**Mayor’s Bicycle Advisory Commission**

April 28, 2021

**Minutes**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

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| Jon Laria (Chair) | Jamison Holtz (Recreation and Parks) |
| Terrence Jennings (Mayor’s Office, Vice Chair) | Austin Davis (Planning) |
| Graham Young (DOT) | Peter Jackson (Business Community Representative) |
| Matthew Hendrickson (DOT) | Dan Knopp (Health Communities Representative) |
| Col Monique Brown (BPD) | LaKeisha Henderson (Community Representative) |
| Meg Young (DOT) |  |

**Agenda**

1. February Minutes

* Approved

1. Community Updates

* Events
  + Bike to Work Week (DOT)
    - Registration open through May 22 but register before it starts!
    - Register before May 1 for special prizes
    - Partnering with local bike shops for gear pick up
    - MBAC Awards will be press event by mayor rather than in-person
    - DOT Communications Staff Tammy Walters can send out graphics to promote Bike to Work/Bike Month
    - There will be ads on CCC Buses
* Rec & Parks
  + Spring Outdoor Rec starts May 1
* Bike & Brunch Tours
  + Fill out form to get hired for ride support/guiding, see website for more
* Black People Ride Bikes (BPRB)
  + Conditioning ride and other rides starting back up at end of May.
  + Raising money to send Baltimore City youth to Colorado for mountain biking experience. $10,000 goal.
  + *Commissioner question: Do you have more info about who qualifies?*
    - *Yes, will share*
* *Chair question: Could City host a centralized calendar of events?*
  + Co-chair: talking about how to promote events and centralize information, will have more info at next meeting
  + Austin Davis can build a centralized website with the ability for community input, mapping/wayfinding, and have it maintain or be a central database for events
* Bike Week Recap
  + Several events organized by a collaboration of groups
  + Not much DOT involvement, mostly community driven, but well attended
  + Many people who haven’t ridden or hadn’t ridden in a long time attended
* Bikemore
  + Hiring community mechanic at $15/hour (part time) <https://www.bikemore.net/jobs>
* Resident testimony on MLK
  + Pigtown resident, worked at State Center, frequent MLK biker (street and sidepath)
  + Getting across MLK at Baltimore St is a problem
  + UMD put out a plan to improve the intersection by creating a new intersection at Freemont, which would have broken up the bike path
    - *Participant comment: We have a lot of concerns about this proposal as well, it's purely a convenience change for people driving that creates no safety improvements.*
    - *Participant comment: I thought this idea died many years ago, because of (among other things) the loss of mature trees. Sidepath status?*
      * *Sidepath is at 30% design, seeking funds*
  + UMD has been presenting plan to public, but said at SW Partnership last week that they were holding off on the plan for now
  + Putting a bridge or plaza across MLK could be a better way to address these issues
  + Resident has written testimony to share
  + *Chair question: Aware of history of proposal, was not aware that it came back. How is DOT involved in this conversation?*
    - *Graham Young has reviewed the proposal. Connecting Freemont to MLK is not a great idea, but other safety changes could make it good. MLK doesn’t need to be 8 lanes there. Could widen sidewalk/path. Block spacing between Baltimore and Lombard is 700-800’ and adding another crossing could be helpful.*

1. City Updates

* Planning
  + DOT put in $13.2 million request from surface transportation bill with significant local match (construction of northern segments, design of eastern segment), and two other requests too
  + $1.5 million from state budget for Greenway Trail Network
  + City has made offer to purchase Norfolk Sourthern property, expect response/counteroffer in May
  + Asphalt is going down for Brewers Hill trail section (The Collective at Canton)
  + *Participant comment: Is trail construction in Brewers Hill funded by developer? How do we get construction to happen in other areas of Baltimore, particularly where black & brown folks live?*
    - *Negotiated with developer to build it for free with City’s plans on private property and let public use it*
    - *Chair comment: Goal is to create community-wide asset. Lots of attention due to it being a tangible project and the economic benefit report*
    - *Participant comment: Be careful with the bike trails in black communities conversation. There is a deep history and area of study on that. I am happy to talk offline or point to references, reading, and case studies. There are many factors to consider to ensure harm is not done. I encourage "equity" as a goal over equality. This is a point of contention in the field/ practice or planning and economic development.*
* BPD
  + New commissioner welcome – Col. Monique Brown
  + BPD has agreed to make bike, scooter, pedestrian module mandatory for all departments and all trainees.
  + Col. Brown is from East Baltimore and is a Mervo alum. Learned a lot from the bike training module, including rules that have changed.
  + *Participant comment: You are more than welcome on Thurs Col. Brown. Black People Ride Bikes is hosting a ride at 6pm from Lake Montebello. Nia will be facilitating the ride.*
* Rec & Parks
  + Outdoor Programming – Looking for part time $12/hr staff. Having trouble hiring people and have had to cancel programs due to staff shortage, even though programs are funded.
    - <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/baltimorecity/jobs/3048173/outdoor-recreation-community-aide?keywords=Outdoor%20&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJob>
    - [https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/baltimorecity/jobs/3048173/outdoor-recreation-community-aide?keywords=outdoor%20rec&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governmentjobs.com%2Fcareers%2Fbaltimorecity%2Fjobs%2F3048173%2Foutdoor-recreation-community-aide%3Fkeywords%3Doutdoor%2520rec%26pagetype%3DjobOpportunitiesJobs&data=04%7C01%7CMeg.Young%40baltimorecity.gov%7Ca99590226d1b46c9a77008d904dce4fc%7C312cb126c6ae4fc2800d318e679ce6c7%7C0%7C0%7C637546169042425147%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=u0lAKHt28QXaLkJTlS98sQ7JVCceZZKjsXMoaDqWNMU%3D&reserved=0)
    - *Chair question: any idea why you are having trouble finding people?*
      * *Not sure, could be that pay is too low*
      * *Participant comment: We've been sharing the position out as well. It definitely is low pay for the work, which is certainly not the fault of Outdoor Rec just a comment.*
  + Registration for rides around conservatory – link online
    - <https://secure.rec1.com/MD/baltimore-md/catalog/tab/7046/c09c22d93e0f739aed476c1440d74bfa>
  + Lake Montebello Rides 5 – 8 p.m. Thursdays
  + 75 bike rack requests for Rec & Parks
  + Pump Track at new rec center (Bocek) in June or July but need to get trailer back that is currently getting repaired
  + Bringing youth out for bike and hike rides from Gwynns Falls to Leon Day
    - *Participant comment: This is great, Gwynns Falls needs to get the attention it deserves*
    - *Chair comment: Bad and dangerous trail conditions on the trail now. I heard Rec & Parks is moving on trail management positions?*
      * *Positions will probably be posted in 2 months*
    - *Participant comment: I love Gwynns Falls and would ride there like EVERY weekend if I could get there safely on a bike, but my wife and I both have had pretty unpleasant traffic violence/road rage issues biking over there.*
  + A commissioner recommended a Gwynns Falls trails cleanup event by MBAC
    - *Participant comment: The re-opening of the GFT section under the new Edmonson Avenue bridge is an opportunity to show the trail some love.*
    - *Commissioner comment: In the past, Planning has done clean-ups along the Gwynns Falls for Tour Dem Parks-readying.*
  + *Participant comment: Middle Branch Trail is blocked with dirt as well, part of ECG. Need trail manager ASAP.*
    - *Miscommunication on construction project, working on MOU for detour. There needs to be basic signage at entry points. BDC has promised to put up entry point signage this week.*
  + *Participant comment:* *Lots of illegal tire dumping on the JFT behind Sinai as well and every 311 request put in has been marked as closed.*
* DOT
  + Reduced project list from 108 to 81 – charrette for May 12th at 4pm
    - Sent to all commissioners, e-mail Matt Hendrickson if others would like to participate
  + Dockless Vehicles
    - Ridership up back to Fall 2020 levels and on the rise. Far above where we were this time last year
    - Dockless Vehicle permit renewal period is in progress
      * Proposed rules and regulations for review: <https://transportation.baltimorecity.gov/dockless-vehicles-hire-rules-and-regulations-2021>
    - Installing bike racks and corrals. Average of 4.9 trip destinations per day at corrals. Light at Lee has 25.5 destinations per day.
    - Higher percentages are being concentrated within corrals.
    - *Participant comment: are corrals incentivized?*
      * *Spin offers $0.50 discount*
      * *They will be required for deployment in new contract.*
  + Bike Contract Progress
    - Vision Zero and Bike Program Construction and Maintenance Contract: award closes on June 2
    - Goal is to have several designs in place so that they can be accomplished during the summer and fall
    - The goal is to move several Rapid Enhancement Plan projects forward with this contract
  + Eutaw – working on various concepts, including a median path
  + Honing in on Wolfe/Washington concepts. Washington corridor selected for bike lane as well as traffic calming on Wolfe. Next public meeting in 1.5 months with more detail.
  + Bush Street – concepts to review from Toole, meeting with them next week. Public involvement plan in development.
  + Melrose – finalizing edits
  + Public involvement plan for northern segments of greenway trail network (Gwynns Falls Parkway & 33rd St)
  + Big Jump – maintaining biking, walking, ADA. Results coming soon.
  + Middle Branch – Coordinating with MDOT and SHA to procure vendor that can do work.
  + Rapid Enhancement Plan ongoing
    - *Participant question*: *E-mail Matt with Rapid Enhancement Plan suggestions?*
      * *Yes*
  + Slow Streets – initial survey results finalized, going out with new nominations in the next week or so
    - Found more walking and biking due to COVID
    - Dangerous situations and speeding, but working on improvements including enhanced barriers
  + DOT Working Group
    - Main goal is increase accessibility

1. Miscellaneous Business

* Next Meeting date May 26, 4-6 p.m.