



**Baltimore Regional Transportation Board**

*The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region*

**BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**MINUTES OF THE 199<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF  
THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**February 24, 2009  
9:00 A.M.**

Approved as  
Revised

**EMPOWERED MEMBERS**

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

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

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

Harvey Gold, Senior Transportation Planner  
Anne Arundel County Office of Planning & Zoning

Don Halligan, Director  
Office of Planning & Capital Programming  
Maryland Department of Transportation

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

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

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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)  
Maryland Department of Planning  
(Non-voting member)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ray Ambrose, Corridor Transportation Corporation (CTC)  
Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration  
Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Amber Blake, BMC  
Harvey S. Bloom, BMC  
Victor Bonaparte, BMC  
Tyson Byrne, BMC  
Ben Cohen, BWI Business Partnership  
Jeff Drinkwater, Baltimore City Department of Planning, Technical Comm. Chair  
Nate Evans, Baltimore City Department of Transportation, BPAG Chair  
Bruce Gardner, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
Michele Gardner, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)  
Joan Gorsuch, BMC  
Linda Greene, BWI Business Partnership  
Monica Haines, BMC  
Robert Hellauer, Greater Baltimore Committee  
Nancy Huggins, CTC  
Larry Klimovitz, BMC  
Phyllis & John Lansing, Baltimore County League of Women Voters  
Linda Loubert, Morgan State University  
Joseph Madison, MTA  
Jody McCullough, BMC  
Theo Ngongang, MDOT  
Mike Nixon, MDOT  
Brian O'Malley, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance  
Kevin Racine, Citizen  
Diane Ratcliff, MTA  
Howard Simons, MDOT  
Sara Tomlinson, BMC  
Latrina Trotman, MTA  
Gay Vietzke, National Park Service, Fort McHenry  
Anna Von Lunz, National Park Service, Fort McHenry

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Carl Balsler.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2008 Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) meeting was made by Mr. Balsler. A motion was made by Mr. Jon Arason to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Jamie Kendrick. The minutes were unanimously approved. In addition, a request for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2008 BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Balsler. A

motion was made by Mr. Harvey Gold to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Kendrick. The minutes were approved with the exception of Mr. Arason. Mr. Arason stated that he doesn't believe, given Robert's Rules, that he can approve the minutes since he was not the formal representative for his jurisdiction at that meeting. Mr. Balsler noted that Mr. Arason is an empowered representative and was in attendance at the meeting.

A Certificate of Appreciation signed by The Honorable Ken Ulman for participation on the BRTB Citizens Advisory Committee was presented to Ms. Linda Loubert for three years of service. Four other participants will be receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for their CAC service, including: Barker Much, Chris Costello, Judy Rose and Gloria Moon. Due to scheduling conflicts they were unable to attend today's meeting.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY:** Mr. Kevin Racine, speaking as a private citizen, noted that he has been attending the legislative sessions in Annapolis and speaking with various members of the General Assembly. One of the topics that came up at a session was the Harford County bus line #412 and he was seeking help from his delegate to restore that bus line.

**REPORT FROM CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Ms. Monica Haines, on behalf of the Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), said that the CAC met on February 4<sup>th</sup> and received reports from several subcommittees and completed two recommendations for the BRTB to consider. The Public Involvement Subcommittee presented draft recommendations for updating and improving the Public Participation Plan (PPP) and the Policy and Legislation Subcommittee presented a draft 2009 work program. The CAC also presented recommendations on *Transportation Outlook 2035* and submitted a resolution recommending that Resolution #09-14 be approved. Ms. Haines also noted that the Membership Subcommittee reviewed 4 applications for new membership. The subcommittee recommended that Sharonlee Vogel of Howard County fill the open slot on the CAC. Because a quorum was not present, this recommendation, along with the above recommendations will need to be voted upon at the March meeting. The federal stimulus proposal will also be discussed at the next meeting.

**REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:** Mr. Jeff Drinkwater, Chair, said that the Technical Committee (TC) met on February 3, 2009 and recommended approval of two Resolutions (#09-14 and #09-15). He noted that the TC did not have a staff recommendation for Resolution #09-13 as it was not finalized at the time of the meeting. Mr. Drinkwater also noted that the TC received a presentation from Baltimore County on their Transportation Development Plan (TDP) and CountyRide program.

**REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP:** Mr. Emery Hines reported on the activities of the February 4<sup>th</sup> Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) meeting. He noted that the Committee discussed a draft letter to the federal agencies, recommending approval of the methodology and assumptions for the conformity determination of the FY 2010-2013 TIP and *Transportation Outlook 2035*. The ICG also recommended approval of the BRTB amendment to *Transportation Outlook 2035*. Mr. Hines noted that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) will be submitting a recommendation to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the revised 8-hour ozone standard. The Committee also discussed MDE's

position on EPA's proposed addition of Montgomery and Prince George's counties to the Baltimore Nonattainment Area for 24-hour PM2.5. MDE does not support the proposal.

**APPROVAL OF GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FROM JOB ACCESS & REVERSE COMMUTE AND NEW FREEDOM PROGRAMS:**

Mr. Harvey Bloom introduced Resolution #09-13 and pointed out the new draft matrix including recommendations for the Job Access and New Freedom applications. Mr. Tyson Byrne and Ms. Amber Blake presented BMC staff recommendations for funding for the two grant programs. Mr. Byrne started off by detailing the process and the extension of the initial submittal deadline by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). He noted that even with the additional applications, all available funds have not been utilized. Mr. Byrne then summarized the five Job Access/Reverse Commute applications. Ms. Blake complimented the applicants for working with the review committee and providing quality applications this year. She then presented a summary of the seven New Freedom applications. A question was raised about the remaining funds and whether there would be additional grant application opportunities. MTA responded that they do plan to advertise the grant again later in the year, particularly after performance data on existing programs was available. Mr. Kendrick encouraged MTA to take a harder look at the applications, especially the BWI Business Partnership. Mr. Kendrick again stated the need for a regional emergency ride home program that could be funded with Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality and Job Access/Reverse Commute funds. Mr. Balser asked for a motion to approve Resolution #09-13. Mr. Frank Johnson made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Gold. Resolution #09-13 was unanimously approved.

***[Handout: Draft Recommendations – Baltimore Region Job Access Reverse Commute Grant Project Applications and Baltimore Region New Freedom Grant Project Applications]***

**APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO TRANSPORTATION OUTLOOK 2035:**

Mr. Bloom introduced this Resolution and said that the BRTB had addressed all public comments received. He noted that many of the comments were very complimentary of the BRTB process. Discussion occurred regarding the success of the process used to gain input from the public and the Citizens Advisory Committee for this amendment which focused exclusively on transit projects. Mr. Balser asked for a motion to approve Resolution #09-14. Mr. Johnson made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Tony McClune. Resolution #09-14 was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP:**

Mr. Nate Evans, Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Group (BPAG), presented Resolution # 09-15 requesting approval of changes to the BPAG Bylaws. Mr. Evans reported BPAG was delighted to receive a large number of well qualified applicants for the citizen voting member position. From the applicants, Mr. Barry Childress was selected as the representative. During the review process, it became apparent it would be in the best interest of BPAG to have a citizen voting member to represent pedestrian issues. There was a clear division in the applications between applicants who were interested in bicycle versus pedestrian issues. BPAG is asking to add an additional voting member to represent pedestrian issues. Ms. Regina Aris commented that the Resolution also includes an update to the bylaws naming the Maryland Departments of the Environment (MDE) and Planning (MDP) as voting

members. Mr. Don Halligan asked why it was necessary to have a member to represent cycling interests and an additional member to represent pedestrian's interests. Ms. Blake stated that the issues facing a pedestrian regarding safety, level of comfort and access are quite different than those same issues as a cyclist. BPAG was delighted to have received qualified applicants to represent both viewpoints. Mr. Arason reported that the City of Annapolis is currently dealing with the cycling community having a large voice when there is right-of-way to expand either the sidewalk or include a bike lane, but it is rare that there is a voice for pedestrians. There are instances where sidewalk expansion may be a better option than including a bike lane in an available right-of-way. Mr. Balser asked for a motion to approve Resolution #09-15. Mr. Kendrick made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Halligan. Resolution #09-15 was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO THE 2008-2012 BALTIMORE REGION TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO INCLUDE FUNDING FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009:**

Mr. Halligan thanked BMC staff for developing this Resolution and noted that the Resolution is for an administrative modification for projects currently in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The modification is to change the funding source to P.L. 111-5; The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds. Maryland's share of formula funds under ARRA is estimated at \$610 million to be directed at maintaining and improving existing transit systems, roads and bridges; and, that these funds will be distributed to a wide range of "fix-it first" projects to allow the benefit to be felt by workers and families in every region of the state. Phase I of the One Maryland Transportation Recovery Program, \$365 million in highway and transit federal formula funded projects will be ready for advertising by mid-March 2009 (highway) or late June 2009 (transit) supporting approximately 9,900 jobs. The stimulus package for the Baltimore metropolitan area is for an estimated \$70 million in highway funds for resurfacing, safety, environmental and bridge projects as well as an estimated \$126 million in transit funding for bus vehicle purchases, MARC station improvements, Metro system improvements and local bus facilities. Mr. Halligan introduced Mr. Bruce Gardner, Policy & Government Affairs, MDOT, who provided background on the ARRA funds. Mr. Gardner noted that these projects are ready-to-go capital projects that have completed all pre-construction steps. Phase II will include additional funds to be used for highway and transit, including local government transportation priorities such as projects requested through the locally operated transit system (LOTS) program, the local bridge program or Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) projects. MDOT is working with locals to ensure that funding eligibility and other requirements are met. Phase III of the ARRA will address "discretionary" opportunities of national and regional significance, such as BRAC and MARC. Mr. Kendrick noted that Baltimore City appreciates the work of MDOT and State Highway Administration in getting projects through the pipeline for Baltimore City Board of Estimates. Mr. Kendrick said that his read of the ARRA was that Congress intended MPOs to have a strong say in how suballocated Surface Transportation Funds would be spent in urbanized areas. While he felt that today's action was the best way to proceed, he hoped that MDOT would allow the MPO to grow into a more active role in suballocating STP funds in the future, rather than simply rubber-stamping a pre-fashioned project list. Mr. Balser asked for a motion to approve Resolution #09-17. Mr. Johnson made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Halligan. Resolution #09-17 was unanimously approved.

***[Handouts: Resolution #09-17 – Administrative Modification to the 2008-2012 Baltimore Region Transportation Improvement Program to Include Funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; P.L. III-5, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Fact Sheet]***

**STATUS REPORT ON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION VISION PLANNING:** Mr. Johnson gave an update on the development of this work activity and said that the Committee looked at and discussed different drafts of a scope that was presented to the BMC Board of Directors on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Johnson noted that this activity is being coordinated very closely with the Planning Directors and will be discussed at the February 27<sup>th</sup> Planning Director's meeting. Mr. Johnson noted that the BRTB will be getting together with the Planning Directors and Management Committee on March 9<sup>th</sup> to begin to look at some of the aspects of this process. Mr. Johnson thanked everyone for their involvement and help for what he considers a very solid work scope.

**UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2010 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM:** Mr. Bloom introduced this topic and noted that the matrix is the result of a Budget Subcommittee meeting held on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Johnson said that the Board did need to review each of the proposals to make sure that they understand the projects and have context for the Subcommittee recommendations. The Subcommittee will meet again to finalize their recommendations and present their findings at the next BRTB meeting.

***[Handout: FY 2010 Budget Requests by Local Participants – Draft 2/20/09]***

**BRIEFING ON TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Mr. Howard Simons, Air Quality Manager for MDOT, briefed the BRTB on details of the Coordinating Committee and Transportation and Land Use Committees of the Maryland Climate Action Plan. On November 2008, the Maryland DOT Climate Change Committee submitted the Climate Action Plan to the Maryland General Assembly and Governor. The Climate Action Plan includes 42 measures for reducing the State's greenhouse gas emissions, 8 of which are transportation and land use related, or TLU, measures. MDOT has been delegated the task of developing an implementation plan for each TLU. There is a mandate to develop a progress report by April 2009 and implementation measures by November 2009. The Climate Action Plan calls for a 25 percent reduction in emissions from 2006 levels and 90 percent by 2050. The Coordinating Committee will act as an umbrella over eight Work Groups, and will approve a plan to go to the Maryland Climate Change Commission. BMC staff is participating on 5 work groups and Mr. Bloom or Mr. Johnson will participate on the Coordinating Committee. Reports from these meetings will be made at upcoming TC and BRTB meetings.

***[Handouts: Maryland DOT Climate Action Plan Implementation Committee Contact Information; MDOT Climate Action Plan Implementation Transportation and Land Use (TLU) Working Group Members as of 2/23/09]***

**PRESENTATION ON TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES AT FORT McHENRY NATIONAL MONUMENT & HISTORIC SHRINE:** Ms. Gay Vietzky, Superintendent of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, gave a presentation on transportation activities occurring at Fort McHenry. She detailed some of the efforts underway in preparation for the Bicentennial of the

War of 1812 including the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, the relocation of the Visitor Center to improve transit and water taxi access using SAFTEA-LU earmarked funds, a Shuttle Feasibility Study using Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands funds, and grants Fort McHenry is pursuing with Baltimore City for hybrid buses. Ms. Vietzky thanked BMC staff for the work they have done to help the Fort to be successful in receiving the federal Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands grants. She hopes that this partnership will continue.

***[Handouts: Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Shuttle Feasibility Study Work Plan; Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail; Business Plan – Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine and Hampton National Historic Site]***

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

***[Handout: Tentative 2009 MPO Committee Meeting Dates]***

***[Handout: Letter to 3 Federal Agencies regarding air quality conformity determination of the FY 2010-2013 TIP and Transportation Outlook 2035]***

Mr. Balsler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gold made a motion to adjourn with Mr. McClune seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey S. Bloom, Secretary  
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board