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BALTIMORE COUNTY PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Sheldon S. Epstein, Chair

-Approved on September 11, 2012 -

MEETING NOTES
July 10, 2012
4:00 p.m.

Attendees: Chairman Sheldon Epstein, Ray Bahr, Jay Burman, Laura Cook, Gene Bertoni, Thomas Henry, Jr., Jim Kelly, Ted Levin, Carol Silldorff, Linda Grossman, Stephen Weber

Absent: Jesse Fields
Myron Williams
Bob Barrett
Pat McDougall

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

1. Opening Remarks

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

- Baltimore County applied for two grants for a total of \$250,000. A \$125,000 grant was for design plans for the Short Line Rail Trail in Catonsville. A \$120,000 grant was for striping and signage for the Towson bikeway loop.

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

Mr. Henry made a motion to approve the meeting notes of March 13, 2012. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion and the meeting notes were approved unanimously.

3. Presentation of Staff/Technical Committee Report on Complete Streets

A. Presenter: Ms. Kathy Schlabach, Secretary to the PBAC

B. Summary

- a. A comprehensive approach was taken with regard to the policy. The focus expanded from only the building of roads to include supportive programs and design guidelines.
- b. The technical committee, county agencies, developers and attorneys have all reviewed the proposed policy.
- c. The policy is broken down into two parts:
 - What the county will implement, with the Department of Public Works having the major role.
 - What developers will implement.
- d. The county will be allowed exemptions in cases where implementing the policy would be infeasible, impractical or not funded. Developers would be allowed some exemptions, but also could be eligible for a waiver from the policy. If granted a waiver, the developer would pay a fee-in-lieu. The fee would be available to the county for future construction of pedestrian or bicycle improvements. Developers may be allowed to meet some of the local open space requirements when they construct pedestrian or bicycle facilities.
- e. The policy refers to two checklists – a developer project checklist and a county project checklist. Completion of the checklist will be required if projects do not meet the complete streets policy. The completed forms will be sent to the PBAC to track the progress of the policy's implementation.
- f. The final element is a set of design guidelines that would be included within the Comprehensive Manual of Development Policies. The guidelines address:
 - Site design, including connecting internal streets, limiting the use of cul-de-sacs, and bringing buildings closer to the street, and transit facilities
 - Road design, including various design options for bicycle and pedestrian facilities
 - Bicycle parking

C. Discussion

Many committee members expressed concern that the policy was not strong enough because of the use of terms such as “where feasible” and “according to available funding,” and because of the many opportunities for exemptions or waivers.

Mr. Bahr asked how the policy would be implemented. Ms. Schlabach stated that the policy could be approved by the county council as a resolution. The two checklists could be implemented through the appropriate county agencies once the policy was adopted. The design guidelines could go before the Planning Board for adoption into the CMDP.

The committee expressed that they did not feel prepared to vote on the policy. Ms. Cook made a motion to table the discussion until the committee was able to receive more

information from staff. Mr. Levin seconded this motion. The vote carried with five in favor and two opposed. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Henry were opposed.

Mr. Kelly then suggested that they work on the wording of the policy now because too much time passes between meetings to get anything accomplished. More discussion ensued. Again, it was expressed by many that the document provided too many exemptions.

After some suggestions for language changes were made, it was suggested in the interest of time and expediency that a subcommittee of the PBAC be formed to develop the revised policy. Mr. Kelly was appointed to chair the subcommittee. Each member of the full committee is asked to send their written comments to the PBAC secretary, Ms. Schlabach, to compile and then revise the policy documents accordingly. The revised documents will be sent to the subcommittee in advance of its meeting. Comments are due to Kathy Schlabach no later than July 24, 2012 and the subcommittee meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2012.

4. Adjournment

There was a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting, which was approved unanimously. Mr. Epstein announced that the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.