Baltimore Regional Transportation Board

The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

BALTIMORE REGIONAL SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE
Thursday, December 14, 2023
10:02 - 11:32 A.M.

Virtual meeting

MINUTES

1.   WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Debbie Jennings, Chesapeake Region Safety Council (CRSC), called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.

2.   APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2023 MINUTES

Ms. Jennings asked for any comments or changes to the minutes from the September 28, 2023 Baltimore Regional Safety Subcommittee meeting. Receiving none, the minutes were accepted into the record.

3.   STATE SAFETY UPDATES

Mr. Mark Wall, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Motor Vehicle Administration's (MVA) Highway Safety Office (MHSO) shared information about the state's Occupant Protection safety program. He shared results from the 2023 annual seat belt survey and explained the research approach. He also provided information about outreach campaigns and educational programs related to adult and child passenger safety, recent crash fatality trends, and the opening of the MHSO FY2025 grant opportunity in January 2024.

Ms. Cindy Burch, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), added that each jurisdiction will have a seat belt usage rate in the final report. Mr. Wall also shared MHSO's interest in partnering on safety projects, even if not under an official grant. The next Distracted Driving and Occupant Protection Emphasis Area Team (EAT) meeting will be on February 15, 2024. Information may be found at on the Zero Deaths website.

[PowerPoint: MHSO Seatbelt Presentation]

4.   GOVERNOR'S WORK ZONE SAFETY WORK GROUP

Ms. Chrissy Nizer, MDOT MVA, presented information about the Governor's Work Zone Safety Work Group and its recently released recommendations. She shared results of the

1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300, Baltimore, MD, 21230 « Phone 410-732-0500 « www.baltometro.org
Voting: City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, Howard County, Queen Anne's County, MD Department of Transportation and RTA of Central Maryland. Non-Voting: MD Department of the Environment, MD Department of Planning, and MD Transit Administration.

public survey about work zone safety and shared next steps for the group, including legislative priorities.

Ms. Burch asked about multiple cameras in a speed zone, since some state reports have shown that drivers slow down around cameras, and if it would be possible to get all of the data from automated enforcement vendors. Ms. Nizer noted that MDOT SHA receives data as well as local jurisdictions that have such programs.

Ms. Eileen Singleton, BMC, asked about commonality between work zone safety and traffic incident management safety and possibly coordinating the education campaigns. Ms. Nizer agreed that it's important to protect all vulnerable road users and shared that there was conversation in the Work Group about changes in behavior seen with school zone speed and school bus cameras.

Ms. Amy Beall, Harford County Department of Public Works, commended the idea of reaching out to schools, especially elementary schools. She asked about what is included in driver education courses about safe driving in work zones and around commercial motor vehicles. Ms. Nizer said that driver education courses are being reviewed to increase the amount of information related to driving in work zones. Maryland is the only state that requires driver education of all new drivers, regardless of age, so it is a good component of getting out safety messaging. She also noted a partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education helping to incorporate safety messaging in schools. Ms. Beall then asked if it would be possible to recommend the amount of fines, with higher fines seeming to have greater impact on behavior change. Ms. Nizer noted that the fines will be part of the legislative package and a significant fine will be proposed.

Mr. Michael Farrell, Transportation Safety Board, asked about the difference between automated enforcement locations having signs informing drivers of the rules. However, when there are emergency vehicles on the side of the road, there are no signs for drivers to know the requirements of the Move Over Law. Ms. Nizer shared that the law is to move over or slow down for any vehicle on the side of the road with hazard signals and more education is needed for all drivers. She shared that the diversity of the Work Group helped craft the proposed legislation, including the design of a work zone to allow workers a safe place to park their vehicles and law enforcement to safely post.

Cynthia Spriggs, MHSO, shared a link about the [Move Over Law](#).

[PowerPoint: Work Zone Safety Group]

5.   LOOK ALIVE WITH SIGNAL WOMAN

Ms. Kenna Williams, Sherry Matthews Group, provided details about the Look Alive campaign with Signal Woman. She shared outreach statistics from activities conducted during October Pedestrian Safety Month. These included paid media, a Twitter/X Signal Chat, Signal People Street Teams, the Look Alive Virtual Reality (VR) Challenge, and earned media coverage. She also noted that results of a post campaign survey are being analyzed and will be shared at the next BRSS meeting.

[PowerPoint: 2023 Look Alive Successes]

6.   LOCAL STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLANS

Ms. Burch shared a brief update on the local SHSPs in the region:

- In Anne Arundel County, the Vision Zero team continues working to develop an action plan.
- Baltimore City is utilizing funding from the first round of Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) funding and the City was awarded additional funds in the second round.
- Mr. Fritzen Royer, Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T), shared that the County was awarded SS4A funding to continue implementing the Local SHSP and develop a Vision Zero action plan in DPW&T.
- The Carroll County Strategic Traffic Safety Plan (STSP) team is working together to coordinate social media messaging and resurrect the Every 15 Minutes outreach program for middle and high schools.
- The Harford County Traffic Safety Advisory Board continues to meet and work on an evaluation of the previous plan.
- The Howard County team continued working on the fatal and serious injury crash infrastructure reviews on county-maintained roadways and the County was awarded SS4A funding.
- Queen Anne's County was awarded SS4A funding to build a local SHSP in the coming year.

7.   OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Burch shared traffic safety performance measure targets that will be proposed to the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) for approval in January. She also shared recent regional crash fatality figures for 2023.

[PowerPoint: Safety Performance Targets]

Ms. Jennings asked the group to consider the makeup of this committee and Ms. Burch will send out the roster in a message for everyone to comment.

No other discussion was had and Ms. Jennings adjourned the meeting at 11:30 A.M.

***Attendance*:**
Amy Beall – Harford County Department of Public Works
Jessie Bialek – Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T)
Michael Bomgardner –MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration's (MVA) Highway Safety Office (MHSO)
Shawn Eum – MDOT MVA
Michael Farrell – Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Jennifer Gray – MHSO
Lori Hippensteel – Baltimore County Police Department
Debbie Jennings – Chesapeake Region Safety Council
Connor Jett – Howard County Office of Transportation
Robert King – Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
Bari Klein – Healthy Harford
Erin Kuhn – MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA)
Julie Kwedar –MHSO
Anna Levendusky – MHSO

Rebecca Lichenstein – MDOT SHA
Doug Mowbray – MHSO
Chrissy Nizer – MDOT MVA
Tim Richards – MHSO
John Rotz – MDOT SHA
Fritzen Royer – Baltimore County DPW&T
Nanette Schieke – MDOT MVA
Cynthia Spriggs – MHSO
Natacha Valentin – MDOT SHA
Nicole Waldheim – Fehr & Peers
Mark Wall – MHSO
Kenna Williams – Sherry Matthews Group

Staff:
Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Cindy Burch – BMC
Zach Kaufman – BMC
Todd Lang – BMC
Anna Marshall – BMC
Nicole Ramsey – BMC
Eileen Singleton – BMC