

# National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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## MEETING NOTES

### BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025

**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Virtual

**CHAIR:** Laurel Hammig, National Park Service

#### **Attendance:**

Bryce Barrett	Prince William County DOT Bike/Ped Coordinator
Griffin Frank	NVTA
Laura Ghosh	Loudoun County DOT
Wade Holland	Montgomery County
Michael Jackson	Prince George's Planning
Tiffany Jennings	Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager, Prince George's County DPW&T
Jill Kaneff	Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Joe Kelley	Frederick County
Brian Leckie	VDOT-NOVA
Charlene Mingus	BMC
Calandra Moss	Virginia DMV
Chloe Ritter	City of Fairfax
Antonio Rossi	WMATA
Shane Sarver	Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner MDOT SHA
Brian Shelton	Active Transportation Planner, Arlington County
Tyler Smith	Baltimore City Dockless Vehicle Program Manager
Nicole Wynands	Fairfax County
Anne Welch	DDOT Active Transportation Planner
Meg Young	MDOT Active Transportation Planner
Ryan Yowell	WMATA

#### **COG Staff Attendance:**

Michael Farrell

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Charlene Howard

- 1. General Introductions.**
- 2. Review of the January meeting notes**

The meeting notes were approved.

- 3. Jurisdictional Updates**

Prince George's has just published its GoPrinceGeorge's Master Plan of Transportation. This is a draft for comment. It replaces the 2009 Master Plan of Transportation.

Maryland is doing lot of active transportation activities. Complete Streets policy has been posted, there is a new Micromobility web site, there is a transportation trails plan under development, and grant applications are being accepted in April. Active Transportation webinars will be held on the first Monday of the month.

Prince George's County has added a developer funded Capital Bikeshare station in Greenbelt. Eight total stations have been added recently, though some were replacements, from October-February. Prince George's will have an active Bike to Work Day on May 15. DPWT is hosting a pit stop.

Montgomery County is hosting a safety day in Rockville on May 10. Street Smart will bring the VR challenge car.

Joe Kelley with Frederick County announced his retirement. His replacement should come on board in early April.

Baltimore City DOT has incorporated 311 to report mis parked bikes and scooters. It helps gather data on incidents and aids communication with the operators.

DDOT has no major updates. Final draft bikeway facility design guide is under review and should be released soon. There will be an existing conditions plan for bikeways released in April. The Open Streets even will be in Capitol Hill on June 28.

WMATA will install new bike racks and lockers at the majority of its stations starting this summer. WMATA will host a pit stop at Fort Totten for Bike to Work Day.

City of Fairfax has finalized contract for its citywide pedestrian safety plan.

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Prince William County is nearing the completion of its safety action plan, which has a strong bike/ped component. The Parks and Rec department is also kicking off a trails master plan, which will help prioritize segments for the Capital Improvements Program.

NVTA's six year program call for projects opens up May 1<sup>st</sup>. NVTA will sponsor a pit stop. Bike to Work Day is on Thursday this year. On April 9 NVTA will host its 10<sup>th</sup> annual transportation roundtable at Virginia Tech's new innovation campus in Alexandria. Virginia Tech will demonstrate its level 4 autonomous truck. A registration link was made available in the chat.

Fairfax County is ramping up its engagement efforts, including winter bike to work day with one pit stop. There is also an active transportation newsletter which includes all the activities, link shared in the chat.

On April 2 National Park Service will open comments on its Rock Creek Trail parkway project, which will include a rehab of the trail.

#### **4. Bikeable Baltimore Region**

Ms. Mingus spoke to a powerpoint.

The [Bikeable Baltimore Region](#) project has identified the region's first connected bike network. The network is made up of bike lanes and paths from current plans in the Baltimore region. It is intended to be usable by people of all ages and abilities.

Mr. Farrell asked about the prioritization and implementation aspects. For the National Capital Trail Network we have only two levels of priority: in or out. We also haven't categorized the facilities into long range and community access routes; we just have requirements for inclusion.

Ms. Mingus replied that BMC does not build facilities. They are still in conversations about how the prioritization levels might affect implementation. BMC attempts to realistically reflect the priorities of its members. Ms. Mingus expects to have a better answer in June.

Mr. Farrell praised the graphics, the store maps and the public outreach. There may be lessons for COG in terms of getting more public engagement and publicity for the National Capital Trail Network.

Toole Design's support allowed for a much higher level of public engagement and outreach than would otherwise have been possible. Numerous community organizations were engaged and supported the Bikeable Baltimore Network. Maintaining that level of engagement and excitement will be a challenge.

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Ms. Young praised the presentation and asked about the use of consultants versus in-house staff. Ms. Young asked about the handlebar survey and what the method was for reaching non-bicyclists, the “interested but concerned”. Ms. Mingus replied that the handlebar staff interviews were useful, as well as the survey form, which was developed in-house. There was also tabling outreach at the rec centers and libraries. This was done during the winter, so there weren’t as many community events available.

Mr. Jackson asked about a signed bike route between downtown DC and downtown Baltimore. Would there be any interest between COG and BRTB in terms of signing a bikeway between the two downtowns.

Charlene Howard said that she had started doing that herself, as a running route, and she’d be happy to share that route. Ms. Howard suggested bringing these types of suggestions up through the committee structure.

Mr. Farrell asked about the East Coast Greenway route from downtown to downtown. They’ve been active in Baltimore. Ms. Mingus said that she does work with them. Mr. Jackson said that the East Coast Greenway route goes through Annapolis, which is significantly out of the way if you’re going from DC to Baltimore. Mr. Farrell suggested that Michael Jackson and Charlene Howard should compare notes.

A downtown Frederick to downtown Baltimore route would also be useful.

Mr. Farrell asked how BMC got the funds to hire Toole Design. Ms. Mingus said that was funded out of the Unified Planning Work Program.

## **5. ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan**

Ms. Wynands spoke to a powerpoint.

FCDOT is working to combine the Fairfax County Bicycle Master Plan and the Countywide Trails Plan to ensure a safe, comfortable and convenient network of active transportation options and trails. The project launched in the summer of 2020 and is expected to be complete by the end of 2025.

Mr. Farrell remarked that given the size of Fairfax County, this is a very important plan.

We need to do the updated National Capital Trail Network this Fall, so hopefully Fairfax will be in good position to give us input for that. Most of these routes are already in the comprehensive plan.

Another interesting thing is having an ActiveFairfax design guide. NACTO has an urban bias, so a design guide suited for a suburban environment could fill a need.

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Ms. Mingus said that Activefairfax inspired some of BMC's work.

Fairfax will host the final storymap on its own web site, since the consultant will not be able to host that. The final product should be owned by the County, so you don't need to pay the consultant to keep your web site up. For the interim maps during the process it's OK to have the consultant host it. Charlene Howard said that COG was developing practices on where materials should be hosted.

**6. Other TPB Program Updates**

Mr. Farrell gave a quick update on TPB activities. Commuter Connections is working with WABA on Bike to Work Day.

Street Smart will do its Spring campaign wave. There won't be a press conference but there will be other events like the Virtual Reality training events, which can be used to drive media coverage. The paid media is mostly transit. The web site is [bestreetsmart.net](http://bestreetsmart.net). The new creative, "Life Ahead", is more acceptable to transit agencies and enables us to get more free ad placement. The Spring campaign starts April 7 and will run for about four weeks.

Mr. Farrell thanked the presenters.

**7. Announcements and Other Business**

**Adjourned**