

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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MEETING NOTES

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, May 20, 2026

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Virtual

CHAIR: Meg Young, MDOT

Attendance:

Display Name
Andrew Bossi (MCDOT) (he/him)
Anne Welch, DDOT
Ayden Cohen (Toole)
Barrett, Bryce
Brian Leckie (VDOT)
Brian Shelton - Arlington VA
Calandra Moss (Virginia DMV)
Cassi Patterson (VDOT)
Ceriann Price (COG/TPB)
Charlene Howard_TP/COG
Charlene Mingus (BMC)
Chloe Kauffman
Chloe Ritter
Christopher Berg (DDOT)
Christopher Eatough
David Edmondson
Elizabeth Kraatz
Enrique Gonzalez
Gregory Billing (DDOT)
Griffin Frank, NVTA

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JT Thomas MNCPPC Prince George's Parks & Recreation
Jaime Fearer (she/her) Greenbelt
Janie Nham, COG/TPB
Jennifer Wampler
Jon Ryder (MNCPPC)
Jona (DC HSO)
Jona Elson
Kevin O'Brien (he, him) WABA
Markus Tarjamo - Charles County
Meg Young MDOT She/her
Michael Eric Jackson
Noah Fossick (Frederick County)
Rebecca Murphy
Ross Tepe (VDOT)
Ryan Yowell (WMATA)
Sandy Klanfer, FCDOT
Stacy Leach (MCDOT)
Taylor Robey - COG/TPB
Tiffany Jennings, DPW&T, PGC
Tom Harrington - COG/TPB
Tyler H Smith
Wade Holland, Mont.Co.

1. General Introductions.

Meg Young chaired the meeting.

2. Review of the March meeting notes

The meeting notes were approved.

3. Meeting Summary (AI)

Overview

The meeting gathers regional transportation and planning representatives from Maryland, DC, and Virginia to discuss updates on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, planning efforts, and community engagement. Key

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participants include MWCOG staff, Charlene Howard, Meg Young (MDOT), Anne Welch (DDOT), Michael Eric Jackson (Prince George's County), and others.

A major focus is the comprehensive update of the National Capital Trail Network. MWCOG and Charlene Howard outline a data-driven process involving GIS data conflation, staff review, and jurisdictional feedback planned for July, aiming for subcommittee and TPB board approval in the fall. This update will refine the network to reflect current, feasible facilities and influence technical assistance grant scoring.

MWCOG reports on Bike to Work Week activities with preliminary participation estimates around 12,800, promotional efforts including new t-shirts and an upcoming Call to Action video, and the launch of the Spring Street Smart safety campaign on May 28 in Alexandria. Upcoming workshops on micromobility and a NACTO workshop are also discussed.

Anne Welch clarifies that the Metropolitan Branch Trail speed study uses feedback signs to encourage slower speeds without enforcement, addressing safety on this heavily used trail. Michael Eric Jackson raises concerns about shared use path intersection designs, advocating for appropriate use of yield signs over stop signs and prioritization of major paths, with Meg Young noting Maryland's updated MUTCD provisions and funding eligibility for safety improvements.

The meeting emphasizes collaborative, data-driven approaches to advancing regional active transportation infrastructure, safety, and community engagement, with plans for continued jurisdictional coordination and upcoming events to promote biking and pedestrian safety.

Detailed Summary

Baltimore Ridership Update

Tyler Smith from Baltimore reports a record-breaking year with over three million rides on dockless vehicles last year and a 20% increase in ridership this year, indicating strong growth in bike usage in Baltimore City.

- Tyler Smith, Baltimore Vehicle Program Manager, reports breaking a ridership record with over three million rides last year.
- Tyler Smith notes a 20% increase in ridership so far this year compared to the previous year.

Prince George's County Bike Projects

Michael Jackson and Tiffany Jennings provide updates on ongoing bike infrastructure projects in Prince George's County, including progress on the East-West bikeway feasibility study and installation of new Capital Bikeshare stations, enhancing regional connectivity and bike access.

- Michael Jackson, Prince George's County Planning, reports progress on the East-West bikeway feasibility study with good public turnout and expected completion by June 30.
- Tiffany Jennings, Prince George's DPW&T, announces installation of a new Capital Bikeshare station at Greenbelt Metro, totaling 36 stations in the county, with two more planned for summer.

Montgomery County Bike Programs

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Wade Holland and Stacy Leach share updates on Montgomery County's successful Bike to Work Day, youth ambassador program, and popular bike and e-scooter riding classes, highlighting community engagement and safety education efforts.

- Wade Holland congratulates regional collaboration on Bike to Work Day and notes successful youth ambassador program and virtual reality safety challenge.
- Stacy Leach reports sold-out bike basics and learn-to-ride classes, including e-scooter training, addressing adult riders learning to ride.

Frederick County Active Transportation Plan

Noah Fossick from Frederick County updates on the near completion of the updated bike ways and trails plan, transitioning into an active transportation plan, with adoption expected in a few months.

- Noah Fossick states Frederick County is progressing on updating their bike ways and trails plan into an active transportation plan.
- The plan is nearly complete and expected to be adopted in the coming months.

Charles County Bike Infrastructure and Grants

Markus Tarjamo discusses Charles County's collaboration with Prince George's County on the Herbert Branch CSX trail, recent board approval for a letter of support for a bike ways grant, and ongoing projects including Bike to Work Day expansion and feasibility studies for pedestrian improvements.

- Markus Tarjamo announces board approval for a letter of support for the Herbert Branch CSX bike ways grant application.
- Charles County held its first Bike to Work Day location in LaPlata with positive community support.
- Ongoing feasibility study for Leonardtown Road bicycle and pedestrian improvements is underway.

Regional E-Bike Education Discussion

JT proposes a follow-up regional discussion or working group focused on e-bike education and outreach to address ongoing issues, suggesting coordination with subcommittee leadership for scheduling.

- JT requests a regional discussion on e-bike education and outreach due to prevalent issues.
- JT suggests forming a working group within the subcommittee to address e-bike topics.

MDOT Micromobility Initiatives

Meg Young highlights upcoming MDOT webinars and workshops on micromobility, including shared systems and personally owned devices, encouraging participation to align with regional e-bike discussions.

- Meg Young announces an MDOT in-motion webinar on micromobility scheduled for Thursday at 11:30.
- A micromobility workshop is planned for June 30 by the bike-ped committee, focusing on shared and personal micromobility devices.

Prince George's County Safety and Events

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Tiffany Jennings shares successful events including Bike Walk and Roll to School Day and Bike to Work Day with multiple pit stops, emphasizing community engagement and safety education.

- Tiffany Jennings reports a successful Bike Walk and Roll to School Day at Herokeeline Elementary with safety education.
- Prince George's County hosted 11 pit stops for Bike to Work Day, which went extremely well.

DDOT Strategic and Pilot Programs

Anne Welch from DDOT updates on the strategic bikeways plan public comment analysis, micro freight pilot with Amazon using e-cargo bikes, and a speed study on the Metropolitan Branch Trail to manage e-bike speeds and pedestrian safety.

- Anne Welch reports ongoing analysis of public comments for DDOT's strategic bikeways plan, with public sharing planned for fall.
- DDOT launched a 10-month micro freight pilot program with Amazon using e-cargo bikes.
- A speed feedback sign pilot on the Metropolitan Branch Trail showed success in reducing e-bike speeds in congested areas.

DDOT Staff Retirement

Anne Welch announces the upcoming retirement of George Brandon, DDOT's Safe Routes and bike program lead, after 21 years of service, recognizing his contributions and dedication.

- George Brandon, DDOT Safe Routes and bike program lead, will retire at the end of the month after 21 years of service.
- Anne Welch and Michael Jackson acknowledge George's long-term contributions to regional bike and pedestrian safety.

Heritage National Scenic Trail Planning

Jennifer Wampler from the National Park Service announces the start of a comprehensive planning process for the Heritage National Scenic Trail with a public meeting and 30-day comment period beginning May 28.

- Jennifer Wampler shares that the Heritage National Scenic Trail comprehensive planning process has started.
- A public meeting and 30-day comment period are scheduled starting May 28.

Virginia Statewide Multi-Use Trails Plan

Brian Leckie and VDOT's Ross Tepe and Cassie Patterson present the newly released Virginia Statewide Multi-Use Trails Plan, detailing extensive public outreach, data collection, GIS analysis, and next steps including technical assistance and ongoing data updates.

- Brian Leckie announces the release of the Virginia Statewide Multi-Use Trails Plan and upcoming presentations.
- Ross Tepe and Cassie Patterson describe the two-phase plan development involving public outreach and GIS connectivity analysis.
- Nearly 6,000 survey responses informed the plan, highlighting access, safety, and utility as key concerns.

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- The plan includes a dashboard for interactive data exploration and case studies of trail projects.
- Next steps include ongoing data updates, technical assistance for cost estimating, and support for local trail planning.

Fairfax County Active Transportation Plan

Sandy Klanfer reports Fairfax County's new Active Transportation and Trails Plan received county board approval, marking the culmination of five years of work, and notes a successful Bike to Work Day event.

- Fairfax County's Active Transportation and Trails Plan received county board approval this month.
- Sandy Klanfer thanks partners for support in making Bike to Work Day a success.

Prince William County Trail Projects

Bryce Barrett shares completion of the Railway Trail feasibility study connecting Manassas VRE stations and progress on the Trails Master Plan, aiming for adoption in summer to prioritize trail network development.

- Prince William County completed a Railway Trail feasibility study connecting Manassas VRE stations.
- The Trails Master Plan is nearing completion with expected adoption in June or July.

City of Fairfax Cycle Track Project

Chloe Ritter announces the awarding of construction contracts for the City of Fairfax's Blend and Bull cycle track and multimodal improvements, a project in planning since 2015, enhancing connectivity between Vienna Metro and Old Town.

- City of Fairfax awarded construction contracts for the Blend and Bull cycle track project.
- The project has been in planning since 2015 and will connect Vienna Metro to Old Town.

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority Update

Griffin Frank reports the conclusion of public engagement for NVTa's six-year program, with staff recommendations to be presented in June and funding recommendations for adoption in July.

- NVTa completed public engagement for its six-year program.
- Staff recommendations will be presented in June, with funding adoption planned for July.

City of Greenbelt Bike and Pedestrian Projects

Jamie Fearer updates on Greenbelt's Maryland Bikeways grant for a shared-use off-road facility, progress on Vision Zero action plan grants, and ongoing ARPA-funded pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

- Greenbelt advances 90% design on a shared-use off-road facility along Hanover Parkway.
- The city continues work on Vision Zero action plan and ARPA-funded pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

Regional Bike and Pedestrian Data Integration

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Ayden Cohen from Toole Design Group presents the regional pedestrian and bicycle plan data compilation, review process, and challenges with overlapping jurisdictional data, soliciting final comments to finalize the network for plan update.

- Ayden Cohen outlines the data compilation and standardization process for the regional bike-ped plan.
- The team is addressing overlapping data segments and facility misclassifications across jurisdictions.
- Final comments are requested by the end of the week to proceed with data finalization.
- Discussion includes the inclusion and prioritization of sidewalk data in the regional plan.

MDOT and COG Coordination on Sidewalk Data

Meg Young and COG staff discuss the collection and integration of sidewalk data from Maryland jurisdictions, noting recent legal changes allowing bike riding on sidewalks and the varying completeness of sidewalk data across the region.

- Meg Young shares updated Maryland sidewalk data with COG for integration.
- COG notes varying sidewalk data completeness and discusses the role of sidewalks in the regional plan.
- Maryland law now permits bike riding on sidewalks as of October 1.

National Capital Trail Network Update

Ayden Cohen explains the process of conflating the National Capital Trail Network with updated existing facilities, reviewing changes, and coordinating with jurisdictions to confirm the final network for the regional plan.

- Toole Design Group will integrate the National Capital Trail Network with updated facility data.
- Coordination with jurisdictions will confirm final network changes for the regional plan.

National Capital Trail Network Refinement Process

MWCOG staff and Charlene Howard detail the comprehensive update process for the National Capital Trail Network, emphasizing data-driven review, conflation of GIS data, and collaboration with jurisdictions to ensure the network reflects current and feasible facilities.

- MWCOG Department of Transportation Planning Team F presented a background and history of the National Capital Trail Network and its importance for tracking progress.
- Charlene Howard explained the data-driven approach to update the network, including conflation of new GIS data with existing network lines for improved accuracy.
- The team identified nearly 100 locations with changes from planned to existing facilities and expects more through analysis.
- Staff will review the network to add logical connections and remove facilities no longer in local or state plans.
- Jurisdictions will be engaged in July to review proposed additions and deletions and provide feedback.
- The updated network will be presented to the subcommittee and then to the TPB board, likely in the fall, for approval.

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- MWCOG staff emphasized that reductions in mileage due to removals or corrections reflect more realistic data, not deficiencies.
- The National Capital Trail Network designation influences technical assistance grant scoring, incentivizing projects included in the network.

Bike to Work Week and Related Events

MWCOG staff and partners discuss recent Bike to Work Week activities, preliminary participation numbers, promotional efforts, and upcoming safety campaigns, highlighting community engagement and outreach strategies.

- MWCOG Department of Transportation Planning Team F reported on Bike to Work Week, noting a controversial schedule change to Friday and preliminary participation numbers that may indicate a slight decrease or stable turnout.
- Charlene Howard shared anecdotal reports of approximately 12,800 participants and positive reception of new t-shirts.
- An upcoming Call to Action video featuring the executive director and others will highlight the National Capital Trail Network and trail-oriented development.
- The Spring Street Smart pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign will launch with a press event on May 28 in Alexandria, using geotargeted ads to focus on high-crash zip codes.
- MWCOG staff announced a micromobility workshop scheduled for June 30, with potential additional speakers on micromobility safety.
- A NACTO workshop by Toole Design Group is planned but faces venue challenges for the week of July 13.

Metropolitan Branch Trail Speed Study and Safety

Anne Welch from DDOT clarifies that the Metropolitan Branch Trail speed study focuses on encouraging slower speeds through feedback signs without enforcement, addressing safety concerns on a heavily used trail.

- Anne Welch clarified that the speed study on the Metropolitan Branch Trail does not involve speed limits or enforcement but uses feedback signs to encourage slower speeds.
- The trail experiences high usage with diverse users, including toddlers and non-street legal e-bikes, creating safety challenges.
- DDOT is open to collaboration for events such as staff rides on the trail to promote awareness and engagement.

Shared Use Path Intersection Design Concerns

Michael Eric Jackson raises concerns about the design of shared use path intersections, noting inappropriate use of stop signs where yield signs would suffice, and the need to prioritize major shared use paths over low-volume streets to improve safety and user compliance.

- Michael Eric Jackson observed that many shared use paths have stop signs at intersections where yield signs would be more appropriate according to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).
- He emphasized that major regional shared use paths should be given priority over low-volume local streets at intersections.
- Jackson highlighted that stop signs at driveways without adequate justification may lead to non-compliance by bicyclists.

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- Meg Young noted that Maryland's updated MUTCD chapter on bikes has provisional approval and that bike safety improvements are eligible for funding through bike-walk programs.

Action Items (AI Generated)

- Brian Leckie should coordinate with VDOT Central Office Traffic Operations to develop interim guidance and formal standards for bicycle signal design, operations, and maintenance following the new Virginia law effective July 1.
- Michael Jackson needs to continue progressing and ensure timely wrap-up of the northern Prince Georges East West bikeway feasibility study and the Transportation and Land Use Connections grant by June 30th.
- Bryce Barrett should pursue funding and community support to advance the rail trail project connecting Manassas VRE stations and continue efforts to get the trails master plan adopted by the board in summer.
- Markus Tarjamo should continue collaboration with Prince Georges County on the Herbert Branch CSX bikeway grant application and follow up on the letter of support and financial commitment approved by the Charles County Board of Commissioners.
- MWCOG Department of Transportation Planning team should coordinate with Toole Design Group to conflate the updated pedestrian and bicycle network data with the National Capital Trail Network and verify progress on existing facilities.
- Sandy Klanfer should begin implementation of Fairfax County's newly approved Active Transportation and Trails Plan.
- Tiffany Jennings should install two additional Capital Bikeshare stations at Metro stations this summer and provide an update at the next meeting.
- Jaime Fearer should continue advancing the Maryland Bikeways grant for 90% design on the shared use off-road facility along Hanover Parkway and progress the Safe Streets and Roads for All grants and ARPA-funded pedestrian and bicycle improvements.
- Ayden Cohen should finalize the regional pedestrian and bicycle network data set by addressing all jurisdiction comments by the end of the current review week and coordinate follow-up as needed to resolve data issues.
- Jennifer Wampler should continue outreach and public engagement for the Heritage National Scenic Trail comprehensive planning process, including the May 28 meeting and 30-day public comment period.
- Markus Tarjamo needs to coordinate with Quinn to finalize the paperwork for the grant agreement related to the Leonardtown Road Bicycle Pedestrian improvements feasibility study.
- Anne Welch should coordinate with Meg Young and Michael to share the findings and final report of the DDOT micro freight pilot program and the Metropolitan Branch Trail speed study at a future meeting.
- MWCOG Department of Transportation Planning team should review and verify the National Capital Trail Network to add new feasible facilities and remove

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those that are not feasible or lower priority to ensure progress toward a realistic regional all ages and abilities network.

- MWCOG Department of Transportation Planning team should continue outreach to jurisdictions to collect sidewalk and bike facility data, accepting all submissions to build a comprehensive regional data set for planning purposes.
- Griffin Frank should prepare and present staff recommendations for the NVTA six-year program at the June authority meeting and proceed with adoption in July.
- Chloe Ritter should proceed with groundbreaking and construction of the City of Fairfax's Blend and Bull cycle track and multimodal improvements project this summer.
- Meg Young should resend the OMOC sidewalk data zip file to the Toole Design team to support inclusion in the regional pedestrian and bicycle data set.
- JT and Meg Young, along with Michael, should plan a follow-up regional discussion or working group on e-bikes education and outreach.