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County Executive

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Department of Planning

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

-Approved on July 10, 2012 -

MEETING NOTES
March 13, 2012
4:00 p.m.

Attendees: Chairman Sheldon Epstein, Ray Bahr, Jay Burman, Laura Cook, Thomas Henry, Jr., Jim Kelly, Ted Levin, Carol Silldorff, Linda Grossman, Pat McDougall, Kathy Schlabach

Absent: Gene Bertoni
Jesse Fields
Myron Williams
Bob Barrett
Stephen Weber

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

1. Opening Remarks

Mr. Sheldon Epstein opened the meeting. After introductions Mr. Epstein made the following announcements.

- The Baltimore County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on April 5th at 5:00 pm for the Western Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, all are encouraged to attend.
- Baltimore County was awarded two grants for a total of \$20,000 for bike lane striping and bike route signage.

2. Approval of the Meeting Notes from January 10, 2011 Meeting

Mr. Ray Bahr made a motion to approve the meeting notes of January 10, 2012. Dr. Linda Grossman asked that her name be corrected. Mr. Bahr then made a new motion to approve the meeting notes of January 10, 2012 to include the correction. Mr. Ted Levin seconded the motion and the meeting notes were approved unanimously.

3. Special Presentation by the Fifth Council District Pedestrian and Bicycle Subcommittee

A. Presenter: Ms. Allysha Lorber

B. Summary

- a. The committee was formed before the establishment of PBAC by Councilman Marks. Ms. Lorber and Mr. Stuart Sirota are co-chairs. The committee was asked by Councilman Marks to work with the PBAC in identifying project priorities within the fifth council district that would have the most impact and be “low hanging fruit.”
- b. The committee studied existing plans and identified different design alternatives that could be used such as off road paths, bike lanes, cycle tracks, and sharrows.
- c. As part of developing an action plan, the committee showed the PBAC some ideas of implementation projects, such as bike lanes on Seven Courts Drive, Silver Spring Road and Osler Drive.
- d. For pedestrian improvements, Ms. Lorber indicated that a sidewalk inventory could help in the assistance of determining where projects are needed. She also highlighted some existing problems like gaps in sidewalks, lack of ADA ramps, and traffic turn signals that conflict with pedestrian crossings.
- e. Ms. Lorber presented an extensive wish list of potential projects. Looking forward, the next step will be to start coordinating with partners such as the Maryland SHA and the County Department of Planning to apply for grants.

A question and answer period ensued, with discussion on how to prioritize projects, how grants would be applied for and how matches would be met for grants. Councilman Marks and Mr. Nate Evans, Baltimore City Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator and a county resident participating on the committee, joined in the discussion. Ms. Lorber indicated that the committee would develop a high, medium, low priority system and that she and the committee would be glad to work with the PBAC to determine priorities.

4. PBAC Work Program

Mr. Epstein asked the committee to review the mandated duties and work program.

Ms. Kathy Schlabach of the Department of Planning and secretary to the PBAC explained that the drafted complete streets policy will be reviewed at the June meeting in addition to the other scheduled items to be reviewed as per the adopted work program. She went on to explain that the drafted complete streets policy will cover many of the other mandated duties outlined in the PBAC work program. Once the complete streets draft is reviewed by the PBAC, the recommendations of the PBAC will be forwarded to the County Executive and the County Council.

Mr. Bahr requested that the complete streets draft be submitted to the committee at least two weeks prior to the next PBAC meeting so that the committee could have time to digest the information. Additionally, Mr. Jim Kelly asked that materials from the technical committee meeting on the complete streets policy be sent to the PBAC members as well. Ms. Schlabach agreed to complete both requests.

5. Other Business

Mr. Epstein asked if there was any other business to discuss. Ms. Schlabach mentioned that the hearing before the Baltimore County Planning Board was scheduled for April 5, 2012 at 5 p.m. and encouraged the committee to attend. She explained that the Planning Board would vote on adopting the plan two weeks later and that it would then go to the County Council for vote.

6. Adjournment

There was a motion by Mr. Levin and a second by Mr. Kelly to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Epstein announced that the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.