



Emily Ranson, Chair  
Ted Cochran, Vice Chair

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**BICYCLE ADVISORY GROUP (BAG) MINUTES**

September 14, 2021 at 3 p.m.

Held via WebEx

3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

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**BAG Members Present:**

- Emily Ranson, Clean Water Action (CHAIR)
- Ted Cochran, Free Bikes for Kidz, Multimodal Transportation Board (VICE CHAIR)
- Lt. Aaron Dombrowsky, Howard County Police Department
- Jack Guarneri, Bike HoCo
- Jennifer Biddle, Howard County Department of Public Works
- Jessica Bellah, Columbia Association (CA)
- Larry Schoen, Multimodal Transportation Board
- Paul Walsky, Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks
- Warren Wortman, bike advocate

**Absent:**

- Chris Tsien, Environmental Sustainability Board (DP), Board Member
- Christiana Rigby, Howard County Council (RP), Council Member, District 3
- Donald Rucker, Patapsco Bicycles, Representative for retailers within Howard County (DP)
- Doug Kampe, Howard County Public School System (DP)
- Jon Mayer, MD Department of Transportation

**Office of Transportation:**

- Bruce Gartner, Administrator
- 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 Zinner, Multimodal Transportation Board
- Kris Singleton, Howard County Department of Public Works
- Marian Vessels, Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Phil Scherer
- Philip Westcott, MDOT SHA
- Sean Masterson, Howard County DTCS
- Sgt Matthew Tanis, Howard County Police Department



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## 1. Welcome

## 2. Agenda and Minutes

- a. [Today's agenda](#) - Ted C. moves to adopt. no objections. No objections. Agenda adopted.
- b. Minutes – June 15, 2021 - Ted C. moves to adopt. Jessica B. seconds. No discussion. No objections. Minutes adopted.

## 3. Brief Updates

- a. OoT is in the process of planning to hire a new administrative assistant/planner.
- b. New BAG member is Doug Kampe, HCPSS Student Transportation as the official HCPSS representative. He is not in attendance today.
- c. Bike Corral – recap and future events
  1. Great success. Very popular for Fourth of July and great potential for future events. 20 volunteers. Some bicyclists got home before car drivers. 50 bikes, 1 unicycle, and large baby stroller using 6 car parking spaces.
  2. Had investigated an event for October 15 – however, it was not possible ironically because the space had to be used for car parking to fulfil the event permit requirements.
  3. Possible opportunity for future events:
    - a. October 9 PRIDE festival at Merriweather
    - b. June 10-12, 2022 Lakefest
    - c. July 4, 2022 Lakefront Fourth of July
  4. Bike HoCo voted last night to support bike corrals through the purchasing of A-frame event bike racks in lieu of renting. Storage possibilities are being investigated. Community Ecology Institute (CEI) has a workshop and they may be able to make and/or store them. If people know of spacing, please let Warren know. CA will check their space and policy.
  5. Would be good to adjust parking requirements to include bicycle parking. Hopefully, this can become more common.
  6. Fencing provided and delivered by Howard County Recreation and Parks. Hoping that partnership can be continued. Investigate storing fencing and racks at same location. Chris E. offered to help Warren pursue opportunities.
- d. Wayfinding project
  1. Webpage here: <https://bikehoward.com/planning-projects/countywide-bicycle-wayfinding/>
  2. OoT inquired from FHWA if our wayfinding signs were acceptable as “community wayfinding” signage as part of MUTCD. FHWA did not find our signs to be conforming.



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3. OoT now revisiting an earlier sign design. Will apply for an exception from current standard to be used for bike wayfinding signage. (Colored route sign above "Bike Route" sign).
- e. E-scooters – status
  1. Small amount of progress. SPIN met the qualifications for a permit. SPIN has not started operations. Working through contracting with CA, the Mall and Howard Hughes. Need to apply for a permit for digital advertising in downtown Columbia. This is part of their revenue model. We believe this is their last major hurdle for them to begin.
  2. SPIN need to decide when they wish to start. County will need to determine how to adjust their permitting period.
  3. Education is required with their launch. That will include demos and clinics.
- f. Notification of County Road Work
  1. Kris J. spoke to this topic last time. He is not present today.
  2. Jen B. – DPW would like to post information from weekly press releases onto a County webpage. Will not happen this fall. DPW trying to focus on road work while the weather still allows this. Limited administrative help to assist with this.
  3. Emily not yet receiving DPW notifications. Molly will send Emily's email to Jen B who will add her to the list to start receiving weekly updates.  
(Done)
- g. Chip and Seal v. Micro surfacing analysis of durability over time
  1. Kris J is not present to speak to the issue.
  2. Jenn B. does not have information. Will have defer topic to another time.
- h. Coordination with MDOT SHA with bike lanes through road resurfacing of state roads.
  1. Phil Westcott from SHA District 7 joining us today.
  2. He works on road resurfacing projects.
  3. Most recent project was a segment of MD 103 from 104 and Long Gate Parkway. Bit of a scramble. Worked through what we could with the time available. SHA did not have time to study lane removal that would have helped to provide bike lanes, but they were able to reduce lane widths, to reduce speeds, and create shoulders. Pocket lanes were included at intersections. With a bit more coordination and advance planning can have more success in the future.
    - a. Emily did see some positive comments from pedestrians in area on Nextdoor since those segments did not have sidewalks either.



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4. Any upcoming road resurfacing projects in Howard County that are big for bicyclists?
  - a. MD 108 from Shepard Lane to Little Patuxent River (close to US 29). 5.6 miles. He is working through design sections. Cross sections vary dramatically. Pinch points throughout. Identified some locations for pocket lanes. Will coordinate with Chris to get some feedback.
    1. Phil/SHA - standard minimum is 11 feet. All remaining space pushed out to the shoulders.
    2. Larry - BAG might help with identifying local destinations. Is that part of planning process?  
Phil - Focus on corridor. Destinations are not specifically addressed.  
Larry - Encourage SHA to consider it as access to facilities as opposed to a throughway.  
Kris S. - Would State consider to potentially widen roadway width to access local destinations?  
SHA - For roadway resurfacing efforts cannot expand the roadway. However, improvement projects are different; those and try and increase connectivity. This is something that SHA can work with Howard County on.
  - b. Is the currently resurfacing effort coordinating with 108/Centennial Lane expansion project?
    1. Phil - Yes. Will include bike pocket lanes on MD 108.
  - c. Ted - Strava has heat maps indicating bicycle travel. Great tool for tracking bicycle traffic. Shows where experienced bicyclists travel. Might help with how SHA prioritizes how you provide access.
    1. Jack - Also consider climbing lanes. Additional space should be favored for the uphill direction. Chris can work with SHA.
  - d. Jessica - Do we have an idea how much the bike facilities are going to stop and start, because that creates conflict with the vehicular travel.
    1. There is a lot of usable shoulder but that does drop off sometimes. Trying to figure out how best to utilize for bike compatible shoulder, pocket lanes, etc.
  - e. Future project - Restriping US 1 in Laurel. Recommendation from Howard County to remove outer lane and converting to separated bike lanes. Timing of completion not yet determined.



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1. Chris - District 7 stated they will be added bike lanes in southern portion of Route 1.
2. Kris S. - Non-motorized travel is especially in demand in that region.
- f. What is the status of MD 103 from Rt 1 to Mayfield Avenue?
  1. SHA: Where we could, SHA added a pocket lane from west of I-95 to Old Rock Ridge Drive.
  2. Larry - was there no way to add a climbing lane from Mayfield on the hill? There was a downhill lane I believe.
    1. Phil/SHA - There was insufficient space.
- i. Dobbin Road Pathway Project
  1. Project webpage can be found here:  
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/transportation/dobbin-road-pathway>
  2. Encourage people to attend the virtual public meeting on October 28 at 7:00 pm.
  3. Public comment period is open through November 11 (online feedback form available on project website).
  4. Project extends along Dobbin Road from Oakland Mills Road to 175 and further to Snowden and includes a shared use pathway on the east side and sidewalks on west side; it will include many crossing improvements. Project has four segments in various stages of design. Some phasing of construction is likely.
  5. Currently there are no bicycle or pedestrian facilities in the corridor. It is a busy commercial corridor.
  6. Segment that is most advanced in design is the segment in yellow (Segment III). Kris Singleton is the Project Manager. Likely to be constructed first.
  7. Grant funded for the design of purple (Segment I) and green sections (Segment II). OoT is working with a consultant on those segments.
  8. Construction funding of purple and green (Segments I and II) still needed. Looking for federal stimulus funding. In \$4M range to construct for purple and green segments.
  9. Red segment is only at a conceptual level currently (Segment IV) and will come later.
  10. Intersects with Oakland Mills Road Complete Streets project.
  11. Emily - Pedestrian was killed on Dobbin Road. There was a long stretch with no marked or signalized crossing opportunities.  
Chris - Adding three new crossing opportunities along the project site.



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12. Larry - Two-way shared use path? Yes.
13. Larry - how does project relate to new Design Manual guidelines?  
Chris - We're not changing the limits of the road, but we are repurposing it. Utilities have made the corridor work very complicated because they are located where we would like to put the pathway.  
Trees, topography and many underground utilities along route so many obstacles already. Some meandering will be necessary. Grading and small retaining walls will need to be done as well.
14. Jessica requesting if trees could be avoided. Fairly problematic to the greater community to be losing trees in other locations. Chris will take to design team.

j. Bike lanes from road resurfacing projects

1. Warwick Way and Birmingham Way - recently completed
2. Guilford Rd, Gerwig Rd, and Patuxent Woods Dr. - public meeting tentatively in November in advance of road resurfacing in spring.
3. Harpers Farm Rd - public meeting tentatively in December in advance of road resurfacing in spring.
4. *BikeHoward* website for public meetings and bike lanes projects from road resurfacing can be found here:  
<https://bikehoward.com/projects/resurfacing-projects/>.

k. Free Bikes 4 Kidz - collection, refurbishing, volunteering, giveaway

1. October 2 will be the day to collect bikes. We will refurbish over 10 week period. Volunteers are needed. Hoping for one give away day. 24 days were required last year because of the pandemic. Hoping to give away up to 1,500 to 2,000 bikes this year.
2. Helmets are not collected. Give brand new helmets away.
3. Volunteer signup online. Ted will send link in Chat.
4. Repairs will be done at 6100 Merriweather. Every day but Sunday. Volunteers include cleaners, preppers, and mechanics.

## 2. Key Topics

- a. Follow up from bicyclist fatality on April 10 (HCPD) - Lt. Dombrowsky
  1. HCPD Policy is that communication does not go out on all incidents but communication to the public does go on fatal and serious crashes. HCPD Traffic Division does notify HCPD PIO and our captain. The next of kin notified and then HCPD issues a press release.
  2. April 10 was identified as a child bicyclist error. Went against red light. There was a week's lag before his passing. In consideration to the family, HCPD did not notify the public.



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3. Decision on public notification made by HCPD PIO. If a serious crash occurs during the daytime HCPD PIO will issue a quick press release that these roads are closed and stay away. If it is in the middle of the night, they will not notify the public at that time because so few drivers are impacted, however, depending on the circumstances, HCPD will issue a press release the next day if there is a fatality.
4. Lt. D. will not provide notification to BAG if we are not informing the public. Sometimes it may take 2 days for next of kin notification.
5. Lt. D believes 99% are usually bicyclist and pedestrian error.
6. Lt. D. in contact with Chris. Communication to the public is through HCPD PIO.
7. This situation was unusual because of the age of the bicyclist and that the child was on life support for several days. Usually incidents go out with press release for a typical fatality on a roadway.
8. Emily – There tends to be a lot of rumor and speculation on Nextdoor, so providing information helps diffuse speculation.
  1. Lt D - HCPD tries to get in front of the false reporting, but we need to collect the results of the investigation and tests that have to be conducted.
  2. Larry – would like to see at least some minimal information saying a serious crash took place and that because of family wishes there will not be further information released.
  3. HCPD – we try and give the family the space they need to make difficult decision. The public doesn't need to know further information.
  4. Larry – we want the public to be informed about safety on the road and education.
  5. Lt. D - We have had 17 fatalities this year already. Need to evaluate each one.
  6. Chris – so most fatalities will be given some public notification? Typically only one bicycle fatality per year.
  7. Can you provide information at a future BAG meeting on those incidents? If he sees something that was a contributing factor, e.g., a tree impairing sight, we will address.
    - a. Lt. D. tries to address issues with the road system immediately. For example, when a tree contributes to an incident, he contacts DPW and request they remove it the next day. Lt D has no problem talking to Chris about bicycling incidents.



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Chris would appreciate Lt D. bring to BAG whatever issues related to bicycle incidents he can.

- b. Emily - Good to hear there is good communication among OoT and HCPD. How best to send information to report potential problems?

- 1. Tell SHA to report issues on State roads  
[https://marylandsha.secure.force.com/customercenter/request\\_for\\_service](https://marylandsha.secure.force.com/customercenter/request_for_service)  
(Alternatively 410-582-5650 or toll free at 1-800-543-2515 [communications@sha.state.md.us](mailto:communications@sha.state.md.us). Customer service webpage [www.roads.maryland.gov](http://www.roads.maryland.gov))
- 2. TellHoCo for Howard County -  
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/tell-hoco>

- c. MTB should address pedestrian fatalities. Chris Eatough can talk offline with Larry re: MTB about that process since TPAG has ended.

- b. Complete Streets

- 1. Design Manual workshops will be held October 14 and 21. Both virtual. Materials will be available ahead of time. Visit <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/DM-updates> for more information.
- 2. October 14 is targeted for the public. October 21 will be for technical professionals. Both are open to any member of the public.
- 3. Finishing touches on Design Manual underway now. Includes many changes from the previous Manual. Manual updates under the Complete Streets Implementation Team (CSIT) guidance. CSIT is meeting much more frequently.
- 4. Trying to provide the final version to the County Council in December for the January County Council work session. Draft Design Manual will be posted to the Complete Streets Design Manual webpage in early October.
- 5. Public outreach is really much more extensive now because of the Community Engagement Plan and will include the Ball Bulletin, OoT listservs, social media, and communication to community organizations, County boards, and County departments.

- c. Oakland Mills Road Complete Streets project

- 1. Project webpage:  
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/transportation/oakland-mills-road>
- 2. OoT is meeting virtually with two village boards - Owen Brown on 10-7 and Oakland Mills 10-14 (tonight). Link can be found on the project





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- website or on the Oakland Mills Village Board website. Open to the public. Project well received at the first meeting.
3. Public comment period open until September 28.
  4. Concerning maintenance for snow clearing of the protected bike lanes – Chris is pursuing with Recreation and Parks.
  5. Schedule for construction - Start this fall with curb ramp work and concrete work on each corner for ADA compliance and signal work. Milling, resurfacing and re-marking will most likely occur in spring.
  6. Full marking plan on the project website and can be found [here](#). Signal will come on “recall.” Generally, the project is providing two-way protected bike lanes with flex posts in buffered area about every 20 feet. Intersections will add some new crosswalks. Curb ramps will be upgraded. Bike crosswalks will be painted green to differentiate from pedestrian crosswalks and allow for safe crossing by both modes.
  7. When through traffic occurs on Oakland Mills Road, bicyclists and pedestrians will also be able to cross side streets.
  8. Larry – Some fast and experienced bicyclists may still wish to travel on the roads.  
Chris - Best for bicyclists to travel on cycle track. No reason why they can't still travel at higher speeds on the cycle track.
  9. Larry – what about signage at the traffic circle where the bike lanes end?  
Chris – County will look into that. Ted also made some recommendations for that location as well.
  10. First time in the County to downsize a roadway, add a cycle track with separated cycle track, use green paint, and create a dedicated crosswalk for cyclists.
- d. MD 108 connection from Summer Hollow Lane to Red Branch Road (Warren)
1. Interest in providing connection from South and West of 108 to access Red Branch Rd., which has several local destinations that are not currently accommodated because no crossing across MD 108. Suggestion to provide a crossing. Would require collaboration among County, SHA and CA. CA could potentially provide connection to the existing tot lot. For discussion at this point. Not a project yet. Not funded in capital project. Portion is included in bicycle master plan as a future shared use pathway.
  2. Warren – Identified 33 businesses/churches/etc. that are accessible from Red Branch neighborhood. Many people are already crossing 108 for this even though there is no crosswalk. Saves a mile walk out of your way to find a crosswalk. Neighborhood is asking. Grandfathers Nursery had some money for sidewalks. Where is the money for that?



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Chris - County would need to look into that.

Kris S. - Opportunity to start at Thunder Hill and where the acceleration lane feeds into MD 108 to begin it there and extend to Summer Hollow. Shouldn't stop at the tot lot. Could provide access to more neighborhoods.

3. Discussed for some time and has been identified as long term project both as a shared use path along MD 108 by County and the CA. Perhaps this group can identify a discrete project and find a funding source. Consider connection from Summer Hollow to Red Branch Rd (where there are existing facilities and close to CA pathway facilities)
4. Phil W., SHA: Crossing MD 108 would need to include a signalized ADA crossing for SHA to support. There are currently few crossings to MD 108. Would need to see the sidewalk built first before SHA could commit to funds for crossing. It is less expensive because there is a signal there already.
5. Chris, Jenn and Kris can review to see if it could be included in County capital budget. SHA can include crossing at any time. It is not dependent on repaving.
6. Issues to be addressed include the pipeline and right-of-way.
7. CA has no funds for expansion of its pathway network at this time; funds are dedicated for maintenance. It does have community support. CA recommends that the project should be connected to Summer Hollow.
8. New prioritization process in the County so can be used = TIPS is focused on active transportation and access to destination. Can see where it falls against other.

### 3. Upcoming events

- a. Oakland Mills Complete Streets Project -  
Owen Brown Village Board, September 7 at 7:00pm.  
Oakland Mills Village Board, September 14 at 7:00pm.  
Comment period ends September 28
- b. Free Bikes 4 Kidz bike collection - October 2
- c. BikeAround Downtown - October 9
- d. Complete Streets Design Manual workshops - October 14 (7pm) and 28 (2pm)
- e. Dobbin Road Pathway Public Input Meeting - October 28 (7pm)
- f. Guilford Rd, Gerwig Rd, and Patuxent Woods Dr public meeting for bike lanes - November
- g. Transportation Town Hall - November/December
- h. Harpers Farm Road public meeting for bike lanes - December



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- i. Addition: Ted C: Deadline to provide comment on HoCo By Design has been extended. (Visit: <https://www.hocobydesign.com/> to comment.)

**7. Open Discussion Period**

8. **Next meeting** – Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 3:00 PM (virtual)

9. **Adjournment**

10. **Relevant chat messages**

September 14, 2021 3:32 PM from Phil Scherer to all panelists: I ride my bike on that segment of MD 103 and it would have been nice to get real bike lanes, but the shoulders are better

*Bruce Gartner*

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Bruce Gartner, Administrator, Office of Transportation

*Molly Nur*

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Molly Nur, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner, Office of Transportation



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