

Minutes for RBAC Meeting: June 2, 2021

7:00 – 9:00 pm, virtual Webex meeting

In attendance online: Wendy Aaronson, David Anspacher, Connie Berkta, Nancy Breen, Sophie Chan-Wood, Arunoday Chatterjee, Lynda Honberg, Jake Jakubek, Manny M, Bill Michie, Faramarz Mokhtari, Mark Pierzchala, Carl Petersen, Shannon Brescher Shea, and Jonathan Solomon.

Nancy started the meeting at 7:08 pm with introductions.

(1) Nancy introduced our guest speaker, David Anspacher and noted the County Bike Stress Map had won planning awards. When comparing the County Bikeway Master Plan versus the Rockville Bikeway Master Plan, she noted that standards are established for each street type, where as the Rockville plan addresses specific streets segments.

David Anspacher, a Transportation Supervisor at the Montgomery County Planning Department, is the Project Manager for **Montgomery County's Bicycle Master Plan**. David holds a BA in Economics from Wesleyan University and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He said the Montgomery County Bikeway Mater Plan was designed to be more aspirational and leave open the possibility to build some bike facility as opposed to none at all, especially if a real estate development is involved. The County wants walking and bicycling to be the main modes of transportation so the streets and roads need to be made irresistible. Consideration was to make a low-stress bike plan with equity. The level of traffic stress was evaluated on every street (3,500 miles) in the County. The Planning Department won an award from the American Planning Association for the Bicycle Stress Map (see URL below). Advisory bike lanes were proposed as a new bikeway type on residential streets. [<https://www.advisorybikelanes.com/> DC recently implemented some on a few streets but these lanes are experimental in the U.S. and require approval by the Federal Highway Administration.]

There are currently 274 miles of bikeways in the County but the plan proposes a total of 841 miles.

David suggested the following resources:

Bicycle Master Plan: <http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/bikeplan>

Bicycle Master Plan Facility Design Toolkit: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Bicycle-Facility-Design-Toolkit-May-2018.pdf>

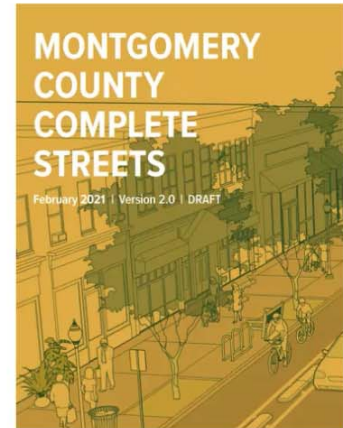
Bicycle Stress Map: www.mcatlas.org/bikestress

Bicycle Master Plan Map: www.mcatlas.org/bikeplan

He proposed the Complete Street Design Guide to help with connections in equity areas, build bike parking stations near transit stations, and identify potential demand-based data or measurements.

Figure 5-26. Guidance on appropriate bikeway by street type

Street Type	Street Buffer*	Ped / Bike Buffers	Default Bikeway Types and Widths*
Downtown Boulevard	8' default, 6' min	6' default, 2' min	Two-Way SBL on both sides of street. (each SBL: 11' default; 8' min)
Downtown Street	6'; 11' if this space is shared with on-street parking	6' default, 2' min	One-way SBL: 6.5' default; 5' min
Boulevard	8' default, 6' min	6' default, 2' min	Sidepaths on both sides of the street. (each sidepath: 11' default; 8' min)
Town Center Boulevard	8' default, 6' min	6' default, 2' min	Two-Way SBL on both sides of street. (each SBL: 11' default; 8' min)
Town Center Street	6'	6' default, 2' min	One-way SBL: 6.5' default; 5' min
Neighborhood Connector	6'	6' default, 2' min	Sidepath on one side of the street: 10' default; 8' min, or Bike Lanes: 6' default; 5' min
Neighborhood Street	6'	6' default, 2' min	Neighborhood Greenway, Shared Lanes, or Advisory Bike Lanes (for design guidance, see Bicycle Facility Design Toolkit)
Neighborhood Yield Street	6'	N/A	N/A**
Industrial Street	6'	6' default, 2' min	One-way SBL: 6.5' default; 5' min, or Sidepath on one side of the street: 10' default; 8' min
Country Connector	10' (if sidewalk or sidepath is provided)	6' default, 2' min	Bikeable Shoulders: 10' default; 5' min, or Sidepath on one side of the street: 10' default; 8' min
Country Road	8' default, 6' min	N/A	Bikeable Shoulders: 8' default; 5' min, or Sidepath on one side of the street: 10' default; 8' min
Major Highway	As wide as feasible (10' minimum)	6' default, 2' min	Sidepath on both sides of street. (each sidepath: 11' default; 8' min)



(2) Interim Bicycle Coordinator, Faramarz Mokhtari provided the **City update** and said the search for new bicycle-pedestrian coordinator position has started and been publicized. A bike network with the King Buick development will be presented for discussion at the next meeting.

(3) Councilmember Mark Pierzchala provided the **Council update**. He said that amendments can be made to the Rockville Bikeway Master Plan. He advised to be specific with the updates; otherwise a new plan may be needed.

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed and passed by August 7. The next and last public hearing will be on June 14.

Maryland Avenue will probably change from 3 lanes to 2 lanes.

(4) David discussed the **County connections to the City**. They County is planning to replace the bridge over Rock Creek at Baltimore Road. He suggested working with the bridge engineers to help reduce the gap between the City and County near Rockville High School. Faramaraz will contact the project managers and let them know. The County engineer is Brian Copely (brian.copely@montgomerycountymd.gov)

All agreed that Randolph Road is challenging with the single-family homes and driveways but is in the County plan. Southlawn is also challenging due to the Parks Department land around this road.

(5) Lynda announce that tomorrow is **World Bike Day** (June 3, 2021) established by the United Nations (<https://nationaltoday.com/world-bicycle-day/>). She is hosting a shop ride at 10 am. She suggested that perhaps next year RBAC can host a group ride or event.

(6) Carl said it has been about 15 months since our last group ride in March of 2020. The first **Tuesday night ride** was yesterday and 21 cyclists attend. Tuesday evening rides will continue until the end of August.

The **Juneteenth ride** will be on Saturday, June 16 probably at 10 am starting at the Civic Center Park. [The start location was changed to Rockville City Hall.] This group ride will be about 16 to 17 miles to appreciate local Black history including the new Josiah Hensen Park and Museum in North Bethesda. Nancy, Wendy, Jonathan and Sophie volunteered to help Carl lead this ride. Councilmembers will be invited and the rain date will be June 26.

Discussions on the **Carl Henn Millennium Trail rides** will be tabled to the next meeting although Carl may lead one on June 12 or 13.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

A video recording of this meeting is available here:

<https://rockvillemd.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/rockvillemd/recording/338c3375a6251039adbf005056813d2e/playback>

Other links

WABA's campaign for protected bike lanes in downtown Silver Spring -

<https://waba.org/advocacy/campaigns/create-the-silver-spring-circle/>

WABA has Action Committees in all of the jurisdictions

Respectively submitted,

Sophie Chan-Wood