**Mayor’s Bicycle Advisory Commission**

February 24th, 2021

**Minutes**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

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| Jon Laria (Chair) | Jamison Holtz (Recreation and Parks) |
| Terrence Jennings (Co-chair, Mayor’s Office) | Austin Davis (Planning) |
| Matthew Hendrickson (DOT) | LaKeisha Henderson (Community Representative) |
| Meg Young (DOT) | Dan Knopp (Health Communities Representative) |
| Theo Ngongang (DOT) |  |

**Agenda**

1. January Minutes
   * Approved
2. Community Events and Updates
   * Bike and Brunch Tours’ maintenance and mingle currently postponed
   * Black People Ride Bikes – Still doing Thursday conditioning night ride
   * Bikemore has a Cycling Smart 301 ride on March 27th, for advanced riders
   * Bike More B-More, Thursday night rides from Druid Hill Park
     1. Started last year as more people started riding in response to COVID
     2. Best found on Facebook and Instagram
   * Baltimore Recreation and Parks will have rides starting in April
   * *Chair comment: it would be good to have a schedule/directory of recurring rides like these*
3. City Agency Updates
4. Planning
   * Austin Davis is the new commissioner from Planning – Urban Planner and GIS analyst for the Department of Planning, with research experience in the equitability of bike lanes
   * Zoning changes related to bike parking are open for public comment
   * City has made an offer to buy the Norfolk Southern property, for 1.9 miles of unused rail line, to use for a trail – a good connection between NE and SE Baltimore neighborhoods
   * Watching for opportunities in site development review to improve bike connection and parking amenities
   * Greater Baybrook and Harbor Hospital won a grant to take a trail connector from the Middle Branch Trail to the BWI trail loop
   * *Chair comment: Let’s remember that the trail loop is truly a trail, not just a bike lane – it’s for all sorts of users*
5. BPD
   * No representative present – discussion is ongoing about a new BPD representative joining us
   * *Participant update on crash reporting: There is still an issue that there’s a lot of BDP discretion in reporting crashes; officers often refuse to write reports in crashes involving bicyclists, or blame bicyclists for injuries*
     + *This makes it difficult to change street design based on crashes, and also endangers people on bikes*
     + *Participant comment: The training module that Meg Young from DOT developed to train BPD officers on bike enforcement is great, if it were to be implemented*
6. BCRP
   * Hiring is ongoing for outdoor recreation staff
     + A full-time outdoor recreation position had the application close last week
   * Met recently with the Maryland Zoo about possibilities for re-creating a loop in Druid Hill Park, while the reservoir is under constructions
     + Additionally, they spoke about the maintenance needs on Crow’s Nest Road
   * Working on an MOU for BCRP and community groups to use Safety City
     + *Participant comment: It would be great to have a whole volunteer day to retrofit safety city to "complete streets"*
   * Plates on the trailer that hauls the pump track expired, needs to be renewed
     + *Commissioner question: Is this going to get fixed?*
       - *Absolutely, we are working on it*
     + *Commissioner question: How are you deciding where the pump track will go, and how often can it get moved?*
       - *The previously generated list of locations has about 30 on it – 6 weeks is probably the amount of time it should stay in one location*
     + *Chair question:*
       - *Can someone at BCRP reach out to the Chair with information on the pump track, to share with the Rash Field team?*
     + *Participant comment: There should be a focus on having it near where we are trying to have conversations around infrastructure like Gwynns Falls and Wolfe/Washington.*
   * Working on adding bike racks at important park locations
   * *Chair comment: Could you create, for us, a summary of bike-related (and Commission related) things that BCRP is doing?*
     + *Yes*
7. DOT
   * Dockless Program
     + Consistent riders kept riding through most of the weather – we did have our first “zero ride day” during the big snow storm
     + We have produced a “readable” (compared to zoning regulations) bike parking installation guide which will be posted to the web soon
     + *Commissioner question: total ride numbers includes some ebikes, right?* 
       - *Yes – Lime has some bikes*
   * Prioritization Consultant Update (Discussion captured, see slides for content details)
     + *Chair question: Are you saying that “interested but concerned” riders are going to be accommodated first, or are some projects for each user group going to be prioritized together?*
       - *That’s more of a City decision, but we want to create a lot of clarity about who we’re building for*
     + *Chair comment: this needs to culminate – also we need to “reality check” these recommendations*
     + *Participant comment: If we implement designing for interested but concerned, we are designing for the other user groups too. It makes sense to document existing facilities designed for confident user groups but we shouldn't really be building any more.*
     + *Commissioner comment: have you incorporated grade? I know that some riders avoid Monument and use Biddle instead because of the grade. Baltimore is a very hilly city – we could consider something like SF’s “wiggle.”*
   * Bike Program projects
     + CIP review
       - *Chair question: Where are we in the CIP process?* 
         1. *The Planning Commission has asked us to come back to talk to them specifically about the bike allocation, in “early spring”*
         2. *The commission also needs to know the status of previous years’ money*
       - *Commissioner comment: I noticed that most of the items in this task list are mainly plans, reports etc. given that the budget proposal is coming up you may want to prepare against the criticism that it looks like a lot of plans. I know it’s not that simple. But with budget shortfall they’re going to be looking to cut funds I’d think.*
     + Vision Zero and Bike Program Construction and Maintenance contract update:
       - Will be dedicated to bike and pedestrian safety installations; should be advertised late next month, potentially “in action” by mid-summer
     + Big Jump evaluation: There was a historic injustice in building the Druid Hill Expressway, and it was opposed by the communities at the time; additionally, there was no demonstrable significant impact on motor vehicle travel time, based on probe data; the facility should be maintained and the barriers should be upgraded
     + Wolfe/Washington virtual meeting information distributed
   * Slow Streets
     + Program was most successful where it functioned as neighborhood traffic calming; there are hopes to turn this into a more comprehensive neighborhood traffic calming program
   * Revisiting MBAC Goals discussion (see slides for details; discussion captured)
     + Consensus for more advanced notice with materials