



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
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BICYCLE ADVISORY GROUP (BAG)

January 14, 2020 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
The George Howard Building – Columbia-Ellicott Room
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

MINUTES

Members Present:

Chris Tsien
Jack Guarneri
Jessica Bellah
Paul Walsky
Larry Schoen
Jennifer Biddle
Jeff Specht

Office of Transportation Staff:

Bruce Gartner, Administrator
Chris Eatough
Allison Calkins
Kimberly Woods

Non-Members Present:

Kevin McAliley, Bike HoCo
Kris Singleton, DPW
Felix Facchine
Warren Wortman
Joel Hurewitz



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1. Approval of minutes from November 18, 2019 BAG meeting (audio 3:19)

Jack Guarneri moved to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2019 meeting with no amendments. Larry seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

2. Upcoming Events Announcements (audio 3:35)

Chris Eatough began the meeting by informing attendees of upcoming events. On January 15, 2020 there will be a “Hickory Ridge Bike Corridor” public meeting at Atholton High School. The annual “Bike Howard Open House” is scheduled for January 29, 2020 at Hammond High School. The “North Laurel Connections” public meeting will be held on February 12, 2020 at the Savage Library. On February 19, 2020 there will be a “Bike Maryland Symposium” held out Annapolis at the Miller State Building.

3. Complete Streets Implementation Update (5:30)

Chris Eatough informed attendees that legislation was passed by council in 2019. There is now an official Complete Streets Policy, the next step is to update the design manual. As well as other Complete Streets implementation tasks such as coming up with the project prioritization process, public outreach methods, etc. A Complete Streets Implementation team has been put together to help complete these tasks. The team is an even mix of Howard County staff and non-Howard County staff. There has already been an orientation meeting as well as a first full meeting. The biggest deadline currently is the two-year deadline for the design manual update, the CSIT is aiming for an 18-month turnaround, Spring 2021. WRA is the contractor of the design manual.

4. Electric Scooter Sharing in Howard County (audio 44:00)

Chris Eatough informed the group that a couple of Electric scooters sharing companies have shown interest in providing scooters in downtown Columbia and Gateway. The Office of Transportation wants to have a permit process in place so that E-scooter companies can apply to be able to operate in Howard County. The companies would have to agree with the County’s terms and conditions or they would be denied a permit. The permit will be good for a year to see how it goes then the companies would have to put in for a renewal once the year is up. Chris then went on to discuss the potential issues to consider regarding e-scooters which included: clutter, safety, liability,



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response, communication, min and max number of scooters, age and speed restrictions. The legal definition for scooters is the same for bikes, meaning they can go wherever bicycles are allowed. There is currently a council bill (3-2020) enabling legislation for electric scooter sharing permit process which is needed to obtain fees. Council Bill 3-2020 was created by the Office of Transportation, Office of Law, and the Legislative Staff. Chris briefly went over the Council Bill and Maryland State Code regarding “Electric low speed scooter” and “Bicycle”. The permit only covers the public right of way. There will be more details in the permit document than in the bill such as speed limit.

5. Robert Fulton Drive Pathway- (audio 52:45)

Chris Eatough announced that based on the public meeting which helped narrow down the options, option 2 was the preferred concept option. Option 2 is on the south side of Robert Fulton Drive and uses the BGE right of way from Lee Deforest Drive to Snowden River Parkway. The Robert Fulton Drive Pathway is still currently in the planning phase, so the completion date is TBD, pending funding.

6. Hickory Ridge Bike Corridor Study (audio 58:19)

Chris Eatough informed the group that the Hickory Ridge Bike Corridor Public Meeting will be held tomorrow (January 15). The purpose of this project is to identify a preferred route for continuous bicycle facilities to connect existing bike lanes on Grace Drive (providing access from River Hill and points west)



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to Hickory Ridge, Downtown Columbia and the rest of the Columbia pathway system and bike network. The Bike Corridor Study areas are:

- Broken Land Parkway
Little Patuxent Pkwy to Hickory Ridge Road
- Hickory Ridge Road
Broken Lank Pkwy to Martin Road
- Martin Road
Hickory Ridge Road to Freetown Road
- Owen Brown Road
Martin Road to Cedar Lane
- Cedar Lane
Owen Brown Road to Grace Drive
- Harriet Tubman Lane
Freetown Road to Cedar Lane

7. State Legislative Session (audio 1:09:10)

Chris Eatough introduced Joshua Feldmark, The Director of Community Sustainability at Howard County. Josh announced that at the very end of the last legislative session Bikeway Funding was approved for doubling, funding went from 2 million dollars to 3.8 million dollars. Bikeway funding is critically important because it is a multiplier fund that is used for design which can be used to obtain more grant money from the federal government. This year they are focusing on two bills that have been working on for the past couple of years:

1. Safe Pass- The current law requires drivers to give bicyclists three feet of space when passing, when available (the narrow road exception). The goal is to eliminate the narrow road exception so that by law drivers must give bicyclists three feet of space with no exceptions.
2. Vulnerable Road User- Someone that is not in a motorized vehicle (is considered a vulnerable road user). This law would fill in the gap between traffic citations and gross negligence. If you break the law and hurt or kill a vulnerable road user in the process you would be subject to additional penalties which includes a mandatory appearance in court,



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increase fine up to \$2,000, licensing suspension up to six months, community service, and driver education courses.

Josh announced that February 19th in Annapolis is the Annual Bike Symposium

8. Open Discussion Period (audio 1:25:38)

Jack Guarneri announced that Triadelphia Road Bridge is now open with an adjacent sidewalk. Jack also mentioned that the Ascend Bike Shop is closing at the end of the month. The old Columbia Triathlon will be resurrected and renamed to the Centennial Triathlon and will be held on August 16th at Centennial Park. Micro surfacing was done at Underwood and Sandhill Road. Micro surfacing is a protective seal coat which extends the life of pavement which is a cost-effect method. It is a thin, tough layer of asphalt emulsion blended with finely crushed stone for traction. Jack suggested that an assessment needs to be done to see how the micro surfacing holds up.

Larry Schoen asked Chris Eatough about the public input process regarding Complete Streets and the Tell Hoco app. Jennifer Biddle explained to Larry the process when it comes to traffic engineering and the Hoco app in Howard County. The next scheduled meeting will be held on April 7th at 2 p.m. and is a joint meeting with TPAG.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Bruce Gartner
Executive Secretary

Date

Recording Secretary

Date