



Emily Ranson, Chair
Ted Cochran, Vice Chair

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DRAFT - BICYCLE ADVISORY GROUP (BAG) MINUTES

June 15, 2021 at 3 p.m.

Held via WebEx

3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

BAG Members Present:

- Emily Ranson, Clean Water Action (CHAIR)
- Ted Cochran, Free Bikes for Kidz (VICE CHAIR)
- Corporal Benjamin Carlton (substitute for Lt. Dombrowsky), Howard County Police Dept
- Donald Rucker, Patapsco Bicycles
- Jack Guarneri, Bike HoCo
- Jennifer Biddle, Howard County Department of Public Works
- Jessica Bellah, Columbia Association
- Jon Mayer, MD Department of Transportation
- Larry Schoen, Multimodal Transportation Board
- Paul Walsky, Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks
- Warren Wortman, bike advocate

Office of Transportation

- Chris Eatough, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
- Molly Nur, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner
- Allison Calkins, Transportation Demand Management Specialist
- Brooks Phelps, GIS Specialist
- Carrie Anderson-Watters, Transit Planning Manager

Other Attendees

- David Ramsay, Howard County Public School System
- Kris Jagarapu, Department of Public Works
- Marian Vessels, Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Trinity Cheng, Howard County student

1. Agenda and Minutes

- a. [Today's Agenda](#)
- b. [Minutes - April 6, 2021](#). Emily moves to accept. Larry seconds. No discussion.
No objections.

2. BAG introductions, structure

BAG members

- Emily Ranson, Chair, Clean Water Action / Bicycle Advocates for Howard County



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- Ted Cochran, Vice Chair, Free Bikes 4 Kidz Maryland
- Jessica Bellah, Columbia Association (RP), Senior community planner
- Jennifer Biddle, HC Department of Public Works, Traffic Engineering
- Lt. Aaron Dombrowsky, Howard County Police Department (Corporal Carlson is sitting in for Lt. Dombrowsky today)
- Jack Guarneri, Bicycle Advocates of Howard County
- Jon Mayer, MDOT, State Highway Administration, Pedestrian Bicycle Planner
- Christiana Rigby, Howard County Council Member
- Donald Rucker, Representative for retailers within Howard County
- Larry Schoen, Bicycle Advocate, MTB member, and a civil engineer
- Chris Tsien, Environmental Sustainability Board
- Paul Walksy, Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, Planner
- Warren Wortman, Bicycle Advocate (DP) Bike HoCo and Oakland Mills Village Board

Members of the Office of Transportation

- Bruce Gartner, Administrator – not present today
- Chris Eatough, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
- Molly Nur, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner
- David Cookson, Regional and Long Range Transportation Planning Manager
- Carrie Anderson-Watters, Transit Planning Manager
- Allison Calkins, Transportation Demand Management Specialist
- Brooks Phelps, GIS Specialist

Informal BAG Members

- Marian Vessels – MDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- David Ramsey – HCPSS Student Transportation Office
- Trinity Cheng – River Hill Teen Advisory Committee and Traffic and Safety Committee

Structure. If we do any formal voting, then only official BAG members may vote, but we welcome everyone who wishes to speak on a topic to do so.

3. Brief Updates

- a. OoT staff changes
 - New Transit Manager – Carrie Anderson-Watters started May 10
 - Kimberly Woods, OoT administrative assistant left. OoT is working to fill that position.
- b. BAG new membership



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- Donald Rucker Owner/manager from Patapsco Bikes. He is the retailer representative and involved in bicycle events as well.
 - Warren Wortman is a bike advocate and from Oakland Mills Village Board.
- c. Complete Streets
- [18-month implementation report](#) was recently submitted to County Council. Complete Streets Implementation Team is required to report every 6 months during implementation. This report includes the Complete Streets performance measures. Link is included in the Chat and in the presentation.
 - The next report (24-month) will include the Design Manual update and that is a large effort.
- d. Bike Wayfinding project
- The bike wayfinding project is a series of color coded signs to assist with finding bike friendly routes to popular destinations . We have discussed this at previous meetings.
 - Currently we are waiting on confirmation from MDOT SHA that these qualify as “community wayfinding signs” in the MUTCD. Anticipate that we can go ahead and can begin implementation once we hear that. We have already determined the routes. It is a color coded system.
 - We have the funding already in place. The signs will be a great visual for bicyclists and drivers in Howard County.
 - Larry: Will we encourage Columbia Association to use these on their property?
 - There is some overlap and integration in efforts. We will look to coordinate with CA and our signs will supplement theirs. They will continue their signage. We do not expect the CA to use our signs. These will not replace the CA signs. CA has worked with the County’s planning efforts.
 - Jessica: The blue route has a gap heading into Wilde Lake and Harpers Choice.
 - Chris will check after the meeting. The routes are indicative of future connections, not just existing transportation routes. We will not be pointing anyone through a creek at this time.
- e. MD 32 Alternate Bike Route Priority Improvements and Clarksville-River Hill Streetscape Design (segments). MDOT SHA needs to provide an alternative bicycle route due to changes along MD 32. SHA is making improvement to Ten Oaks Road and



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Route 108. They do have a requirements to provide a reasonable alternate to MD 32 bicycle route. Pinch Points 1-5 are shoulder improvements. Pinch Point 6 (PP6) is a much bigger effort and includes adding a new shared-use pathway (SUP), which is significantly more costly, and no State funds are available at this time. OoT submitted an application to the MD Bikeways Grant program on June 2 to request funding. Awards will be announced by October. MDOT's alternative bike study presentation is included in this [link](#).

f. Patapsco Regional Greenway Spur and Savage Mill Trail

- **Patapsco Regional Greenway Spur.** State provided a \$1.25 million grant to support a spur of the Patapsco Regional Greenway to connect Elkridge to the Guinness Brewery in Halethorpe. Should be enough money to provide a match for a future grant for construction.
- **Savage Mill Trail.** Howard County also received a \$250,000 grant from the State to support critical repairs to the Savage Mill Trail, consisting of 1.16 miles of existing trail space (unpaved) within Savage Park that needs upgrading, e.g., repair of natural surface trail. Located near Savage Mill. This is less of a transportation project and more of a recreational trail improvement. Effort still has to go through design and engineering. Excessive funds will serve as matching grant for remaining construction funds needs.
- (A [Press event](#) was held on May 4)

g. Bike lanes from road resurfacing projects

- A meeting for Centre Park Drive and Columbia 100 Parkway bike lanes was held. The bike lanes are complete and look great.
- A community meeting for Warwick Way and Birmingham Way was also held. Those segments have not yet been completed. Mixed response from the public and OoT and DPW are working on final design. They will be built and marked in the next month.
- Minstrel Way is complete. It is a short stretch in *BikeHoward* that was able to be completed easily.



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h. Chip and Seal

- Chip and seal treatments will be done on about 22 miles of County roads in western Howard County beginning Monday, June 14. Notification was made via [press release](#).
- Kris J. explained that chip and seal will first address patch work for needed damaged areas. It is a small number of locations. About 14-15 roads will have full width chip and seal patching. Effort is part of preventive maintenance, especially in rural/western area of County. Construction signage is included on roads. All of these roadways are listed in press release. Work takes about one to two weeks. Kris send notifications to Jack. Kris J. will also now send notifications to Emily as well. Jack said he forwards the information on behalf of Bike HoCo.
- Chip and seal does result in loose gravel. Rubber rollers press the material into the asphalt. It takes 5-10 days to set, and then DPW goes back to clean up the site. Sweeping does occur after the work is complete.
- Sometimes the work includes micro surfacing as well (not for all road resurfacing work but some). Currently DPW is trying to secure a vendor to do that work.

- Emily - It is quite a problem on shoulders where cars are not working to press down the material. Shoulders become unridable when the chip and seal is not pressed down.
Kris J. indicated DPW provides signage to indicate loose gravel.

- Emily - When we see problematic sections like this, should we use Tell HoCo?
Kris J - yes, use Tell HoCo to either report the issue, or to ask questions. You can also call or email Highways@howardcountymd.gov (which results in a Tell HoCo posting).

- Jack: would be good if someone could do an assessment of roads that had been treated with Chip and Seal and see the damage. Triadelphia is dangerous right now because of the deterioration. Micro surfacing holds up better. Might be more cost effective in the long run.
Kris J- I will look at those locations. Micro surfacing doesn't address any structural strength. Drivers in western county prefer chip and seal because they often hold up better during winter.



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i. Road work – how best to alert bicyclists

- Currently: Temporary signage is used on roads to indicate bike detours. Press releases include a list of locations.
- Possible additions: Can the County post list on a website ahead of construction, social media, other?
- Do we have a one-stop page where construction work in the Howard County is listed? Not currently. The public is informed through the Office of Public Information.
- Kris J. will investigate whether we can include this in a map in a weekly or biweekly format.
- Detour signs would be good to have at the bottom of the hill, not just farther up.
- Google maps might be made available through crowd sourcing.
- Kris J. – We have done something similar in the past. Someone needs to be responsible for the task.
- Emily – Is there a website where the information could post the weekly summary? Not just for bicycling but also for road users. Chris will look at what we can come up with resource-wise.

j. 4th of July Fireworks in Columbia – Emily/Warren

1. To help minimize car traffic and encourage using alternative forms of transportation, Oakland Mills Village is organizing a manned bike corral in the Haven parking lot
 - Encouraging parking in Oakland Mills and biking/walking to fireworks. Spoke to Phil Bryan from Parks and Recommendation and guarantees some space. Looking for volunteers. Hoping to include Bike Share opportunity. Trying to have controlled and tickets issued. Please contact Rebecca Bryant: rebecca.c.bryant@gmail.com if interested in volunteering.
 - Chris – will ask operations contractor to staff the station at Lakefront and stock the stations in Oakland Mills and Blandair Park for the event.
 - Might need temporary lighting for the dark trails. Some already are lit.
 - If someone parks at for example Blandair would they get locked in? Gates don't get locked until later at night, according to Kris J.



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- Warren working with Jon Brant to borrow bike racks. Nothing nailed down yet. For Bike to Work Week, Race Pace provides them. Suggest Warren reach out to Race Pace. Patapsco does not have a lot. Warren will contact Donald/Patapsco Bikes if needed.

k. MDOT SHA Bike Lanes

- Howard County is trying to improve coordination with MDOT SHA District 7 with bike lanes through road resurfacing of State roads so that the County gets more advanced notice. MDOT should be providing bike lanes through road resurfacing as Howard County does.
- 103 discussed. Road resurfacing had to be done quickly.
 - 100 to Route 1 will have some portions with bike lanes.
 - 104 to Long Gate Parkway/29/YMCA is an important connector. Do we know what the state is doing? Who should we be contacting?
 - The will be including bike lanes in Long Gate for a future segment. Coming fairly soon.
 - Jon Mayer comes from the Central district. Need to contact District 7 office. Emily will follow up with SHA. State is supposed to be including bike lanes where they can as part of their Complete Streets policy.

4. Key Topics

A. FY22 Capital and Operating Budget update

1. Capital Budget

- FY 2022 Budget was just finalized. OoT got everything requested for bicycle projects. Reviewed at last BAG meeting.
- Fund balance may be slightly less than \$3.7 million now because of recent spending.
- N3963 is for parks project funding. We have a grant for Patuxent Branch trail, but the cost of construction is coming in higher so additional grant funding will be required.



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FY22 Capital and Operating Budget Update

Capital Budget Additions Related to Biking:

1. K5066: \$825,000 new county funding (existing fund balance is \$3.7 million)
2. N3963: \$675,000 new county funding (for future grant match for surface upgrade of Patuxent Branch Trail)

Related Budget Amendments:

1. K5061 receives \$150,000 from state for US40 ped bridge feasibility study.
2. K5066 receives \$250,000 from state for Patapsco Regional Greenway design. \$1 million more from state will be added in FY23 for matching funds for a construction grant.
3. T7108 receives \$600,000 of an expected \$1.1 million grant for design of the MD 32 alternative bike route. The remaining \$500,000 should be added to FY 2023 in the next budget submission.

B. Budget Amendments – additions to the Budget

1. N3963 – Patuxent Branch Trail – Construction will need funding through an additional grant.
2. MD 32 Alternate Bike Grant was discussed earlier. Grant was for \$1.1 million. We don't know yet if we will receive the funds, but we need a placeholder for the potential future funds.

C. Operating Budget

1. Some of the operational budget is for the bikeshare operation. Some bikeshare funding is provided by CA, Horizon, hospital, and Howard Hughes. No new funding.
2. OoT has operating budget that covers the two positions for Chris and Molly.
3. Additional detail on the K5061 - \$150K in State funding has been provided for a feasibility study for a bicycle pedestrian bridge over Route 40. Location has not yet been determined. Possibility by Centennial to St. Johns Lane on eastern side of the County. The State funds will show up via the Pedestrian Master Plan.



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D. Bicycle death on 4/10/21

1. Corporal Carlton reported on the fatality.
 1. Listed as an active investigation. 12-year old crossing 175 by Tamar Road. Listed as cyclist/pedestrian error. Crossing against pedestrian signal. Hit by westbound driver.
2. Emily - BAG wants information on such incidents more quickly. What analysis is being done?
 1. No press release on this event. Generally information is provided to HCPD public information officer immediately in case of traffic impact which is reviewed for fact-checking. Released to social media. Possibly there was no press release either because it involved a juvenile or because it was an injury at the time and the boy survived for a few days in the hospital before his death. He can check why there was no press release done at that time.
 2. Emily said that the BAG members all found out informally. What kind of attention or message is the County sending? Also need to consider the importance of bicycle safety education and what can be done in the public schools.
 3. Informal distribution of information usually means the information is distorted. Want accurate information provided to the public.
 4. Larry asked what are the protocols and procedures? Perhaps BAG can work with HCPD on these. Larry volunteers. Perhaps others.
 - a. Corporal Carlton say he doesn't see why not. He doesn't know the processes for all since he only handles severe crashes and fatalities. Not sure about other incidents(e.g., property damage, minor crashes). Corp. Carlton could send anything he finds out about to Chris Eatough to forward to BAG, but he only finds out about some. He can talk with Lt. Dombrowski about this and it is a topic BAG is concerned about, i.e., BAG would like to pursue discussions with PIO about reasonable processes and procedures. Corp Carlton will also find out about this particular situation and why there was no press release.
 - b. Usually HCPD are very good about communication so this situation, with no information provided, was surprising.



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- c. Emily said a future meeting might be a good chance to hear questions from HCPD about bicycles. Anne Arundel Co. has a good model that we could consider. Who is HCPD contact? Emily has first name, Dominick and will check her email for full name and will provide that to HCPD.

E. Oakland Mills Road Diet and protected bike lanes

1. Excited to announce some progress. Map shows the project extent. This is a big project along Oakland Mills Road from Old Montgomery Road to Dobbin Road. It will connect other County bike/pedestrian projects and trails to other connections and to biking that is friendly to all ages and abilities - off road or a protected facility on the street. First of its kind in Howard County. Will provide pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
2. Looking at a road diet for the site. Working on design now. Not widening the road, just using the road differently. Traffic volumes not very high. With the funding we have and complications with SWM this is the best solution. Flex posts will separate the bicyclists from the motor vehicle traffic. Speeds are not high and may drop because a driver won't be able to overtake the vehicle in front of them with a single lane. Had public meetings and reviewed in BAG a couple of years ago and considered different options. This solution had the most support.
3. Great solution for pedestrians too, since it will offer more road crossing solutions and fewer lanes to cross. County has support from the community for this design. Communities on side streets like the speeds reduction and they realize this solution will make it easier for them to turn onto Oakland Mills Road.
4. Capital funds are already in the budget. Road will be resurfaced. Lanes will be painted; flex posts will be installed. October 2021 or Spring of 2022 is the target for construction. Planning and design work occurring now. There will be a final round of public outreach shortly to let the public know about the implementation. First facility and right-sizing of road of this type in Howard County and a great opportunity for Howard County for all transportation modes. Will be a great example of Complete Streets in our County.
5. Larry stated that this is a great project and looks forward it. How will handle conflicts of cars crossing cycle track when turning left? Can the turn radius be tight to keep speeds of turning vehicles low?



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1. Looking at designs at intersections. Some have marked crosswalk already, and some will need to be added. Looking to use green paint for bike crossings.
2. Still need to look at turning radius. Tighter turns and flex posts will reduce speeds. Signage and markings necessary so bicyclists and drivers are aware of potential conflicts.
6. Jessica asked if County is looking at signalization changes.
 1. Chris said the 3 intersections with signalization will be redesigned. Pedestrian signals will be added to the existing intersections with traffic signals as needed.
 2. Designs and lessons learned will help inform future projects.
7. Support from both neighboring village boards – Oakland Mills Village Board and Owen Brown Village Board.
8. There will be a ribbon cutting and that gives an opportunity for education that there are many users of our roads (not just cars), how to use these facilities, and what to be on the lookout for.
9. Sometimes flex posts installed on top of rubber curbs to provide a greater barrier, e.g., Minneapolis. Ted will send a picture to Chris. Chris will look at what Ted sends along with our learnings from Montgomery County.
10. Chris hoping that Recreations and Parks could help with maintenance of cycle track (e.g., snowplowing) since they are doing some clearing in nearby areas using smaller vehicles.
11. Paul W. recommends Chris to talk with Jon Marshall as soon as possible.



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Events

Spring

- a. [Cycle2Health](#) – season began May 18. Increasing number of rides and going well.
- b. [BikeAround Downtown Columbia](#) will be held this weekend as a hybrid event. A “Block Party” will be held on Saturday at Color Burst Park from 11 am to 3 pm to celebrate coming out of the pandemic. June 19, 20.

Fall

- a. BikeAround Downtown Columbia in the Fall – September 18, 19
- b. Walktober events will be held in October by both MDOT and the Howard County Health Department.
- c. Free Bikes 4 Kidz Collection Day is October 2. Their goal is 2,000 bikes. They gave away almost 1,000 bike this year. Need donations of bike and bike parts as well as volunteers (novice to experts)

5. Open Discussion

- Bike Rest Stops
 - Rockburn has a fix-it stand.
 - Identified a site for Glenwood but have not installed anything yet.
 - Mile Marker on Route 40 done except for signage. Race Pace may sponsor it.
 - Patapsco may be interested in sponsoring one of the sites. Glenwood is a key start for the BikeHoCo rides, so it is a good one to consider.
 - Paul, Jack, and Don will meet at one of the sites.
- (Question asked after the meeting had been adjourned: if someone sponsors a site are, they responsible for maintaining it? Depends on ownership. Paul will discuss with Bob Linz)

6. **Meeting adjourned.** Next meeting will September 14, 2021 at 3:00 PM (virtual).

7. Relevant chat messages

June 15, 2021 3:16 PM from Emily Ranson to everyone:

- <https://live-hoco-d9.pantheonsite.io/sites/default/files/2021-05/CS%2018%20month%20report%20to%20Council.pdf>

June 15, 2021 3:32 PM from Emily Ranson to everyone:

- <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News060421>



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June 15, 2021 3:51 PM from Emily Ranson to everyone:

- Here is an example from yesterday:

June 15, 2021 3:51 PM from Emily Ranson to everyone:

- Here's what scheduled Department of Public Works (DPW) maintenance projects are going on this week, Monday, June 14th through Thursday, June 17th, weather permitting:

- CHIP SEAL PATCHING on Camalo Drive from Old Frederick Road to dead end, Paulownia Hill Court from Camalo Drive to dead end, Watersville Road from MD 144 to West Watersville Road and West Watersville Road from Watersville Road to Old Frederick Road in Mount Airy and Addison Way from MD 144 to dead end in Woodbine.

- ROADWAY MICROSURFACING on McKendree Road in West Friendship.

- ROADWAY RESURFACING (pavement striping) on Centre Park Drive, Columbia 100 Parkway and Executive Park Drive in Columbia.

- STORM DRAIN REPLACEMENT on Bonnie Branch Road at Ilchester Road outfall repair in Ellicott City and Toomey Lane culvert replacement in ElkrIDGE.

June 15, 2021 3:56 PM from Warren Wortman to everyone: Volunteers needed for 4th of July Fireworks in Columbia manned bike corral in the Haven parking lot. Pls contact Rebecca Bryant: rebecca.c.bryant@gmail.com if interested in volunteering.