

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF THE 176TH MEETING OF THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MARCH 27, 2007
9:00 A.M.

EMPOWERED MEMBERS

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

Kwaku Duah (for Jon Arason, Director)
City of Annapolis Department of Planning & Zoning

Diane Franks, Chief (for Tad Aburn)
Air Quality Planning Division
Maryland Department of the Environment
(Non-voting member)

Janet Gleisner (for Tony McClune, Assistant Director)
Harford County 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

Frank Johnson (Vice Chair)
Legislative Director
Carroll County Government

Jamie Kendrick, Deputy Director
Baltimore City Department of Transportation

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

Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration
Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Gene Bandy, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Harvey S. Bloom, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Tyson Byrne, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Michael Deets, Maryland Transit Administration
Leif Dormsjo, Maryland Department of Transportation
Jeff Drinkwater, Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Patrick Fleming, Maryland Transportation Authority
Karin Foster, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Kellie Gaver, Maryland Department of Transportation
Joan Gorsuch, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Monica Haines, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Mark Harris, Maryland Department of Transportation
Jeanne Joiner, Carroll County Department of Planning
Jessica Keller, Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Jamie Lake, Maryland Department of Transportation
Pat Lane, Baltimore City League of Women Voters
Phil Lansing, Baltimore County League of Women Voters
Christopher Letnaunchyn, Carroll County Department of Public Works
Vaughn Lewis, State Highway Administration
Earl Long, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Mike Nixon, Maryland Department of Transportation
Ryan O'Doherty, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Ben Pickar, Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning
Kevin Racine, Citizen/CAC
Eileen Singleton, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Sara Tomlinson, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Harvey Gold. Mr. Gold introduced Mr. Frank Johnson, the new Carroll County representative to the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB). Mr. Johnson noted the opportunity and his role as the Legislative Director for Carroll County Government as well as the Mayor of Mount Airy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2007 Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) meeting was made by Mr. Gold. A motion was made by Mr. Carl Balser to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Jamie Kendrick. The minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY:

Mr. Kevin Racine, Vice President, Transit Riders Action Council (TRAC), stated that he spoke to officials in Pennsylvania regarding rapid transit and connections to Harford

County. Mr. Racine also noted that he attended a Baltimore Region Human Service Transportation Coordination forum last week at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and came away with good information on transit.

REPORT FROM CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: In the absence of Ms. Lindsay Thompson, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Ms. Monica Haines said that the CAC held their meeting on March 14th and finalized their Bylaws. Changes to the CAC Bylaws include length of service on the CAC and the establishment of 3 subcommittees consisting of Membership, Public Involvement and Outreach, and Policy and Legislation. Other topics included the proposed amendment to the BRTB Bylaws – changing the number of meetings with elected officials from four to one. This amendment is out for public review, and comments are due to BMC at 4:30 P.M. on April 5th.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Mr. Ben Pickar, Chair of the Technical Committee (TC), said that the TC met on March 6, 2007 and recommended approval of Resolutions #07-18 and #07-20, both to be voted upon at today's meeting. No action was taken on Resolution #07-19.

REPORT FROM FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES: Mr. Kwame Arhin stated that he reported on key aspects of the Final Rule on State & Metropolitan Planning Regulations at the March 6th Technical Committee.

REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP: There was no report from the Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) which was cancelled due to inclement weather.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM: Mr. Harvey Bloom introduced Resolution #07-18, in support of the proposed work tasks and budget amendments to the FY 2007 UPWP. He noted that this was necessary because of work scope changes, specifically, the External Survey and the Household Travel Survey. Mr. Bloom explained that Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) staff is working with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) on a Household Survey (MWCOG is doing 700 surveys in the counties of Anne Arundel, Howard and Carroll) and BMC would like to expand the survey's geography to include the other jurisdictions in the region (Baltimore City and Baltimore and Harford counties) for a total of 2,150 households. He added that this will require a year's worth of time due to the survey's structure and approach. In response to a question of how much of the 2008 budget is contingent upon the carryover, Mr. Bloom answered that the FY 2008 budget is basically developed on what is available as a result of federal funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as well as contributions from MDOT, BMC, and the

local jurisdictions and only a small percent of the 2008 UPWP is based on carryover dollars. Mr. Sam Minnitte said that it was his understanding that it was recommended to BMC staff to increase the number of households planned to be surveyed to acquire a richer, more comprehensive dataset. Mr. Bloom noted that BMC has raised this issue with various staff at the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and, to date, have had no response to this issue. Mr. Minnitte said that about 2 months ago, MDOT had a meeting with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and MDOT committed to provide local match funds in support of a survey expansion. Mr. Minnitte believes that additional surveys support enhanced modeling and forecasting related with BRAC. Also, the level of survey done in the Washington area is not consistent with the level of survey currently planned (2,150) in the Baltimore region. Mr. Bloom noted that the Washington region has not done a survey in 12 years and BMC completed a 3,500 household survey in 2001. Mr. Minnitte said that MDOT is very interested and supportive of an expanded household survey. Mr. Bloom said he is not opposed to the idea but the use of metropolitan planning funds is a decision that rests with BRTB. Mr. Minnitte noted that when he spoke to MTA and SHA about two months ago, they expressed interest as long as MDOT could provide the match. Mr. Bloom asked why MDOT hasn't been in contact with BMC and Mr. Mike Nixon responded that he feels that there has been some miscommunication within MDOT. Mr. Gold suggested that the Technical Committee explore the idea of an expanded household survey for the Baltimore region and report back to the BRTB next month. A request for a motion to approve Resolution #07-18 was made by Mr. Gold. A motion was made by Mr. Balsler for approval and seconded by Mr. Minnitte. The resolution was unanimously approved.

[Handout: Revised Attachment]

ENDORSEMENT OF APPLICANTS FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS PROGRAM OF THE SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT – A LEGACY FOR

USERS: Mr. Bloom introduced Resolution #07-19, in support of the requests for federal assistance through the Transportation Enhancements Program administered by the Maryland State Highway Administration. Ms. Regina Aris said that the closing date for applications was after the Technical Committee (TC) meeting earlier this month. Ms. Aris said that the TC agreed to consider the materials prepared; however, only two Committee members responded, thus, a vote was not taken. Ms. Aris noted that there are 6 applicants in the Baltimore region. She said that all proposals statewide are below the amount of funds available. Staff prepared a review which was attached to the resolution. A request for a motion to approve Resolution #07-19 was made by Mr. Gold. A motion was made by Mr. Kendrick for approval and seconded by Mr. Minnitte. The resolution was unanimously approved. Mr. Kendrick asked if additional funds are available, could the region secure additional funds in support of qualifying projects. Ms. Aris noted that a request has been made to the State Highway Administration for a speaker who is familiar with this program to address the TC meeting in May.

APPROVAL OF WORK TASKS AND BUDGET OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM: Mr. Bloom introduced Resolution #07-20 in support of

the activities and budget of the FY 2008 UPWP. The UPWP has been reviewed by the public during a 30-day comment period and questions were received from various stakeholders including the CAC. Mr. Kendrick asked if more time is needed by BMC, MDOT or the Technical Committee to consider the External Survey and Household Survey. Mr. Bloom noted that BMC staff does not need additional time and added that the proposal was developed to be consistent with the purpose of the Household Survey which is a validation of various inputs to the regional travel forecasting model. Mr. Kendrick asked if the Technical Committee needs additional time to sort through this survey issue before approving the budget. Mr. Pickar stated that the resolution is such that it will allow the External Survey Stations to go through and, if necessary, this hybrid approach can be amended later. Mr. Pickar also stated that the TC approved the FY 2008 UPWP. A request for a motion to approve Resolution #07-20 was made by Mr. Gold. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson for approval and seconded by Mr. Balsler. The resolution was unanimously approved.

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES OF THE TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS

SUBCOMMITTEE: Ms. Eileen Singleton provided an introduction to this topic. Ms. Singleton said that the Transportation & Public Works Subcommittee has been meeting since June 2006. It is a subcommittee of the BRTB (under the Management & Operations Partnership), and also provides guidance and input to the Urban Area Work Group (UAWG). The UAWG determines how federal homeland security funds to the region are allocated. Ms. Singleton introduced Mr. Chris Letnaunchyn, Traffic Engineer with Carroll County and Chair of the T&PW Subcommittee.

Mr. Letnaunchyn said that the activities of the Transportation & Public Works Subcommittee cover “typical” operations, which fall under the BRTB, as well as emergency operations, which fall under the UAWG. Members of the T&PW Subcommittee include representatives from local and state transportation / public works and emergency management agencies. The Committee held a successful Snow Plow Operations Forum in November. This event provided a rare opportunity for those involved in snow plow operations in the region to share best practices and lessons learned. The Committee is planning a Tree Trimming / Roadside Mowing / Street Sweeping Forum for Spring 2007. The Committee has submitted three projects to UAWG for inclusion in the FY 2007 Urban Area Security Initiative grant application:

- Decision Making Tool for Evacuation Traffic Management
- Evacuation Support Trailer
- Contra-Flow: Decision Making Tool and Baltimore Washington Parkway Case Study

Once funds have been awarded from the Department of Homeland Security, the UAWG will determine which projects will receive funds, since it is almost certain that the region will not receive all requested funds. Mr. Kendrick mentioned that Baltimore City is in the process of preparing design drawings for Russell Street, which becomes the Baltimore Washington Parkway, so there should be coordination between the contra-flow case study and the Russell Street design.

[Handout: Update on Activities of the Transportation & Public Works Subcommittee]

BRIEFING ON FINAL METROPOLITAN PLANNING REGULATIONS OF THE SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: Ms.

Aris noted that the Final Rule was published in the February 14, 2007 Federal Register and took effect on March 16, 2007. The Final Rule was sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and provides a comprehensive overview of the regulations governing statewide and metropolitan transportation planning and programming. Some of the key items that pertain to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Long Range Plan take effect on July 1, 2007. The new provisions include fiscal constraint and linking transportation planning and project development and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes. Ms. Aris also noted that “safety” and “security” issues formerly were combined but now are separate areas of concentration. She said that Plans, TIPs and Certifications are now on a four-year cycle. The BRTB’s 2007 Public Participation Plan has been updated and meets all of the criteria of the regulations as is the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Another issue is the Coordinated Public Transit & Human Service Transportation Plan. Ms. Aris also said that a process between the MPO, the State, and public transportation operators that identifies roles and responsibilities will be clearly documented.

[Handout: Overview of the FHWA/FTA Final Rule on Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Programming]

STATUS REPORT ON THE BALTIMORE REGION ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN TRANSPORTATION PROJECT: Mr. Bloom introduced this topic and said that the

Partnership includes Johns Hopkins’ School of Public Health, Morgan State University, the Greater Baltimore Urban League, Environmental Justice Partnership, and BMC. Ms. Aris said that two years ago, the team conducted a series of “Listening Sessions” throughout the region. Many issues specifically focused on transit were expressed at that time. Last July, a follow-up Community Dialogue was held and participants selected several topics that warranted additional details. Four teams were selected and the result of this effort will be a “tool kit” which will allow planners to look at what strategies or approaches are available to address environmental justice issues. Ms. Aris said that the Community Workshop on March 17, 2007 reported on the progress of the four teams. To date, the BREJTP team has captured community input and is planning to meet with impacted local jurisdictions and/or state agencies to assess the accuracy of community concerns.

STATUS REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION OUTLOOK 2035: Ms. Karin Foster

provided a brief status report on Transportation Outlook, the long-range transportation plan scheduled for BRTB approval in October. She noted that the project submittal period has ended. Individuals can access the list of candidate projects from the BMC web site, Transportation Planning tab. Ms. Foster added that project prioritization is underway. With input on Priority Funding Areas (PFA’s) from Maryland Department of Planning, Ms. Foster has completed documentation of the policy prioritization process. Final data collection and analysis efforts are underway to complete the technical prioritization process. Technical prioritization incorporates safety, congestion, demand,

accessibility, connectivity, and environmental data. Ms. Foster also noted that BMC expects to present prioritization information in more detail at the next Technical Committee meeting. Additionally, the 2005 and 2035 hot spots maps are complete. Ninety-five percent of project capital costs have been collected; primarily, bike/ped project costs are missing. The next steps are to review the financial forecasts from MDOT and gather additional fiscal estimates from local jurisdictions. Ms. Foster concluded her update by noting that the public comment period for the Plan is scheduled from mid-July to late August 2007. The public comment period will most likely include public meetings in each BRTB jurisdiction.

UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES OF THE 2007 SESSION OF THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Mr. Earl Long summarized legislative coordination activities during the 2007 session of the Maryland General Assembly. Mr. Long pointed out that with 13 days left before adjournment on April 9, 232 of the 317 bills in the latest weekly legislative report are still alive. The other 85 bills in the weekly report have died as a result of receiving unfavorable committee reports or being withdrawn by bill sponsors. He highlighted SB 0103 (Maryland Clean Cars Act of 2007). This bill and its companion in the House have been passed by each chamber, but have not been passed by the opposite chamber. He added that the final disposition of this legislation is still uncertain depending on possible amendments, and resolution of different amendments in conference committee.

[Handout: Representative Bills of Significance]

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Kendrick introduced Ms. Jessica Keller, the new Planning Chief for Baltimore City Department of Planning.

There being no other business, Mr. Gold asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kendrick made a motion to adjourn with Mr. Balser seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey S. Bloom, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board