

Active Transportation Advisory Group Meeting Summary

Prince George's County Planning Department

Monday, December 1, 2025

7:00 to 8:30 PM

Attendees

Sean Adkins, Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Department

Meagan Baco, Anacostia Trails Heritage Area

Mark Berger, Prince George's County Planning Department

Mike Bonds, Hyattsville resident

Elliott Caldwell, East Coast Greenway

Crystal Hancock, Prince George's County Planning Department

McKinley Hayes, Prince George's County resident

Michael Jackson, Prince George's County Planning Department

Jesse Johnson, Prince George's County resident

Kalli Krumpos, Capital Trails Coalition/Washington Area Bicyclist Association

Ken McCaughey, Bowie resident

Daniel Paschall, East Coast Greenway Alliance

Bob Patten, Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Department

Donzell Robinson, Prince George's County resident

Mark Schroeder, College Park Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board

Melissa Schweisguth, Prince George's County resident

Steve Skolnik, City of Greenbelt Green Team

John "JT" Thomas, Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Department

1. Welcome and Introductions -Michael Jackson started the meeting at 7:03 pm with a round of introductions.

2. Rails to Trails Conservancy – Michael notified the audience that Greg Lawson, Rails to Trails Conservancy speaker had a family emergency and would have to reschedule his presentation.

3. Go Prince George's Update – Crystal Hancock provided background information and a status update on the Go Prince George's Preliminary Master Plan of Transportation. She said staff are winding down public outreach efforts and the Joint Public Hearing (JPH) will be scheduled during the first quarter of 2026. ATAG attendees will be notified when the JPH dates are scheduled. For public remarks to be officially considered they must be sent during the JPH comment period. Crystal dropped the link to the Go Prince George's document in the chat, along with her contact information and that of the Go Prince George's project manager, Dharm Guruswamy. Mark Schroeder, and Steve Skolnik requested information on the proposed MD 193 bikeway. Crystal said she would get back to them.

4. Suggestions for Future ATAG Discussions – In place of the postponed Rails to Trails Conservancy presentation Michael invited attendees to suggest future ATAG discussion topics. Steve suggested a discussion on resolving conflicts between operators of motorized devices and pedestrians, particularly persons with disabilities. Bob Patten said that low powered e-bikes are

allowed on specified trails in M-NCPPC parks. Gas powered vehicles are prohibited. He urged trail users to note the location, time, and date of user violations and to send photos to Sean Adkins and himself. He also recommended notifying elected officials of such problems. Mark is concerned less about the type of device used than he is about the high rate of speed being traveled by some device operators. There was consensus that such a discussion would be helpful at a future ATAG meeting if law enforcement is able to attend.

Jesse Johnson suggested inviting a representative from the State Highway Administration that can address design deficiencies of the Sligo Creek Trail intersection with MD 212/Riggs Road. Bob said the Park and Recreation Department is developing a great relationship with SHA through the MD 410 Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) project. A federal RAISE grant award will fund improvements to the Sligo Creek Trail/MD 410 intersection, while state funds will be used to improve the Sligo Creek Trail/MD 212 intersection. Mark wants to know how SHA determines whether to install buffered bike lanes or “unprotected” bike lanes on a given roadway. Ken McCaughey recommended that ATAG highlight communities that have enjoyed small scale project successes.

Meagan Baco, the executive director of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA), expressed frustration with the shared use path implementation process. She would love to hear success stories to shore up her spirits. Bob says changes are needed at the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and SHA to streamline the process of expending federal dollars. Mark wondered if the Association of Counties could help in achieve such change. Crystal suggested inviting a group of people to speak to the current process. She asked the attendees to send any further recommendations for future ATAG topics to Michael.

5. Other Business – Michael provided a status update on the Pedestrian Bicyclist Behavioral Study stating the draft document has been sent to the Publications section for review and final design. John “JT” Thomas introduced himself as the Trails Program Supervisor in the Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) and said he had 20 years of experience working with Maryland counties and MDOT/SHA and offered assistance regarding SHA’s processes. He is working on getting the RAISE grant agreement in place. Meanwhile PRD staff are working on getting National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) paperwork completed and finalizing preliminary plans for active transportation related capital improvement projects to be funded with the RAISE grant. JT noted that the Town of Cheverly received a MDOT grant to improve pedestrian access between the former Prince George’s County General Hospital site and the Anacostia Trail and the PRD is providing matching funding for this grant. A trail finding software app that will allow users to identify the location of the entire 160-mile trail network in the county is nearly completed. A project update will be provided at the March ATAG meeting.

Sean announced the creation of a natural surface trail network within the Charles Branch Conservation Park, located in southeasterly Prince George’s County between Rosaryville State Park and Jug Bay Natural Area Park. He said volunteers from the Mid Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE) helped park rangers to construct these natural surface trails which are suitable for all ages and abilities. The grand opening is scheduled for summer, 2026 but the trails are now open. Sean sees potential to provide connections between the Charles Branch Conservation Park, Rosaryville state park, and Jug Bay Natural Area park. JT says PRD staff is working on trail promotional campaigns.

Michael asked meeting latecomers Donzell Robinson and Melissa Schweisguth if they wanted to introduce themselves. Donzell said he is a lifelong county resident and has professional community engagement experience regarding the Metropolitan Branch Trail, Frederick Douglass and Malcolm X Bridge projects in DC and attended this meeting to learn more about the great trails in Prince George's County and found his attendance to be informative. Melissa is a bicyclist and a county resident. Michael Bond asked for an update on the Northern Prince George's East West Bikeway feasibility study. Michael Jackson identified himself as the project manager and said that a consultant team had been selected for the 2-mile project corridor and that a project schedule had been developed. Crystal provided an update at the March meeting when more information would be available.

6. Adjournment - Michael announced the next ATAG meeting would be held on Monday, March 2, 2026, from 7 to 8:30 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.