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County Executive

ANDREA VAN ARSDALE, *Director*  
Department of Planning

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

**-Approved November 13, 2012 -**

**MEETING NOTES**  
**September 11, 2012**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Chairman Sheldon Epstein, Ray Bahr, Jay Burman, Laura Cook, Gene Bertoni, Thomas Henry, Jr., Jim Kelly, Ted Levin, Myron Williams, Linda Grossman, Pat McDougall, Stephen Weber

Absent: Jesse Fields  
Carol Silldorff  
Bob Barrett

Department of Planning staff present included Andrea Van Arsdale, 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's applications for two grants from the Maryland Department of Transportation's Bikeways Program were awarded. One is in partnership with Catonsville Rails to Trails for \$125,000 to provide design plans for the Short Line Trail extension to UMBC. The other is for \$120,000 to stripe and sign a Towson Bikeway Loop.
- The Baltimore County Council has scheduled a public hearing on the Western Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Plan for Monday, October 15 at 6 p.m. If approved by the Council, the plan will be adopted as an amendment to the county's master plan.

## **2. Approval of the Meeting Notes from July 10, 2012 Meeting**

Mr. Henry made a motion to approve the meeting notes of July 10, 2012. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion and the meeting notes were approved unanimously.

## **3. Presentation of Subcommittee Report on Complete Streets**

Mr. Jim Kelly, chair of the Complete Streets Subcommittee, explained that the subcommittee met August 21<sup>st</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, and performed a line by line review of the staff report presented at the previous PBAC meeting. Council representatives David Marks and Tom Quirk, who were present in the audience, were asked for comments. Both expressed a desire for the policy to produce results, while providing the county with some flexibility on its implementation due to fiscal constraints.

Mr. Kelly moved that the subcommittee report be approved by the committee. Mr. Burman seconded the motion. A vote was called and all voted in favor with the exception of Laura Cook and Tom Henry.

It was noted that the vote was called before the opportunity for committee discussion. Mr. Levin moved that the PBAC reconsider the previous vote that approved the subcommittee report, seconded by Mr. Bertoni. All voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Kelly.

A discussion ensued about the specific staff concerns described in the memorandum addressed to the committee by Andrea Van Arsdale, Director, Department of Planning. Planning staff explained that the policy would raise expectations that the county would not be able to meet, due to fiscal constraints. Steve Weber and Linda Grossman described some specific scenarios where it would be unrealistic or undesirable to construct bike and/or pedestrian facilities.

There was general consensus among the members of the committee that the policy needed to be strong enough to meet its goals, but allow the county some flexibility. Several suggestions were made, including establishing implementation criteria, such as was done for the traffic calming program. Ms. Cook inquired if the document could provide an ultimate goal and make a commitment to meet a targeted amount of improvements. Mr. Epstein and Mr. Levin suggested that the county budget include a mandated funding source to be tapped until the funding ran out. Mr. Weber suggested that priorities be assigned to projects. Mr. Bahr and Mr. Bertoni suggested that the checklist be used to gauge implementation, with the PBAC review at the end of the year to determine if the policy needed to be revised. Finally, Ms. Andrea Van Arsdale suggested that staff rework the draft with additional input from all the stakeholders to come up with a middle ground. The PBAC asked for expediency in this process as the deadline for passing a policy has already come and gone according to the committee's work schedule.

Mr. Bahr moved that staff review the subcommittee draft with the stakeholders to develop a compromise, and then hold a subcommittee meeting to review. Ms. Cook seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

#### **4. Staff Reports: Funding Sources Update and Introduction of Annual Report**

Ms. Kathy Schlabach highlighted the various sources for which resources could be utilized for bike and ped improvements within the county. A new federal transportation funding bill was recently passed that reduces the amount of funding available for pedestrian and bicycle improvements. A new federal program created by the bill, Transportation Alternatives, replaces the activities previously funded under three separate programs—Transportation Enhancements, Recreational Trails, and Safe Routes to School. A number of other programs have been eliminated.

Ms. Schlabach then introduced a draft Annual Report of the PBAC. An annual report by the PBAC is required by law. The draft will be updated and brought back to the committee at its next meeting for approval.

#### **5. Other Business**

Mr. Kelly announced that the County Council hearing on the Western Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Plan is going to take place October 15, 2012 and encouraged all members of the PBAC to attend.

#### **6. Adjournment**

Mr. Henry moved, and Mr. Kelly seconded, to adjourn the meeting, which was approved unanimously. Mr. Epstein announced that the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.