

Minutes for RBAC Meeting: March 1, 2023

7:00 – 9:00 pm, virtual Webex meeting

In attendance online: Wendy Aaronson, Bryan Barnett-Woods, Olivia Bobrowsky, Nancy Breen, Sophie Chan-Wood, Robert Dalgarno, Joe Gillespie, Lynda Honberg, Jake Jakubek, Carl Peterson, Mark Pierzchala, Shannon Brescher Shea, Cari Sidler, Jonathan Solomon, and Dave Stinchcomb.

As acting chair, Jake started the meeting at 7:04 pm with introductions. Dave moved to approve the minutes from February meeting; Nancy seconded and all approved. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Jake requested any changes to the agenda. Jonathan added the Tour de Cookie. Joe requested an update about the legislation for contributory negligence if there is time. Nancy wanted to thank Tracy for submitting the RBAC application to participate in the **Memorial Day Parade** at the end of May. More details to be discussed at the next meeting.

(1) For the **City Council Update**, Mark reminded us the next budget hearing is coming up on Monday, March 6. Capital Improvements Projects work session is a good time to submit requests from RBAC. Be sure to prioritize but look for other avenues if items are more expensive, such as including it as part of Vision Zero. Complete Streets or other initiatives. Jake and Olivia plan to speak and anyone else is welcomed to speak also. The official representative of RBAC will get 5 minutes and others have 3 minutes as members of RBAC.

(2) For the **City Update**, Bryan announced he will be submitting an application for the Metro Washington Council of Governments Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) program for a complete streets study on Mannakee from MD-355 to MD-28. This is will set stage for future projects like this. Attached is the letter of support. Sophie made a motion to approve; Jonathan seconded and all unanimously approved. RPAC (Rockville Pedestrian Advocate Committee) is also submitting an application for new crosswalk guidelines.

The Town Center construction has started on N. Washington Street and E. Middle Lane bike lanes will be worked on in upcoming weeks. Public meetings have been held about this project and mailings have gone out to homeowners and commercial residents.

Public meeting for upcoming Fleet and Monroe Complete Street study that is happening now from TLC. He is hoping to use this project for the TAP grant for this fiscal year so that project can keep moving to the design phase. Bryan will share the public meeting dates but will also present the materials at a future RBAC meeting.

Another upcoming public meeting will be for regional railway projects for protected intersections at Maryland and Beall Avenues and Beall and 355. He will also share and bring the materials to the group.

Maryland Bikeway Grants for designs for bike lanes on Halpine between E Jefferson and 355, since there's lots of accidents here. Bike lanes extensions for the separated cycle track outside of City limits on E. Jefferson.

(3) Jake addressed the **budget prioritizing** survey he sent for discussion. Top choice would be for feasibility studies to help with more traffic-calming measures and/or bike infrastructures. Depending on the study the costs are all relative but they should be continued and requested especially if Vision Zero is involved.

Olivia presented a pilot project for **new bikeshare stations**. She shared the locations and usage across the City but noticed that not many are in residential areas. She spoke with the Fairfax City transportation planner and summarized that they should ideally ½ to ¼ miles apart and the most density of stations are near destinations. The bikeshare program are more affordable than the scooters around. E-bikes are included too.

Olivia proposed for one new station placed in Twinbrook community which is an Equity Focus Area, especially on the east side of the Twinbrook Metro station. Here is a study that discusses the advantages of a bikeshare program:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1361920921000262>

There is a lot of potential for new station locations to build up the network of connectivity. Could funding for new stations come from neighborhoods, citizens or a high school fundraiser? Could ads be placed on bikeshare station to bring in funds? The County are not purchasing any new stations for now.

Jake will speak about feasibility studies at Monday's budget hearing. Olivia will present the bikeshare station. It's good to have written testimonies to include to the brief book online as well as speaking in-person/online. Shannon can write up a summary of a bike safety class for kids and Jake can present if needed.

(4) Carl reviewed **RBAC Bike Rides** in 2022 with 22 group rides, including 11 Tuesday evening rides and 11 other rides with slides and group photos. Total average is about 27 participants per ride with various themes, routes and start locations.

Bike rides started when RBAC was part of the Parks and Recreation Department and to show people how to get around Rockville on the new Carl Henn Millennium Ride and the new King Farm neighborhood. Carl started the meetup.com group in 2014 and currently has 2,648 Meetup members. Rides have evolved over time and created a sense of community. With Carl stepping back in a leadership role, RBAC will need to consider what and how 2023 rides will be. Carl wants to remove the affiliation of RBAC to the current meetup group since he has invested financially, personally, liability and will no longer be in control. He will share his routes on a case by case basis.

(5) Shannon has no updates on family and youth biking.

(6) Bryan said that **RPAC** is also preparing a budget letter for the Mayor & Council and planning for Walktober in October. The retreat is an agenda item for their meeting next week.

(7) As the **Tour de Cookie** liaison, Jonathan received an update that Marsha will be the event coordinator as she was last year although the event was cancelled due to weather. There will be two routes that will start at the Carver Education center. This will be their 10th anniversary and will also have a bike rodeo. Jonathan wants to have a group get together for making tweaks to the routes. Please reach out to him at jsnssrs@verizon.net if interested or if anyone has any questions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophie Chan-Wood

March 3, 2023

John Swanson, Program Manager
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

RE: Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program, City of Rockville Mannakee Street Complete Streets Application Support

Dear Mr. Swanson,

On behalf of the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee (RBAC), I am pleased to provide you this letter supporting the City's TLC application, "Mannakee Street Complete Streets Feasibility Study," submitted by the City of Rockville. This project will continue the City's momentum in building Complete Streets to provide better and more equitable facilities for people to safely walk, roll, bike, and take transit.

Mannakee Street connects several important destinations in Rockville, including Montgomery College, the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, numerous bus stops, the West-End residential community, and Beall Elementary School and to the Rockville Senior Center. It is also a short bicycle ride from the Rockville Metrorail and MARC station. In addition, it connects to existing bicycle lanes on Nelson Street, bicycle lanes under design on Martins Lane, and a planned Capital Trails Network route along Hungerford Road (MD 355).

Complete Streets along this road will not only improve conditions for people walking, bicycling, using transit, and driving, but also improve everyone's ability to do so safely, consistent with the City of Rockville's Vision Zero Action Plan. This project will help support a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian network and enhance mobility options for those traveling to Rockville Town Center and Montgomery College.

This project will also help implement recommendations from the City's adopted Bikeway Master Plan which recommends bicycle facilities on Mannakee Street. The Plan is consistent with the City's Vision Zero Action Plan, which not only recommends expanding the City's bicycle network, but also increasing overall traffic safety. A Complete Street is designed for the safety of all users. As we continue to advocate for more bicycle facilities, we strongly support all projects resulting in safer streets. These roads currently do not have any bicycle infrastructure. A feasibility study to help advance multimodal transportation and access to transit in this area is much needed and will benefit the community.

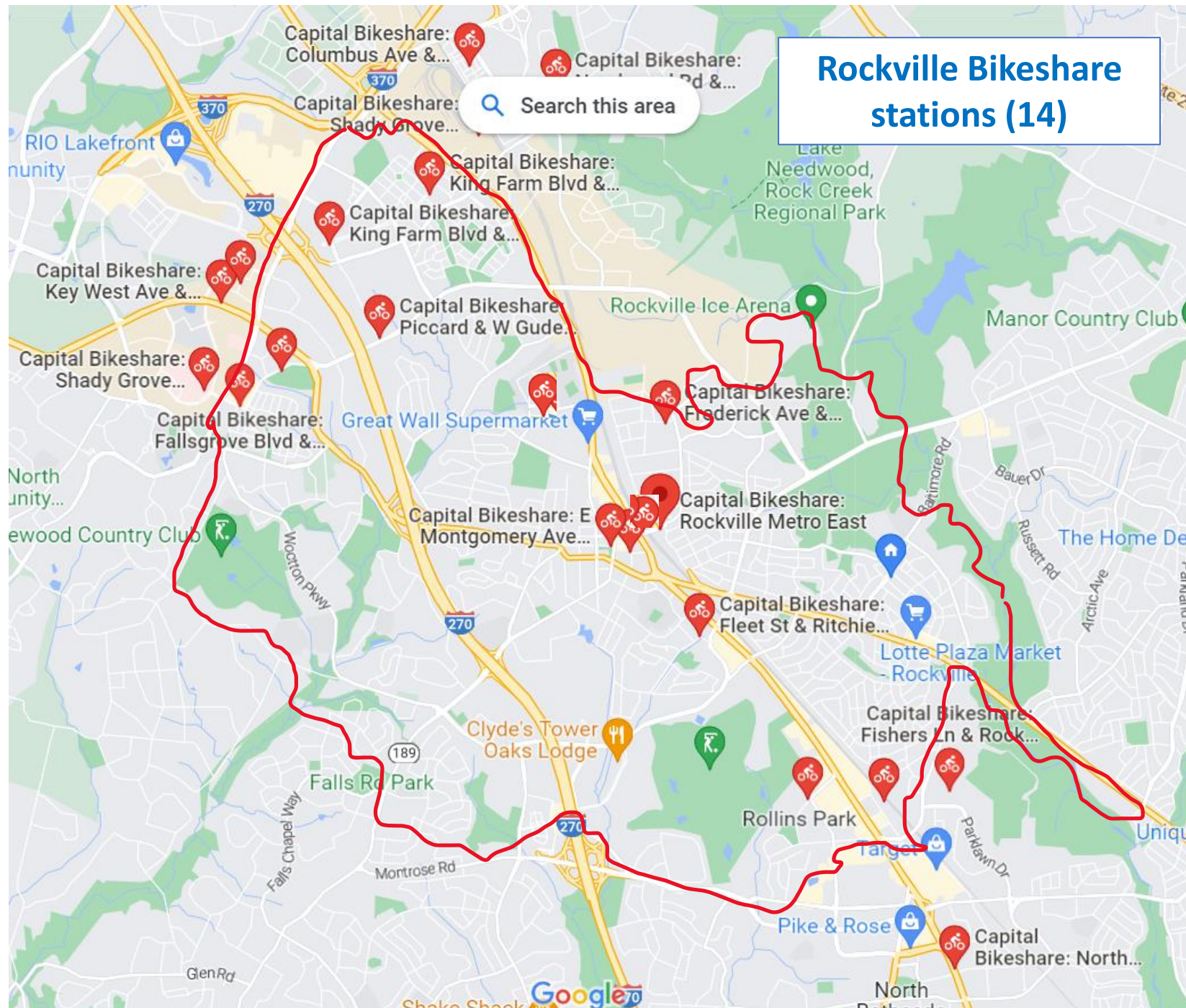
If this project is approved for the FY 24 MWCOG TLC program, RBAC will work to support the study, provide comments on design alternatives, and participate in any public meetings as key stakeholders. We support the City's effort to submit this project as a TLC application and its continued work towards a more equitable transportation system in Rockville.

Should you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact with Bryan Barnett-Woods, Principal Transportation Planner, at 240-314-8527 or bbwoods@rockvillemd.gov.

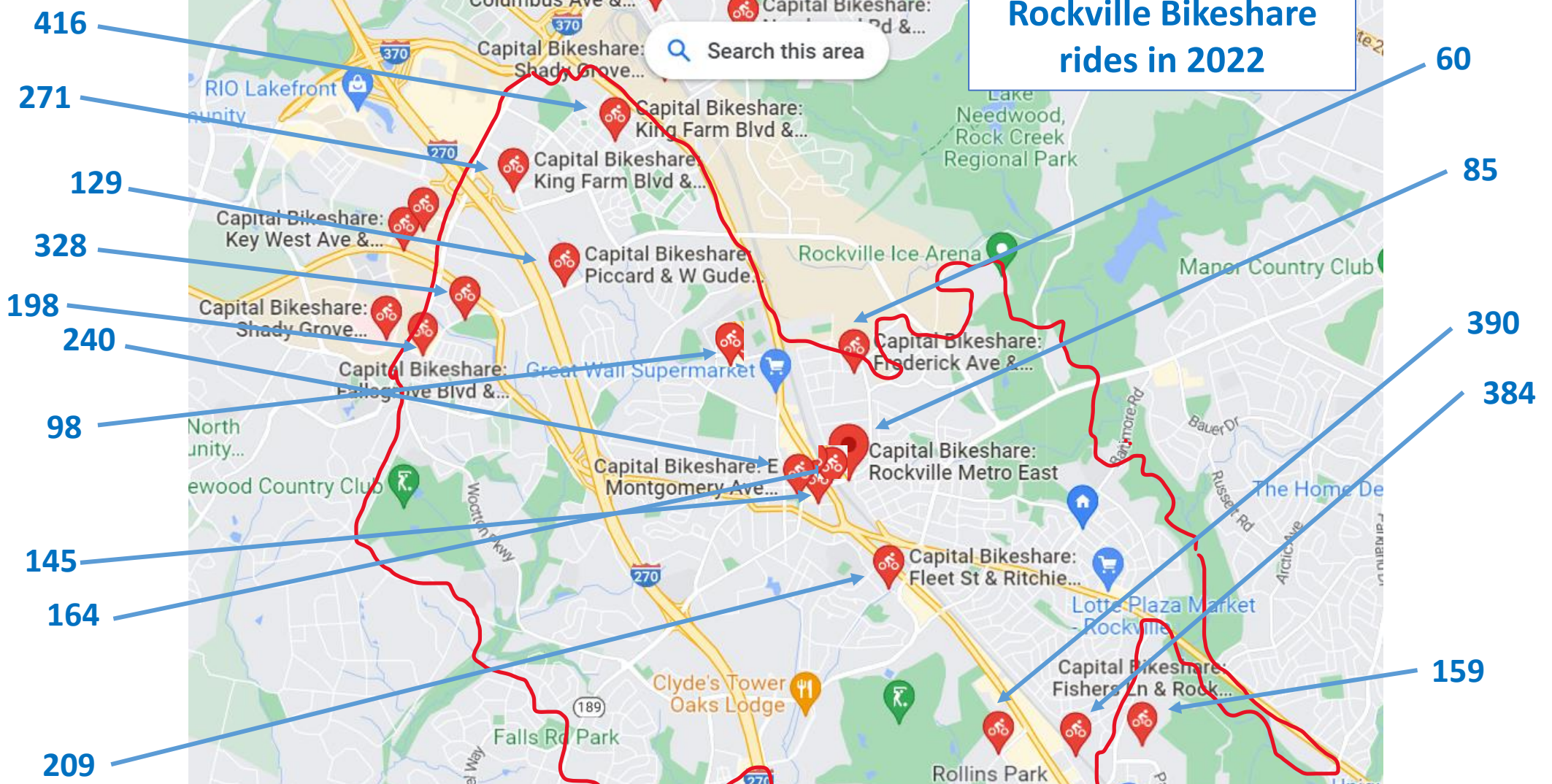
Sincerely,

Jake Jakubek, Acting Chair
Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee

Rockville Bikeshare stations (14)



Rockville Bikeshare rides in 2022



**Total rides:
3,117**

Bikeshare station considerations

- \$60k-\$80k for a new station
- \$12,800/year for maintenance (\$89/month/dock; 12 docks/station)
- 1 new station + 5 years maintenance = \$144,000
- ~15% of costs recovered via fares
- Stations are best placed $\frac{1}{4}$ mile or $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from existing station
- Stations are movable

Proposal for new stations

- City should purchase at least 1 new station to be placed in Twinbrook. Twinbrook is a DOT historically disadvantaged community and an Equity Focus Area.
- There are currently 0 stations in the residential neighborhood of Twinbrook (though 2 nearby, one at the Twinbrook metro and 1 at Fishers Ln, are highly used).
- Expanding Capital Bikeshare in Rockville would align with the City's Bikeway Master Plan and Climate Action Plan. It would also support Vision Zero goals, as accessible Bikeshare stations reduce car trips, making streets safer. ([source](#))

Potential new station locations

- East side of Twinbrook metro station
- Apartment/condo buildings near Twinbrook metro
- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center
- Twinbrook Swimming Pool
- Twinbrook Shopping Center
- Rockville High School
- Rockcrest Park