



Baltimore Regional Transportation Board

The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MINUTES OF THE 195th MEETING OF THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

October 28, 2008

9:00 A.M.

EMPOWERED MEMBERS

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

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

George Cardwell (for Harvey Gold, Senior Transportation Planner)
Anne Arundel County Office of Planning & Zoning

Diane Franks
Air Quality Planning Division
Maryland Department of the Environment
(Non-voting member)

Janet Gleisner (for Tony McClune, Deputy Director)
Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning

Emery Hines
Manager, Transportation Planning
Baltimore County Department of Public Works

Frank Johnson, Legislative Director (Vice Chair)
Carroll County Government

Jamie Kendrick, Deputy Director
Baltimore City Department of Transportation

Mike Nixon (for Don Halligan, Director)
Office of Planning & Capital Programming
Maryland Department of Transportation

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Members: City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, Howard County, Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of the Environment (Non-Voting), Maryland Department of Planning (Non-Voting)

Bihui Xu (for David Whitaker)
Department of Planning
(Non-voting member)

OTHERS PRESENT

Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration
Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Charles Baber, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Thomas Beyard, City of Westminster
Amber Blake, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Harvey S. Bloom, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Victor Bonaparte, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Tyson Byrne, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Ben Cohen, BWI Business Partnership
John Cutonilli, Citizen
Jeff Drinkwater, Baltimore City Department of Planning
Joan Gorsuch, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Monica Haines, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Robert Hellauer, Greater Baltimore Committee
Lenny Howard, Maryland Transit Administration
Sherry Hyman, Baltimore County League of Women Voters
Mike Kelly, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Larry Klimovitz, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Keith Kucharek, State Highway Administration
Pat Lane, Baltimore City League of Women Voters
Phyllis & John Lansing, Baltimore County League of Women Voters
Jud Malone, ULI
Jody McCullough, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Barker Much, Citizen
Theo Ngongang, Maryland Department of Transportation
Foster Nichols, CAC Co-chair
Kevin Racine, Citizen

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Carl Balsler.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2008 Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) meeting was made by Mr. Balsler. A motion was made by Mr. Kendrick to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Cardwell. The minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY:

Mr. Barker Much, citizen, said that it would be helpful to travelers to have information posted at various MARC stations (i.e., Penn Station, BWI Airport, Dorsey) on how to get from these locations to Fort Meade. The potential influx of BRAC workers could find MARC as a viable

alternative to the use of their personal vehicle. In addition, Mr. Much feels that the proposed MARC and commuter bus cutbacks will have a negative effect on the region. He suggested raising taxes on alcohol and lottery games, increasing fines on driving violations and the cost of driver licenses and registration fees as a means to generate additional resources to fund transit services.

[Handout: Written comments, Ways of Getting to Fort Meade by Transit notes, Maps/Schedules: Howard Transit Silver Route, CTC Route K, MTA pocket map, MARC Penn & Camden Line, MARC Brunswick Line, Light Rail, MTA #27 Bus, MTA #17 Bus]

Mr. Kevin Racine, citizen, said that the region needs to improve transit connectivity. He suggested better use of MARC service between jurisdictions to insure connections with MTA and local bus operations.

[Handout: Written comments]

REPORT FROM CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mr. Foster Nichols, Vice-Chair, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), said that the CAC met on October 1st and voted in support of eleven (11) new CAC members to fill existing vacancies and/or replace term-expired members. The Committee also heard a presentation on regional housing sales trends; continued their conversation about public involvement issues including the time and location of the CAC meetings; discussed the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP); and, considered potential next steps for the amendment to the Transportation Outlook 2035.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Mr. Jeff Drinkwater, Chair, said that the Technical Committee (TC) met on October 6th and three resolutions (#09-7, #09-8, and #09-9) were presented to the Technical Committee and approved for submission to the BRTB. Progress reports were given on the Plan Amendment, the 2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), traffic forecasting maps, and the 2010 UPWP. Due to Election Day (Tuesday, November 4), the next meeting of the Technical Committee will be held on Monday, November 3, at 9:30 A.M.

REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP: There was no ICG meeting in October.

APPROVAL OF PURPOSE & NEED FOR INTERCHANGE PROJECT AT INTERSTATE 795 & DOLFIELD BOULEVARD: Mr. Harvey Bloom introduced Resolution #09-7 in support of the Purpose and Need statement for an interchange at I-795 and Dolfield Boulevard in Baltimore County. The purpose of this proposed project is to improve access to the planned growth and major employment corridor along Red Run Boulevard on the west side of I-795 and to address vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle accessibility at selected intersections in the study area. The Interchange Study will also explore safety and capacity improvements along I-795, in support of existing and planned development in the area. Mr. Balsler asked for a motion to approve

Resolution #09-7. Mr. Cardwell made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Hines. Resolution #09-7 was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN

ADVISORY GROUP: Ms. Amber Blake introduced the proposed changes to the BPAG Bylaws. All changes occur under Section III, Membership. The changes to the Bylaws include identification of the eight (8) current voting members similar to the BRTB voting structure, with the addition of one (1) citizen voting member. The citizen voting member will serve a two (2) year term. The BPAG will recommend an appointment to the BRTB after reviewing applications. Ms. Janet Gleisner, Chair of BPAG, noted that the group has active participation by citizens who provide important outreach and contribute greatly to the BPAG meetings. A discussion regarding voting membership for the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) was raised by Ms. Franks. An amendment to the resolution to add MDE and MDP as voting members was introduced by Mr. Nixon and seconded by Mr. Arason. After some discussion, the amendment was withdrawn with the understanding that this issue would be presented and a recommendation be developed at the next BPAG meeting. Mr. Balsler asked for a motion to approve Resolution #09-8. Mr. Johnson made a motion for approval that was seconded by Ms. Gleisner. Resolution #09-8 was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE 2008-2012 BALTIMORE REGION

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: Mr. Bloom introduced the Amendment as submitted by the State Highway Administration through the Maryland Department of Transportation. Due to new obligation authority directed at repairing bridges, the amendment targets 4 bridge projects: 2 in Baltimore County, 1 in Anne Arundel, and 1 in Carroll County. Mr. Kendrick made a comment that the amendment only advanced projects in the pipeline and was not the result of any new money. Mr. Balsler asked for a motion to approve Resolution #09-9. Mr. Johnson made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Cardwell. Resolution #09-9 was unanimously approved.

UPDATE ON THE AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR TRANSPORTATION OUTLOOK 2035:

Mr. Balsler opened discussion on the proposed amendment to the Baltimore Regional long-range transportation plan - *Transportation Outlook 2035*. Mr. Bloom indicated the need for the BRTB to agree on the timeframe and funding threshold of the plan amendment. Discussion occurred regarding the initial revenue projections of \$340 million and how much of this projected revenue may still be available as a result of the economic "slowdown" and the State's deferral of \$1.1 billion from the 2009 Consolidated Transportation Program. According to State officials, a 7 to 8 year recovery period to the Maryland Highway Trust Fund may be realistic. At the request of Mr. Kendrick, Mr. Mike Nixon agreed to review the \$1.1 billion deferral and determine the impact to the Baltimore region. Eventually, the BRTB determined that further analysis and discussion was needed before a decision could be made regarding the level of funding and timeframe for the Plan amendment. The proposed date for approval of the amended Plan is February 24th.

[Handout: Draft Consolidated Project List, Friday, October 24, 2008]

PRESENTATION ON THE REGIONAL PLANNING WORKSHOPS SPONSORED BY THE URBAN LAND INSTITUTE AND THE BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL: Mr. Larry Klimovitz, Executive Director, BMC, and Mr. Jud Malone, Urban Land Institute (ULI), briefed the Committee on the recently completed regional planning workshops, which brought together local, regional, and state planners to render a regional land plan with common land use designation across jurisdictions. Mr. Malone stated that ULI viewed this effort as a continuation of the previously completed Reality Check Plus initiative. This initiative builds on the ULI publication *Growing Cooler*, which highlights land use decisions that promote compact development which can lead to a reduction in travel that contributes to lessening an area's carbon footprint. The region's Planning Directors are convening on December 10th to assess this activity and formulate a consensus on how to proceed. The Planning Directors will develop a presentation with recommendations to be presented at an upcoming BMC Board meeting.

PRESENTATION ON THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER VISION PLANNING PROCESS: Mr. Thomas Beyard, Director, Planning & Public Works, City of Westminster, informed the Committee on the process to update the City of Westminster's comprehensive plan, which was last updated in 2004. Public involvement has been sought in the form of a citizen survey and three visioning-type community meetings. Westminster citizens identified transportation, police and public safety, parks and recreation, city communication, city services, downtown development, as important themes for the comprehensive plan update. Mr. Beyard identified MD 140 and MD 97 as major transportation issues for the city. Improvements would spur economic development and eliminate bottlenecks as a result of through commuters. Mr. Lenny Howard, MTA, mentioned that the development of a comprehensive plan for the City of Westminster is an ideal time to incorporate opportunities for transit service. Mr. Beyard agreed and noted Carroll Area Transit's involvement in the process. In conclusion, water resources were identified as a major constraint on Westminster's future development. The city and county government have acquired a quarry and constructed a pipe line to recharge Cranberry reservoir during droughts. Enhancements to the existing water and wastewater treatment plant are underway.
[Handout: City of Westminster, Maryland PowerPoint; 2008 Community Vision Workshop Facilitator Packet, 2008 City of Westminster Citizen Survey]

PRESENTATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2010 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM: Mr. Victor Bonaparte provided an overview of the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He noted that federal regulations require metropolitan planning organizations to develop annual programs that enhance mobility and quality of life, expedite the movement of goods, promote orderly growth and improve air quality. The UPWP should also address the critical transportation issues facing the region. Additionally, the document includes the analytical capabilities necessary to address those issues and provides a prospectus and 3-year "blueprint" for the future. The BRTB manages and provides direction to the UPWP, approving the program and budget annually. For the FY 2010 work program, the schedule for the UPWP begins in mid-November when local jurisdictions submit draft work programs to BMC staff for review. A 30-day public and federal agency review and comment period follows in January – February. After further review by the Technical Committee and any necessary modification, the final draft is presented to the BRTB for adoption. A schedule was

included in the Board packets. Several critical areas of concern will guide the development of the 2010 UPWP: (a) timeframe for the next long-range transportation plan; (b) socio-economic and cooperative forecasts; (c) methodology for the financial forecast and "Year of Expenditure" requirement for the next plan; (d) climate change and conformity; (e) PECAS model applications; and, (f) the 2007 Regional Household Travel Survey. While funding levels are unknown at this time, there could be a one-time increase resulting from the close out of SAFETEA-LU planning funds. At the same time, a federal rescission in all transportation resources has been discussed. As for local pass-through funds, it was agreed that the local pass-through levels for 2010 would be zero-based and not pivot off of the 2009 earmark.

DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED BY THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Mr. Johnson introduced this topic and asked Mr. Nichols, Vice-Chair of the CAC, to further explain the specifics of each resolution. Mr. Nichols noted that there are two resolutions: the first resolution outlines the CAC's position regarding Transportation Outlook 2035 and includes recommendations, encouragements and requests on how to address the amended 2035 document. The second resolution is a statement of intention to advise. Mr. Nichols said that the projects identified fit into categories and have certain characteristics: system preservation; expansion of capacity (service and maintenance); usability and attractiveness of transit which includes seamless and user-friendly, quantity and quality of transit information, connectivity; and, right-of-way preservation needs for future transit system expansion. He noted that the above checklist is what the CAC would like to see applied to the list of projects considered in the plan amendment process. Mr. Nichols also noted that Resolution #08-06 attempts to engage with the BRTB about the TIP process.

[CAC Resolutions #08-05 and #08-06]

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Balsler noted that on Tuesday, December 2, the annual meeting of the elected officials of the BRTB which will take place at 5:00 P.M. at BMC. He said that November 25th will be the regular meeting of the BRTB.

Ms. Aris mentioned the Baltimore Regional Traffic Signal Forum will take place on November 5th at the Maritime Institute. She also noted that November 3rd is the closing date for the Job Access & Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom grant applications to BMC. November 4th is the closing date for CMAQ applications.

[Handout: Baltimore Regional Traffic Signal Forum, November 5, 2008, Maritime Institute, Linthicum, Maryland]

[Handout: Maryland Transit Administration Letter dated October 6, 2008, to Carl Balsler]

Mr. Balsler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hines made a motion to adjourn with Mr. Nixon seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:36 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey S. Bloom, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board