

**BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE 174<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL**  
**TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**JANUARY 23, 2007**  
**9:00 A.M.**

**EMPOWERED MEMBERS**

Carl Balsler, Chief  
Division of Transportation Planning  
Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning

Jamie Kendrick, Deputy Director, Transportation, Infrastructure & Environment  
Baltimore City Department of Transportation

Jon Arason, Director  
City of Annapolis Department of Planning & Zoning

Harvey Gold (Chair)  
Senior Transportation Planner  
Anne Arundel County Office of Planning & Zoning

Emery Hines  
Transportation Planner  
Baltimore County Department of Public Works

Jeanne Joiner (Vice Chair)  
Project Coordinator  
Carroll County Department of Planning

Tony McClune, Assistant Director  
Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning

Samuel F. Minnitte, Jr., Director  
Office of Planning & Capital Programming  
Maryland Department of Transportation

Bihui Xu (for David Whitaker, Deputy Director)  
Manager, Transportation Planning  
Maryland Department of Planning  
(Non-voting member)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Bala Akundi, Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
Matt Bassett, Maryland Department of Transportation

Harvey S. Bloom, Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
Tyson Byrne, Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
Patrick Fleming, Maryland Transportation Authority  
Joan Gorsuch, Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
Monica Haines, Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
Jamie Lake, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Earl Long, Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
Gail Moran, Maryland Transit Administration  
Mike Nixon, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Ben Pickar, Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning  
Kevin Racine, Citizen  
Neil Robinson, Williams Associates Engineers  
Sara Tomlinson, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Harvey Gold.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2006 Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) meeting was made by Mr. Gold. A motion was made by Mr. Balsler to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. McClune. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY:**

Mr. Kevin Racine, Vice President, Transit Riders Action Council (TRAC), expressed his thanks to Mr. Minnitte for the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) support in responding to issues brought forth by TRAC. He also noted that Mr. John Porcari, the Acting Secretary of Transportation, has met with TRAC. Mr. Minnitte noted that Secretary Porcari has asked him to contact local Planning/Public Works Directors to present MDOT's plan to bring back "pre-tour" meetings.

**REPORT FROM CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** In the absence of the Chair, Ms. Monica Haines reported on the Citizens Advisory Committee's (CAC) January 3, 2007 meeting. She noted that a status report on the CAC's recommendations regarding the BRTB Public Participation Plan was provided. The CAC also finalized their comments on the goals for the 2007 long-range plan. In February, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) staff will brief the CAC on national commuting patterns and trends, the 2008 UPWP, and the long-range plan.

**REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:** Mr. Ben Pickar, Chair of the Technical Committee (TC), said that the TC met on January 4, 2007 and recommended approval of Resolution #07-14 and adoption of Resolution #07-15, both to be voted upon at today's meeting.

**REPORT FROM FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES:** There was no report from the Federal Highway Administration.

**REPORT FROM THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** Ms. Jeanne Joiner reported that the Executive Committee met on January 5, 2007 to discuss the items included on today's agenda. She said that two resolutions, namely, Goals, Regionally Significant Criteria and Prioritization for the BRTP, and the Public Participation Plan were discussed. A report on the Transit Funding Study Committee, results of the Emission Reduction Strategies Review (ERS), and legislative initiatives for 2007 will also be presented.

Mr. Gold took the opportunity to welcome and introduce Jamie Kendrick (Baltimore City). Mr. Kendrick said that he is looking forward to working for the Dixon Administration and raising Baltimore City's level of engagement at the BRTB. He said that transportation, along with BRAC, are key issues for the City.

**ENDORSEMENT OF GOALS, REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT CRITERIA AND PRIORITIZATION PROCESS FOR THE 2007 BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN:** Mr. Bloom introduced Resolution #07-14, in support of the goals and prioritization process for the 2007 Baltimore Regional Transportation Plan (BRTP). Ms. Aris said that the Board had previously assigned the review of this information to the Technical Committee. To date, their review has been completed. Ms. Aris mentioned that the CAC spent considerable time on the goals and had only one comment on regionally significant criteria. The TC did not change the technical and policy prioritization criteria proposed for the evaluation of candidate projects. Ms. Aris added that at the request of the TC, BMC staff did review prioritization to make sure that any changes in the goals were reflected accurately. Mr. Balsler commented that he feels that it was a good process this time around and the CAC and the TC did a thorough and comprehensive review. A request for a motion to approve Resolution #07-14 was made by Mr. Gold. A motion was made by Mr. Balsler for approval and seconded by Mr. Minnitte. Ms. Bihui Xu stated that the language in Goal #6, Strategy #1, is weak and the word "coordinate" should be changed to "ensure." An amendment introduced by Mr. Kendrick prompted a discussion but was later withdrawn by Mr. Kendrick. The resolution was unanimously approved.

**ADOPTION OF UPDATED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN IN SUPPORT OF THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES OF THE BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION:** Ms. Monica Haines summarized the various activities associated with the preparation of this document and said that the Public Participation Plan has had an extensive public review period. She noted that the CAC also reviewed the draft document. A list of all public comments was compiled, reviewed by the BRTB, and responses were formulated. Ms. Haines then referred to 3 points of clarification that will be incorporated into final document. A request for a

motion to approve Resolution #07-15 was made by Mr. Gold. A motion was made by Mr. Kendrick for approval and seconded by Mr. Arason. The resolution was unanimously approved.

**PRESENTATION ON TRANSIT FUNDING STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE:** Mr. Sam Minnitte gave an overview of Maryland General Assembly Senate Bill 850 which directed MDOT to study statewide transit investment and funding needs over the upcoming twenty years. The legislation also called for the formation of a Transit Funding Steering Committee which has been overseeing this activity. To date, three meetings have been held by the Steering Committee which have focused on Maryland's transit needs and funding; transit funding throughout the U.S.; and, potential transit funding options and strategies to address the demand. Mr. Minnitte further explained Maryland's transit history, trends and funding needs over the last twenty years. According to Mr. Minnitte, many states are facing funding crises and are "basically in the same boat" as Maryland. MDOT has completed an analysis of Maryland's Transportation Trust Fund as compared to projected operating costs, projected system preservation costs and the projected enhancement costs from the years 2007 to 2027. Mr. Minnitte then explained the 20 year projection of transit system costs from 2007 to 2027 in 5-year increments which reflect a funding shortfall of over \$13.5 billion. He also mentioned that MDOT is looking at ways to fund the deficit through various existing revenue sources and potential new Transportation Trust Fund sources, such as increases in the existing sales tax, payroll tax, state property tax, and income tax surcharge. Mr. Minnitte said that sales tax options include statewide, core, and metropolitan.

***[Handout: Draft Transit Funding Study]***

**REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION CONTROL STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING TRANSPORTATION RELATED EMISSIONS:** Ms. Sara Tomlinson presented information on the consultant project: Review of Emission Reduction Strategies. The consultant, E.H. Pechan & Associates, Inc., completed the final analysis in December 2006. The intent of this activity was to understand the costs/benefits of a wide range of transportation-related emission strategies for consideration in the region's approach to address air quality conformity. The analysis resulted in the identification of potential initiatives applicable to the Baltimore metropolitan area. Fifty strategies were analyzed in a Phase I analysis, and twenty-four strategies were analyzed in a Phase II analysis. Low-NO<sub>x</sub> diesel fuel and voluntary diesel retrofits that target nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) were both ranked "excellent." Ms. Aris noted that BMC is working with the Maryland Motor Truck Association as an interested stakeholder in this effort. Mr. Balsler said that he feels the value of the strategies would be to use them as a platform and would be interested in seeing the entire list of 50. Mr. Pickar added that he would like the Technical Committee to see the report.

***[Handout: Review of Emission Reduction Strategies]***

**STATUS REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM:** Mr. Bloom said that the Fiscal Year 2008 UPWP is out for a 30-day public review. Copies were also forwarded to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for their review. Unless requested through public comment, a public meeting on the UPWP is not planned. Mr. Bloom mentioned that the schedule is to have the UPWP before the Board for endorsement at the March meeting.

**PRESENTATION ON TRANSPORTATION RELATED LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES OF THE 2007 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** A briefing on the status of legislation introduced in the 2007 session of the Maryland General Assembly was given by Earl Long. To date, the bills introduced make up approximately 15 percent of the total bills that are expected to be introduced during the session that affect transportation and related planning interests of the Baltimore region. Mr. Long provided a brief synopsis of 10 bills that have already been introduced. The Board was particularly interested in the 2007 Maryland Clean Cars Act. Mr. Long explained that one of the three clean cars bills was introduced on behalf of the O'Malley Administration. Members of the board requested that they be provided with additional information on this legislation. In closing, Mr. Long pointed out that the BMC weekly legislative report includes internet addresses of two web sites that provide detailed information on legislation from the current and prior sessions. These addresses are <http://mlis.state.md.us> and [http://www.baltometro.org/legis/legis93\\_06.pdf](http://www.baltometro.org/legis/legis93_06.pdf).

***[Handout: Categories of Legislation Introduced in the 2007 Session of the Maryland General Assembly as of January 22, 2007]***

**BRIEFING ON U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S URBAN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (UPA) INITIATIVE:** Mr. Akundi provided an overview of a recent Federal Register notice from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) that solicits applications from metropolitan areas to enter into Urban Partnership Agreements (UPA) with USDOT to demonstrate strategies with a combined track record of effectiveness in reducing traffic congestion. The UPA is one component of the "Congestion Initiative" announced by USDOT in May 2006 to reduce congestion on the Nation's transportation network. Mr. Akundi noted that USDOT had discretionary funding available under the Intelligent Transportation System Operational Testing to Mitigate Congestion Program (ITS-OTMC) and the Value Pricing Pilot (VPP) Program over a three year period to support urban partners in addressing congestion. Separate solicitations were released in mid-December for the ITS-OTMC and VPP programs. Applications for all three notices are due on or before April 30, 2007.

Urban Partners need to pursue four strategies known as the Four Ts: Tolling, Transit, Telecommuting, and Technology. USDOT expects to select up to 10 preliminary Urban Partners by June 8, 2007 and final selection by August 8, 2007 along with funding decisions under the ITS-OTMC and VPP programs. Mr. Akundi noted that signatories to the UPA may include city and county governments, metropolitan planning

organizations, state transportation departments, chambers of commerce, academic institutions, citizen advisory groups and other responsible organizations. Mr. Akundi also presented some of the requirements for the UPA application noting that the region has several initiatives among the Four T's currently underway such as the I-95 Section 100 toll lanes, transit expansion, and several technology projects. Some of the potential partners in this process could include the modal agencies of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) such as the State Highway Administration (SHA), the Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA), and Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). The BRTB and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) could play a lead in coordinating telecommuting efforts, similar to the Telework Partnership with Employers (TPE) that is an ongoing effort with MDOT and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). The BRTB could also provide the regional context and support in the technology and operations initiatives through its Management and Operations (M&O) Partnership.

Mr. Bloom noted that because USDOT is looking for a comprehensive strategy that includes the Four Ts, MDOT should be the agency taking the lead in pursuing this application. He added that BMC has already discussed the development of Maryland's response with some state agencies. Mr. Kendrick commented that Baltimore City is concerned about the impacts to the local street network as a result of the I-95 Section 100 project as well impacts to the I-95 corridor as a result of BRAC and other projects that could contribute to more congestion. He recommended that BRTB and BMC take an active role in pursuing the UPA and associated notices from USDOT.

***[Handout: Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA)]***

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

#### **Transportation Enhancement Program**

Ms. Aris said that the State Highway Administration (SHA) has issued a call for projects under the Transportation Enhancement Program. Ms. Aris said that SHA overlooked the letter the Board forwarded last year (requesting early consideration) and, due to SHA's timeframe, BMC cannot complete its review of the applications in time for the March 6<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee meeting. Ms. Aris asked if the Board would like to forego making any recommendations, by-pass the TC review and go directly to the BRTB for deliberation, or, hold a special work session of the TC after the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and before the March 27<sup>th</sup> BRTB meeting. Mr. Balsler suggested either a work session or conferencing option for the TC. The BRTB recommended a TC work session be held.

#### **Long-Range Transportation Plan**

Ms. Aris referred to a draft list of local/state submitted highway, transit, bike and pedestrian candidate projects and said the list needs to be finalized. She also unveiled a logo and name for the plan.

***[Handout: Consolidated Regionally Significant & Candidate Projects – Highway, Transit, Bike & Pedestrian]***

There being no other business, Mr. Gold asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Balser made a motion to adjourn with Mr. McClune seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey S. Bloom, Secretary  
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board