



Baltimore Regional Transportation Board

The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MINUTES OF THE 201st MEETING OF THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**April 28, 2009
9:00 A.M.**

EMPOWERED MEMBERS

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

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

Jim Wilkinson (for 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

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

Alex Rawls (for Tony McClune, Deputy Director)
Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning

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

2700 Lighthouse Point East, Suite 310, Baltimore, MD, 21224 • Phone 410-732-0500 • Facsimile 410-732-8248

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)

Kiman Choi (for Davis Whitaker)
Maryland Department of Planning
(Non-voting member)

OTHERS PRESENT

Deborah Adams, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)
Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration
Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Charles Baber, BMC
Phil Bell, GO21
Harvey S. Bloom, BMC
Victor Bonaparte, BMC
Jamie Bridges, BMC
Dunbar Brooks, BMC
Lorenzo Bryant, MTA
Tyson Byrne, BMC
Jeff Drinkwater, Baltimore City Dept of Planning, Technical Committee Chair
Patrick Fleming, Maryland Transportation Authority
Monica Haines, BMC
Robert Hellauer, Greater Baltimore Committee
Larry Klimovitz, BMC
Pat Lane, Baltimore City League of Women Voters
Phyllis & John Lansing, Baltimore County League of Women Voters
Jud Malone, CAC Chair
Joseph Madison, MTA
Jody McCullough, BMC
Theo Ngongang, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Mike Nixon, MDOT
Calvin Peete, Citizens Planning & Housing Association
Kevin Racine, Citizen
Diane Ratcliff, MTA
Otis Rolley, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Sara Tomlinson, BMC
Stephanie Yanovitz, BMC

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Carl Balser.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2009 Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) meeting was made by Mr. Balser. A motion was made by Mr. Jamie Kendrick to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Don Halligan.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY: There were no comments from the public at this time.

REPORT FROM CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mr. Jud Malone, Chair, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), characterized the focus of the CAC meeting as one directed to review and comment of the draft FY 2010 UPWP. The members broke into groups and discussed the document and developed issues and questions. An online survey was also used to develop an official position. Mr. Malone referred to formal comments that Foster Nichols prepared and submitted regarding a process for the Vision effort and next long-range plan.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Mr. Jeff Drinkwater, Chair, said that the Technical Committee (TC) met on April 7, 2009. Mr. Drinkwater stated that TC members approved for BRTB consideration, Resolutions for Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) projects, the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), an administrative modification to the FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and an amendment to the FY 2008-2012 TIP. He noted that the TC did not have a recommendation for the Resolution regarding the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant since the TC met prior to the grant closing date. The BMC staff presented on the Transportation Land Use (TLU) Work Groups, a truck movement data collection effort, the Global Positioning System (GPS) component of the 2008 Household Travel Survey and the status of Round 7-B. Members were also provided a list of projects submitted for consideration in the proposed 2010-2013 TIP and notice of a “stimulus” award for transit – TIGGER.

REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP: Mr. Emery Hines reported on the April 1, 2009 Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) meeting. He noted the committee focused most of the meeting on a review of all draft FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program projects regarding their exempt / non-exempt status for use in the conformity determination process.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT

ADMINISTRATION SECTION 5310 GRANT PROGRAM: Mr. Tyson Byrne presented an overview of the 7 review criteria and the status of Local Planning Certificates in support of the applications for funding through the federal Section 5310 grant program. Mr. Byrne pointed out that there were 13 applicants seeking Regional Planning Certificates. Staff’s recommendation is to award certificates to all applicants. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) verified that Local Planning Certificates are only needed for the jurisdictions where vehicles would be serving clients. MTA also indicated that the applications will be presented to the Interagency Committee on Specialized Transportation on June 2, 2009, for final determination of grant awards. It was asked that BRTB members receive a copy of applicants that receive awards. MTA agreed to send the award list to BMC for distribution. Mr. Balsler asked for a motion to approve Resolution #09-18. Mr. Halligan made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Kendrick. Resolution #09-18 was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Jamie Bridges provided background information with regard to Resolution 09-19. Eight applications totaling almost \$6.75 million were submitted from the Baltimore region. All eight TEP applications from the Baltimore region were reviewed and determined to be eligible based on the BRTB-approved evaluation criteria. The evaluation criteria considers if a proposed Enhancement Project would: compliment/enhance an existing transportation investment; promote use of alternative transportation modes; has a local BRTB representative support; and enhances the environment and/or provides potential economic benefits. Across the state applicants requested more than \$10 million, while funds available total around \$1.25 million. The State Highway Administration (SHA) technical evaluation of all applications will be conducted next month. Letters of award will follow thereafter. Mr. Balsler asked for a motion to approve Resolution #09-19. Mr. Kendrick made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Jon Arason. Resolution #09-19 was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2010 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM:

Mr. Bloom prefaced approval of the UPWP with a reference to earlier comments noted by CAC Chair, Jud Malone. Mr. Bloom confirmed that comments on the FY 2010 UPWP have been submitted by the CAC; mostly focused on the Vision planning process. With that in mind, Mr. Bloom offered two options regarding the approval of the FY 2010 UPWP: (1) move forward with the approval and defer a response to public comments, given the majority are Vision planning focused and an appropriate response at this time could be difficult to provide, or (2) defer approval of the UPWP until the May 26th meeting and provide a more thorough response to all comments received during the public review period. Mr. Otis Rolley of the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance also offered comments on the UPWP. Several motions were made and withdrawn ultimately ending in agreement to defer UPWP approval. In addition to addressing public comment, Mr. Halligan indicated that a federal rescission was likely and therefore funds for the UPWP could change in the coming month; waiting allowed this issue to potentially be resolved in time for the May BRTB meeting. Mr. Balsler asked for a motion to defer Resolution #09-20. Mr. Arason made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Kendrick. Resolution #09-20 was unanimously approved.

[Handouts: Summary of Public Comments Received, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance Comments]

APPROVAL OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO THE 2008-2012 BALTIMORE REGION TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:

The BRTB was asked to approve Resolution #09-21 in support of an administrative modification to the FY 2008-2012 TIP. The administrative modification was requested by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to include new funds provided from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). A modification to the FY 2008-2012 Baltimore Region Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was specifically requested by the State Highway Administration (SHA) to reflect a change in project schedule and funding source to a list of projects currently in the 2008-2012 TIP. The transportation project topics include environmental, traffic and safety, resurfacing, and bridge redecking. These projects are 100% federally funded via ARRA and,

given their system preservation status, are programmatically exempt from conformity analysis. Mr. Halligan responded to an issue brought up at the TC meeting insofar as how many jobs were associated with each of the projects. Mr. Halligan indicated the general estimate is 28.7 jobs per million dollars of highway expenditure and 23.8 jobs per million dollars for transit. A requirement of contractors bidding on projects is the number of workers they will be using; this in turn will be posted to the Maryland web site created at the direction of the Governor. Mr. Balser asked for a motion to approve Resolution #09-21. Mr. Kendrick made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Halligan. Resolution #09-21 was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2008-2012 BALTIMORE REGION TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: The BRTB was asked to approve Resolution #09-22 in support of an amendment to the FY 2008-2012 TIP. The amendment will fund one major bridge rehabilitation project as well as state and local transit initiatives as part of Phase Two of ARRA. These projects are directed to system preservation as well as for capital assistance to local and state transit systems located throughout the Baltimore region and therefore programmatically exempt from conformity analysis. Mr. Balser asked for a motion to approve Resolution #09-22. Mr. Harvey Gold made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Kendrick. Resolution #09-22 was unanimously approved.

STATUS REPORT ON BALTIMORE'S RED LINE TRANSIT PROJECT: Ms. Diane Ratcliff, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Director of Planning and Programming, introduced Lorenzo Bryant, MTA's Red Line Project Manager. In her introduction, Ms. Ratcliff indicated that MTA intends to pursue federal authorization for three New Starts projects for construction; the Purple Line, Corridor Cities Transitway, and the Red Line. She also stated that MTA will also pursue (federal transportation reauthorization) engineering funds for the Green Line (Baltimore City). Mr. Bryant presented the current status of the Red Line Corridor Transit Study. Public comments submitted on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) have been compiled and are on the project web site. Alternative 4C has received the most support from the public and is the leading favorite to be the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). MTA is planning to make a recommendation to the Governor this summer. Alternative 4C is a 14.6 mile route with some tunneling under Cooks Lane and through the central business district (CBD) to Fells Point. With this alternative there will be no residential displacement. To better position this alternative in the "medium" range for cost-effectiveness, the price tag will likely be dropped from \$1.6 billion to \$1.4 billion. The next steps include a decision of the LPA this summer and then the start of the New Starts process in the Fall 2009. MTA was asked if they needed a resolution from the BRTB on the selection of the LPA. It was agreed that a resolution in support of the LPA would be in keeping with the cooperative agreement between MTA and the BRTB as well as the spirit of the Federal Transit Administration's New Start Program.

[Handouts: Red Line Corridor Transit Study, Status Report]

STATUS REPORT ON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION VISION PLANNING: Mr. Frank Johnson provided an update on recent and current Vision planning activities. Since the December 2, 2008 meeting of the BRTB when elected officials called for a long-term,

unconstrained transportation vision for the region, BRTB member agencies and BMC staff have been focused on the development and coordination of a process to respond to the call.

Mr. Johnson shared five critical goals and objectives, as identified through a collaboration between the BRTB and the region's Planning Directors, for the process. Mr. Johnson also noted a need for public participation in the vision process, and identified a potential public participation plan to support the initial phase of the process. In addition, Mr. Johnson briefed the Board on the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)/Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Peer Review program. The program is available to provide the BRTB/BMC with information based on peers' experience in developing and implementing a regional vision plan.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Mr. Balser announced the appointment of Harvey Gold as Chair of the Nominating Committee to be joined by Emery Hines and Mike Nixon. A slate of officers for FY 2010 will be made to the BRTB in May.

BRIEFING ON CONSULTANT ADMINISTRATION FOR WORK TASKS FUNDED THROUGH THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM: Mr. Bloom indicated that staff has prepared a description of the process used by BMC for consultant contracts as well as a proposed approach for local jurisdictions that have approved UPWP work items utilizing consultants. Ms. Regina Aris reviewed the BMC process for BRTB members and identified two steps that have been added for consideration as a result of concerns expressed by members. Discussion ensued between the members as to the level of involvement in reviewing and approving Requests for Proposals (RFP) and subsequent contracts. Members indicated they did not wish to "micro-manage" the BMC staff. Others indicated a review responsibility would trigger a review by local legal staff before sign-off. Another area of concern was expressed by Mr. Kendrick as to the goal established for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE). Staff have been researching a methodology based on a reconnaissance of US DOT policy, the experience of other MPOs, as well as levels of DBE success for BMC contracts over the last 3-year period. With all such information being shared, the BRTB agreed to increase the DBE goal to 20 percent. BMC contracts previously stated a 10% DBE goal. After continued discussion, Chairman Balser directed the Budget Subcommittee to meet and recommend a process for consultant selection process back to the BRTB at the May meeting.

[Handouts: Summary of DBE Contracts for Fiscal Years 2007-2009]

UPDATE ON THE TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE WORK GROUPS OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: Ms. Sara Tomlinson provided the Board with an update on activities of the MDOT Work Groups for the Transportation and Land Use (TLU) measures in the Maryland Climate Action Plan. Ms. Tomlinson reminded the members that BMC staff participates on six of the work groups: TLU-2 Land Use/Location Efficiency, TLU-3 Transit, TLU-5 Intercity Travel, TLU-8 Bike Pedestrian Infrastructure, TLU-9 Incentives, Pricing, and Resource Measures, and TLU-11 Evaluate the Greenhouse Gas Emission Impacts of Major Projects.

Each work group had the last of three initial meetings during the previous week. These meetings, and the resulting interim report to the MDOT Coordinating Committee, will complete Phase I of implementation planning. The interim report will identify strategy packages, provide a sketch-level analysis, and a prioritization of greenhouse gas reduction measures within each TLU.

A strategy evaluation template has been created for each TLU group to identify priorities, likely implementation timelines, possible GHG reductions, costs, barriers and opportunities. Ms. Tomlinson discussed the status of each TLU group. Priorities were identified within each TLU, with the exception of the Land Use and Location Efficiency TLU.

[Handouts: Maryland Climate Action Plan Update: Status of Transportation and Land Use Working Groups]

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Balsler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hines made a motion to adjourn with Mr. Gold seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

[Handout: NTI Course Information, Transit-Oriented and Joint Development]

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey S. Bloom, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board