



KEVIN KAMENETZ
County Executive

ANDREA VAN ARSDALE, *Director*
Department of Planning

Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
Sheldon S. Epstein, Chair

—Approved January 10, 2012—

MEETING NOTES
November 8, 2011
4:00 p.m.

Attendees: Chairman Sheldon Epstein, Myron Williams, Ray Bahr, Ted Levin, Jim Kelly, Jay Burman, Jesse Fields, Gene Bertoni, Carol Sildorff, Bob Barrett, Linda Grossman, Stephen Weber, Pat McDougall, Kathy Schlabach

Absent: Mr. Thomas Henry, Jr.

Department of Planning staff present included Jeff Mayhew, Kathy Schlabach, Jenifer Nugent and Janice Graves.

1. Opening Remarks

Mr. Sheldon Epstein thanked everyone attending for participating on this committee. After introductions, the two councilmen Mr. David Marks (5th District) and Mr. Tom Quirk (1st District) who sponsored the bill to create the committee, addressed the committee.

Councilman Marks commented that he envisioned a broad consensus by the committee to explore federal grant opportunities and noted some programs specifically:

- Transportation and Community System Preservation Program
- Safe Routes to School Program
- Transportation Enhancement Program
- SHA Recreational Trails Program

Councilman Quirk commented that the county could look at the opportunities that the city has created through their efforts with bicycle and pedestrian facilities and build upon them. He wanted the committee to ask how they could accomplish some things affordably in this economy while considering safety and connectivity. Pointing to southwest Baltimore County and the efforts that the community has been doing with bicycle and pedestrian facilities, Councilman Quirk suggested building on that community's momentum.

Mr. Ted Levin asked if the approach of the county should be on-road facilities or off? Both councilmen responded saying that the county was somewhat conservative and there was better acceptance of trails over road facilities but ultimately things would need to be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Carol Silldorff added that Baltimore City and Baltimore County are very different on their approaches to bike facilities both on-road and trails. While the city tends to pursue more on-road facilities, the county has a more recreational approach. She expressed that it would be appropriate to advance trails wherever possible but to continue to improve infrastructure of on-roads facilities. Ms. Silldorff noted that city bike commuter ridership had increased by 41% since 2009.

Mr. Ray Bahr emphasized to the committee that the county eastern and western pedestrian and bicycle plans should be the guides to use in searching for projects that could be implemented as quickly as possible. Mr. Levin suggested a bond bill could be introduced to state legislature as a source of funding.

2. Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Program

Some concern was expressed about the amount of time between each meeting. Ms. Kathy Schlabach of the Department of Planning explained that the reasoning behind the meetings and scheduling was based upon the CIP review process. Mr. Jim Kelly questioned the committee's mission. Mr. Jeff Mayhew of the Department of Planning pointed out the list of suggested work program priorities had been directly pulled from their mandated duties. Councilman Marks brought about discussion of focusing on financing and it was suggested that an additional meeting in December to discuss funding opportunities and financing would be a good first step. A motion was made by Mr. Bahr accept the draft committee meeting schedule and work program with the addition of a meeting in December¹ to talk about funding issues and that speakers invited to give input regarding financing would be Nate Evans from Baltimore City, and representatives from DNR, SHA and MDOT.² The motion was seconded by Mr. Kelly and was approved unanimously.

¹ Secretary's note: Meeting to be held January 10th due to scheduling conflicts).

² Secretary's note: Nate Evans, Don Halligan from MDOT, Greg Slater from SHA and Steve Carr, DNR Trails Coordinator, have been invited).

Ms. Schlabach explained that the technical committee could meet to discuss the list of mandated duties and could report back to the committee at the scheduled meetings. Mr. Levin requested that committee members be allowed to attend these meetings.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to have interim meetings that would be handled by the technical committee and then report back to the group. Mr. Levin then seconded the motion and vote was passed unanimously.

3. Committee Bylaws

Mr. Epstein pointed out that a secretary and vice chairman would need to be appointed. Kathy Schlabach offered that she, on behalf of the Department of Planning providing staff support to the committee, would serve as the secretary. Mr. Levin offered to serve as vice chair and upon hearing no objections or discussions, Mr. Epstein appointed Mr. Levin as vice chair of the committee. Mr. Epstein asked for any further discussion on the bylaws. Upon no discussion, he then asked for a motion to approve the bylaws. Mr. Levin made a motion to approve the bylaws, which was seconded by Mr. Jesse Fields and approved unanimously.

4. Other Business

Ms. Schlabach explained some housekeeping items related to parking and security.

Mr. Pat McDougall of the Department of Recreation and Parks gave an update on the Short Line project. Councilman Quirk applauded the county executive and staff for getting this committee going and thanked the committee members for their participation.

As one final item of discussion, Mr. Kelly wanted to review what to do before the next meeting. The consensus of opinion was to read the two county bike and ped plans (<http://baltimorecountymd.gov/bikeped>) and visit the two websites of Rails to Trails (<http://www.railstotrails.org>) and Greater Greener Washington (<http://www.greaterwashington.org/>)³

(³ Secretary's note: URLs added).

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.