	Construction	\$840,000	\$840,000
BLP/MD 32 Park-and-ride access improvements	Design	Already has purchase order	
Countywide Bicycle Wayfinding phase 1	Sign Installation	\$120,000	
Route 1 Safety Project, Brewers Ct	Design	\$74,000	
Route 1 Safety Project, Dr Patel Dr	Design	\$352,000	
Route 1 Safety Projects, Guilford Rd and Rowanberry Rd.	Design	\$300,000	
Cedar Lane Pathway	Construction		\$1,200,000
North Laurel Connections signage and pathway project	Construction		\$127,000
Robert Fulton Drive Shared-Use Path	Design		\$280,000
North Chatham Road Contraflow Bike Lane	Construction		\$20,000
Countywide Bicycle Wayfinding phase 2	Sign Installation		\$120,000
	Total	\$1,841,000	\$2,684,000

- Larry questioned whether “road diet” is still the preferred term. Chris Eatough will investigate. Sometimes “lane reconfiguration” is used.
- The County has installed roughly over 20 miles of bike lanes. Most of the bike lanes installed were installed as part of the resurfacing program. It was a coordination between the K5066 and the H2014, which is the Roadway Surfacing program. Funding for road



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
 TDD 410-313-2323

resurfacing has decreased in recent years. Kris J is optimistic that the County Council will fund the road resurfacing budget for \$10M. DPW has requested \$600,000 in FY22 for micro-surfacing. Depending on the amount of traffic on the roadway, micro-surfacing may last between 6-7 years. Road resurfacing and micromobility-surfacing give the County the opportunity to install bike lanes when they repaint the roads.

- Kris Jagarapu is requesting that both the MTB and BAG support DPW’s funding request.
- Ted C. mentioned there is a state project funded for a feasibility study for a pedestrian bicycle bridge over Route 40. Study will be between Centennial and St. John’s. OoT will investigate. Chatham is being considered. Might be good to work with state regarding connections to nearby locations like the library. OoT will follow up.

d. Bike lane projects and community outreach planned for Spring 2021.

Roadways scheduled for resurfacing in 2021 with recommendation for bike lanes in *BikeHoward*:

Road Resurfacing Segment	From	To	Dates
Columbia 100 Parkway	Centre Park Dr.	Executive Park Dr.	April 21, Wednesday
Centre Park Drive	MD108	Columbia 100 Pkwy	
Warwick Way	Marriottsville Rd.	Birmingham Way	April 28, Wednesday
Birmingham Way	Warwick Way	Dorchester Way	
Minstrel Way	Snowden River Pkwy	North End of Minstrel Way	Contacting businesses directly

4. Business from last meeting

Bike rest stops (Recs & Park) Update

- Potential Bike Rest Stops at Glenwood, Rockburn, and Centennial. The Mile 14 project at Rockburn will be adding concrete for a tool stand and bike pump.



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
 TDD 410-313-2323

- Jack Guarneri is looking into to getting a retailer to possibly donate equipment for Rockburn and Glenwood.
- Centennial Park project is expected to start late this summer.
- Signage for bridges (Slippery when Wet) is still in procurement. The CA is also looking at this type of signage.

5. Upcoming Events

Date	Event
April 21 & 28, 7 pm	Community meetings for bike lanes for resurfaced roads
April 29, 5 pm	Bike HoCo General Meeting
May (month long)	Bike Month - Hosted by Love to Ride
May 17-23	Bike to Work Week held virtually
May 18, 10am (kickoff)	Start of 2021 Cycle2Health Program
June 19-20 (new)	BikeAround Downtown Columbia

- OoT will add new information on Cycle2Health to the BikeHoward website.

6. Open Discussion

- OoT is currently looking to fill the bike retail and student vacancies on the BAG board.
- DPW is planning to do resurfacing on New Cut Road within the next couple of weeks. Once resurfacing is completed New Cut Road will be open to traffic.
- HoCo by Design is locating and using terminology of activity centers for many main streets throughout the county that are bikeable and walkable. So, when OoT looks at the next phase of *BikeHoward* it should high on the priority list to looks where these activity centers should be and how they can be made more bikeable and walkable in the future (Clarksville, Maple Lawn, etc.)



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
TDD 410-313-2323

7. Next Meeting

The next BAG meeting will be held on June 15, 2021.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Bruce Gartner
Executive Secretary

Date

Kimberly Woods

Recording Secretary

Date