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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 April 23, 2013-**

**MEETING NOTES**  
**March 12, 2013**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Chairman Sheldon Epstein, Ray Bahr, Jay Burman, Laura Cook, Jim Kelly, Ted Levin, Linda Grossman, Stephen Weber

Absent:

Gene Bertoni  
Jesse Fields  
Thomas Henry  
Carol Silldorff

Myron Williams  
Bob Barrett  
Pat McDougall

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

**1. Opening Remarks**

Mr. Sheldon Epstein opened the meeting at 4:14 p.m. once a quorum of members had arrived. After introductions, Mr. Epstein made the following announcements.

- The Maryland Department of Transportation is updating its 2002 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan which will establish a 20-year vision to support cycling and walking as modes of transportation in the state. Carol Silldorff and Kathy Schlabach are members of the plan's advisory committee.
- The Maryland State Highway Administration has announced \$20 million in funds for alternative transportation projects including off-road bicycle facilities and education programs.
- The Maryland Department of Transportation will be accepting applications for the next round of Bikeways Program funding soon, with a deadline expected sometime in May.

## **2. Approval of the Meeting Notes from the November 13, 2012 Meeting**

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

## **3. Review of PBAC Bylaws**

Mr. Sheldon Epstein noted that the committee has been operating under its initial bylaws for over a year, and asked the committee if there was any need to revise them. Members of the committee did not advance any motions to amend the bylaws.

## **4. Staff Report: Potential Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects**

Ms. Kathy Schlabach stated that while the committee is mandated with developing a 6-year capital improvement program for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, there is no county funding for such projects currently. She proposed that the committee develop a list of priority projects as a first step.

Ms. Schlabach then proposed holding a community input meeting to allow citizens to come before the committee and provide input on what they view as priorities. The meeting would be held in Towson in the hearing room where the PBAC holds its meetings.

Questions were asked if other forums could be made accessible for the community to give input and it was stated that people can submit emails and letters if they are unable to attend the meeting. Possibly an online form could be posted on the county website.

Ms. Schlabach then presented a prepared handout that highlighted staff's suggestions for potential projects that could be eligible to Maryland Bikeways Program funding without a county matching requirement for the committee's consideration.

Mr. Jim Kelly motioned to schedule the meeting for April 16 at 5:00 p.m. and Mr. Ted Levin seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

It was then discussed sending the priority list of projects to the county executive, with a letter thanking him for funding the existing projects, and requesting that he consider funding 2 or 3 additional projects with the upcoming round of Maryland Bikeways Program funding. Mr. Kelly advanced a motion to that effect. Mr. Levin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

It was suggested that the committee meet after the Citizen Input Meeting, but before May when the applications would be due, to set project priorities. Mr. Kelly motioned that the committee meet on April 23. Ms. Laura Cook seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Cook then asked the committee if it could be established how the priorities would be set, so that this could be done efficiently in one meeting. She motioned that the committee should consider the limited amount of available county funding, projects that are already identified in the Eastern and Western plans, the communities' identified priorities, and staff's analysis of feasibility. Mr. Levin provided the second, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **5. Other business**

Mr. Fran Taylor, representing the North Point Peninsula Council, presented the committee with a booklet entitled "North Point Heritage Greenway Trail Concept Plan," and a handout describing how the project would meet the Baltimore County Planning Board's guidelines for funding capital projects. He said funding the project now would be very timely because of the current Bicentennial Celebration of the War of 1812. Mr. Taylor also requested that the meeting notes of the PBAC be posted on the county website.

## **6. Adjournment**

Mr. Jay Burman motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Levin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.