**Mayor’s Bicycle Advisory Commission**

January 27th, 2021

**Minutes**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

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

**Agenda**

1. November and December Minutes
   * Approved
2. Chair Remarks
   * Welcomed new DOT Chief of Staff Adrea Turner
3. Community Events and Updates
   * Bike and Brunch Tours expected to restart in April – focusing on sponsored rides for people who want to see Baltimore by riding through the City
   * Black People Ride Bikes – Still doing Thursday night ride; two additional larger events coming towards the end of February
   * Bikemore has weekly Cycling Q&A sessions on social media – topics include cycling, maintenance etc., over Instagram; later this month there will be a 201-level educational bike ride
   * Two new grant opportunities for local organizations:
     1. One through NACTO/Better Bike Share for a Transportation Justice Fellowship intended for BIPOC people in the Transportation field; applications due February 1st
        1. <https://nacto.org/2021-transportation-justice-fellowship/>
        2. *Commissioner comment: One note about the NACTO fellowship, it appears to be unpaid, so anyone applying should be aware and see if their employer would allow participation as continued education*
     2. OutRide has a grant for afterschool programming, and a grant match for organizations working with biking and youth
        1. <https://outridebike.org/>
4. City Agency Updates
5. Planning
   * + Improvements coming through UDAP and site plan review, particularly related to T. Rowe Price headquarters at Harbor Point; UDAP is getting better at requiring more functional bike amenities.
     + Collective at Canton is under construction, including a trail section.
     + *Question: Is there a mechanism to enforce some of these bike parking things since the zoning code requires them to be strategically placed already and be racks of certain design, however for example in Harbor East none of the racks installed complied and nobody made them change it.*
       - *DOT is currently working on a plain-English bike parking guide that should help clear things up.*
       - *There is no dedicated Zoning inspector in Baltimore, and the current review structure relies on general Building Inspectors who might not be as cognizant of these details.*
     + Input from Commission members is currently being used to update bike parking requirements in the Zoning code; warehouse facilities and schools currently aren’t required to have bike parking, for instance
       - Rack requirements will also be changed to better accommodate ebikes and adaptive bikes.
       - *Commissioner comment: can one of the items we look at be encouraging bike racks in the public ROW rather than on private property? This would be the preference for most land uses.*
       - *The zoning code already allows for required bike parking to be located in the ROW (which is not typical). The vast majority of required short-term parking gets placed either in the ROW or close to it.*
   * Matt DeSantis will be stepping down as the Planning representative. Austin Davis will be transitioning into the role. Welcome Austin!
6. BPD
   * No representative present – discussion is ongoing about a new BPD representative joining us.
7. BCRP
   * New outdoor recreation manager Jamison Holtz introduced – BCRP is expecting to hire staff and get going with programs by April.
   * *Chair comment: It’s a goal of this Commission to get BCRP more involved both in this Commission, and engaged with bikes and mobility more generally.*
8. DOT
   * Prioritization Consultant Update: The deliverable package should be reviewable by next month.
     + *Chair comment: There should be some urgency in getting a deliverable to this Commission for review ASAP.*
   * Dockless
     + Rides are up vs. December – there are plenty of vehicles on the ground to meet demand.
     + COVID ultimately resulted in a 55% decrease in rides in 2020, vs 2019.
     + See presentation for map of designated bike and scooter parking corrals.
     + Showed and discussed PSA about scooter riding and parking, made with collaboration with Mayor’s Commission on People with Disabilities; this will be aired in mid-February.
     + *Question: Where will the PSA be shared?*
       - *As a press release, through IKE kiosks, social media, paid placements, etc.*
     + *Question: How are the dockless ebikes doing?*
       - *Fewer are being placed, but the ones out there are still being used.*
   * CIP Request
     + *Chair comment: The previous years’ lack of CIP funds was because of an inability to spend allocated funds, and the hope was that the $500,000 requested for the consultant team would help move us in that direction.*
     + *Participant comment: There still needs to be more money for bikes, ADA, transit, complete streets, there especially needs to be more staff for these things, and DOT needs to divert some resources from car-oriented megaprojects.*
     + *Commissioner question: what is indicated by the Big Jump conversion project.*
       - *It’s meant to improve the current Big Jump project to provide a more permanent solution while the larger streetscape project moves forward.*
     + *Do you have an estimate for the total Capital cost for the streetscape? And what’s the design for the interim streetscape responding to ongoing construction?* 
       - *This funding will come from many sources, not just the Bike Program’s CIP allocation – its precise amount is not yet known.*
   * DOT Projects
     + Update focused on Wolfe and Washington outreach.
     + *Commissioner comment: The intention of the Wolfe and Washington public meeting was good but that it was very difficult to process all the options and information (especially for those less technologically inclined). Some community leaders had technical difficulties.*
       - *We will be in touch to make sure we have all of those names; we also intend to attend Community Association meetings in all of the project’s neighborhoods.*
     + *Participant comment: Agree, good intent, I think generally the technology just further frustrated older folks who were already skeptical of infrastructure that isn't more parking.*
   * Slow Streets
     + Currently going through evaluation – survey and feedback map linked.
     + Public comment just closed, and we will be starting analysis soon.
     + The initial temporary barriers have been removed, and will be replaced with more durable barriers.
     + *What barriers are going to replace the temporary barriers?*
       - *Typical type three traffic barriers, weighted to be more secure.*
   * Revisiting MBAC Goals discussion (see slides for details; discussion captured)
     + *Commissioner question: What’s the plan for reciprocity when community members or groups are invited to the MBAC? How can visiting the commission be beneficial not just to the Commission, but to the visitors and the people they serve?*
       - *At a minimum, we can provide a platform, if that’s needed. Additionally, we’re thinking through how the Bike Program can benefit these visitors, and how we can better be part of the community.*
         1. *Commissioner comment: Before you roll this out and invite folks, there should be clarity about what reciprocity is offered, what the guests’ needs are, how the Commission can be helpful to them, etc. You should not assume that people and organizations don’t have their own platforms.*