



Active Transportation Action Agenda Task Force Meeting Notes

Meeting Date:	January 26, 2012; 7:00 – 8:30 PM Owen Brown Community Center 6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia 21045
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Task Force Members	Attendance
Joel Broida Donnie Chapman Philip Dopkowski David Forester Jean Gardner Bill Gray Ryan Green Fran Horan Melissa Huselton Hannah Keating Bob Marietta Larry Schoen Russ Swatek Christopher Tsien Sharonlee Vogel Jim Wilkinson	Attendance shown with highlighting . Also attending: Jane Dembner, CA Director of Community Planning Scott Templin, CA Community Planning Assistant Ben Pickar, Acting Chief, Transportation Div., County Department of Planning and Zoning Jennifer Toole, President of Toole Design Group Dan Biggs, Project Manager, Toole Design Group

Discussion Topic	Notes/Minutes/Highlights
Welcome and Introductions – 5 minutes	Chair Chris Tsien had everyone self-introduce as some members had not attended the first meeting in November.
Review of Agenda – 5 minutes	One item was added to the end of the agenda related to the upcoming FY13 CA capital budget and connectivity enhancement funds.
Public Open House Meetings – Review and discuss ideas and findings – 45 minutes	Dan Biggs of Toole Design presented a summary of the input received at the two January public meetings and through the on-line survey. The public meetings were well-attended with approximately 130 people participating. The summary presentation provided an overview of the meetings including the results to date from the pathway questionnaire/survey, the mapping exercise, and the answers to the “Big Question” (What would be needed to encourage YOU to use Columbia’s pathways more frequently for daily walking and/or bicycle trips?) To view the summary presentation, please visit the Connecting Columbia website at http://www.columbiaassociation.org/pdfs/getinformed/1_26_12-ATA_Summary.pdf
Overview of County Bicycle Plan – Discuss coordination efforts – 15 minutes	Ben Pickar, Acting Chief of Transportation Planning for Howard County, provided an update on the soon to begin Howard County Bicycle Master Plan. Ben explained that the RFP is due in February and that a well-attended pre-bid conference was held in January. The project is anticipated to begin this spring and take about



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	<p>one year to complete. There will be a technical committee for the project that will include CA staff representation as well as a representative from the Bicycling Advocates of Howard County.</p> <p>There was a question on what potential monetary sources are available to implement projects in the Bicycle Master Plan. Ben stated that grants are one source and that Howard County improves its chances of receiving these funds by doing 30% of the design for the project before applying.</p> <p>Ben also stated that Howard County anticipates updating its existing Pedestrian Master Plan – first simply to update the plan with projects already completed and then more substantially in the future to add/update the master plan.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Pedestrian Master Plan be added as an agenda item for next meeting.</p>
<p>Spring Bike/Walking Tours – Discuss initial ideas – 15 minutes</p>	<p>Jane stated that as part of the project CA will be hosting a biking and walking tour in the spring. After some discussion, it was agreed that CA and consultants will return with more details on the tour and desired outcomes as well as a date for the event.</p>
<p>Other Items</p>	<p>Field Work by Consultants. The goal of Toole Design Group is to conduct pathway fieldwork with an emphasis on areas needing improvement (widening for instance), identifying gaps and barriers as well as how to make connections to both additional local and more distant regional destinations (for example, connecting to major employment centers such as Fort Meade). They expect to begin field work in early February.</p> <p>Involving Young People. There was a brief discussion of how to get young people involved in Connecting Columbia. Task force members and consultants mentioned the first National Bike to School Day on May 9. CA and consultants are developing ideas to get youth involved in the process. BAHC held its first Bike to School day at Cradlerock ES and hopes to expand the number of schools this year.</p> <p>Wish List. Jane asked each task force member to state what they would wish for if they could wave their “magic wand” to improve Columbia’s pathways or Columbia’s connectivity for biking and walking.</p> <p>Three people mention a connecting between River Hill and the rest of Columbia including Downtown.</p> <p>Color coordinated spine for pathways that get from one destination to another. Also would like better maps of the</p>



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	<p>pathways.</p> <p>Better spine pathways as well or a GPS application that could tell me easily how to get from one destination to another.</p> <p>Sidewalks and improved intersection crossing at Snowden River Parkway and Oakland Mills Road.</p> <p>To get to farther destinations much more easily on pathways and roadways for better long-distance riding.</p> <p>Can't get from here to there easily. Also need to let pathway users know that their approaching a dead-end.</p> <p>Oakland Mills Road & Snowden River Parkway improvements and a better connection to Gateway and connections south and east of there.</p> <p>More pedestrian/bike crossings across Rt. 29 and more bike events.</p> <p>Three crossing across Rt. 29, one north, middle and south and replacing the one that currently occupies the middle.</p> <p>The individual segments pieced together to make better through-routes. Also, getting to Fort Meade.</p> <p>Wayfinding signs that specify how long it takes to the next major destination and color coordinated spine routes.</p> <p>Trying to make sure other's GPS systems that have our pathways are correct with exact coordinate systems.</p> <p>CA Budget: There was a question about why there are no proposed funds for pathway connectivity in the portion of the proposed FY13 capital budget that highlights larger capital investments. There are funds, however proposed for FY 14. The answer provided by Jane was that there were many competing needs for capital fund for FY 13 (beginning May 1, 2012) and that was the reason. However, the budget is still in draft form and that could change. Jane noted also that there are other capital funds that are allocated each year for regular pathway maintenance and improvements. These funds are used for things like widening or resurfacing pathways. On average 15,000 linear feet of pathway repaving or widening or done annually. For instance, the Wilde Lake main pathway is being improved with these capital funds.</p> <p>Other Questions:</p>
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	<p>One member asked about how much wayfinding signs would cost. Jane and Jennifer both stated that it was too early to state at this point.</p> <p>Are other grants available to help fund projects? Jennifer stated yes, and the latest example is the bike share feasibility grant monies offered by the State of Maryland. There is also foundation money, especially from health foundations. Federal funding through various programs will need to be reauthorized by Congress and at the moment, these funds are in jeopardy.</p>
<p>Confirm New Action Items & Next Meeting Date (February 16, @ Oakland) - 5 minutes</p>	<p>In February, we will review the existing conditions data collected by Toole Design.</p> <p>The remaining meetings of the task force will meet at Oakland in Town Center.</p>
<p>The meeting adjourned at: 8:30</p>	

Action Items Summary List

AI #:	Action:	Assigned:	Due Date:	Status:
01-26-12-1	Send out the link to the survey and mapping tool to people you know or listservs you have available. We will also ask the Villages publicize this again.	Task Force Members	ASAP and on-going.	
01-26-12-2	CA to ask the Village Managers to publicize the survey and mapping tool (CA also creating a flyer for general distribution). CA also to reach out to walking/biking/hiking organizations & bike shops, etc.	Scott Templin	2/10/12	
01-26-12-3	At the next meeting, provide an overview of the County's existing Pedestrian Master Plan to familiarize the Task Force with what it includes.	Jane Dembner	2/16/12	
01-26-12-4	Post the presentation from the January Task Force meeting on the project website	Scott Templin	2/6/12	Completed

Note: The action item number (meeting date and number) corresponds to the date of the meeting where the action stems from and a number.