

Summary of the October 25, 2018 meeting of the MTP Bike Element Update Working Group

Members Present: Chris Slatt, Gillian Burgess, Chips Johnson, James Schroll, Eric Goodman, Lindsay Marfurt, Leeann Sinpatanasakule, Mike Hanna

Staff Present: Henry Dunbar, David Patton, Christine Sherman, Ritch Viola

Review of Draft Bicycle Element document:

The working group discussed an item regarding Long Bridge Park and how recently announced plan changes may affect a future project to connect the park's Esplanade to the Mt. Vernon Trail and New Long Bridge over the Potomac River. DES staff will investigate the concern.

The group began to review the October 16 draft of the MTP Bicycle Element. Attention was initially focused on the map of the Primary Bicycling Corridors and the accompanying text (pp 21- 24). It was determined that the lines on the map should be made wider to illustrate that corridors, rather than specific streets, are being depicted. Also, several additional corridors, or segments should be added. They include: Walter Reed Drive & Fillmore Street, Army Navy Drive, the Route 27 sidepath, an Arlington Blvd connection to Roosevelt Bridge and an extension of Wilson Boulevard to 7 Corners. It was also recommended that the map use varying colors to indicate the bikeability of each segment of the corridors. There is concern that the colors may diminish the focus of the map and make it start to look like the Comfort Level Map.

Other items that were raised for revision in the draft plan include:

- Need to review all references to electric scooters and the definition of them,
- Upgrade statements about bike parking at Metro stations and schools; should include covers and allow for cargo bikes, scooters and other bikeshare,
- Revise the bicycle facility descriptions in pp 30 -33. Reorder to list from most-protective to the least-protective. There was a discussion about Bike Routes and how they should be described and what they mean.
- The Pershing Drive Bicycle Boulevard project was questioned. Not good enough to be a Bike Boulevard project, so will be dropped from Appendix D of the plan.
- Staff will check on proposed implementation action statements regarding the bikeway wayfinding program to ensure that important routes will be identified with street-level signs.
- It was decided to add markers on the map for intersections on bikeways that should be improved.
- There was a discussion about problem locations on existing trails, such as narrow pinch points, that should get some caution signage. There is also interest in installing detour signs for a few locations that frequently flood after large rainstorms. Staff will follow up with sign proposals and add an implementation item in the document.
- Proposals from the POPS Public Spaces Plan are being reviewed to determine how the two plans can be better coordinated.

- A number of specific revisions to the plan's text were specified in written comments submitted by the chairman, Chris Slatt, and member Steve Finn. Staff is reviewing those comments for incorporation.

It is anticipated that a new version of the plan, possibly dated November 1, 2018, will be developed that includes the recommended revisions. A copy of the new draft will be posted on the website, as well as mailed to the Working Group Members, along with a large copy of the revised map.

Discussion of Schedule:

Ritch handed out a page with a schedule for public review and adoption of the Bicycle Element. It includes six meetings that have been scheduled with advisory committees and commission in October and November. Also listed are some proposed dates for additional commission reviews and the likely dates in January and February, 2019 when there would be hearings by the Transportation and Planning commissions and the County Board.

Due to some delays in getting briefings set up for County Board members, it was decided by DES staff that January 2019 was a more realistic date for having the County Board's Request to Advertise action.

At present there are no more meetings scheduled for the Working Group to meet, however it was decided by the group that another meeting in November would be desirable, both to review plan revisions and to prepare for the County Board and other meetings.

Staff will also look into opportunities for further outreach to Spanish speakers and other underserved communities.

Ritch will reach out to the working group members and staff with a Doodle Poll to find a suitable meeting date in November.