



Baltimore Regional Transportation Board

The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MINUTES OF THE 211th MEETING OF THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**February 23, 2010
9:00 A.M.**

EMPOWERED MEMBERS

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

Carl Balsler, Chief
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

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

Frank Johnson, Legislative Director (Chair)
Carroll County Government

Jamie Kendrick, Deputy Director
Baltimore City Department of Transportation

Tony McClune, Deputy Director (Vice-Chair)
Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning

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)

David Whitaker, Manager, Transportation Planning
Maryland Department of Planning
(Non-voting member)

OTHERS PRESENT

Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Victor Bonaparte, BMC
Jamie Bridges, BMC
Dunbar Brooks, BMC
Bruce Gartner, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Joan Gorsuch, BMC
Charles Grant, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)
Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC
Bob Hellauer, Greater Baltimore Committee
Richard Jaramillo, Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA)
Dami Kehinde, State Highway Administration
Todd Lang, BMC
Theo Ngongang, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Jim Noonan, KCI Technologies
Ben Pickar, Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning
Kevin Racine, Citizen
Diane Ratcliff, MTA
Michele Rosenberg, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Vice-Chair
Bernice Seiden, League of Women Voters
Sara Tomlinson, BMC
Heather Weir, Citizen

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Frank Johnson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2010 BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Johnson. A motion was made by Mr. Jamie Kendrick to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Tony McClune.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY:

Mr. Kevin Racine, citizen, said that he recently went to a rail meeting at the Harford County Heat Center and learned that some of his proposals are on the table. He said that the region will have to put buses into service before the rail projects are completed. Mr. Racine noted that his concern, when he speaks to the mayors along Route 40 between Harford and Cecil counties, is that they are locally oriented, and it is hard for them to adjust to the bigger picture. Mr. Jon Arason asked if the Committee thought it might be helpful for the BRTB to expand their membership to include more municipalities and thereby the local communities would have a

better understanding of the issues involved. Mr. David Whitaker asked how this can be better coordinated and Mr. Racine responded that his main purpose is to see the county bus lines connected but, at the same time, the local communities need to understand that people are not being brought into their community that may be doing harm to their local community. He also noted that the purpose is to keep the transit local.

Ms. Heather Weir, citizen, said that in some of these smaller municipalities where per capita income is higher, there is a "not in my backyard" syndrome and they do not want these transit lines running through their communities. Ms. Weir added that a person's options for transit are limited if they are disabled.

REPORT FROM CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Ms. Michele Rosenberg, Vice-Chair, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), said that at the February 3rd meeting, they introduced new members and discussed new subcommittees and goals / opportunities for 2010. The committees shared written reports and it was suggested that the material be provided to the group by mail or e-mail prior to the general meeting. Ms. Rosenberg mentioned that she presented a summary of issues discussed by the Membership Subcommittee and she reported on work occurring at the Policy & Legislation Subcommittee meeting which was held on January 21st. She said that Mr. Ed Cohen will represent the CAC at monthly meetings of the Technical Committee and noted that Mr. Jud Malone described the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in detail and urged the Subcommittee to become more familiar with the database which is an online tool for reviewing projects included in current and prior years. Members discussed their role in reviewing draft documents and asked if there is an established set of metrics or checklists by which the group could measure plans and programs. Such a checklist does not exist but Mr. Saul Wilson will be looking at the TIP in total amount of funding for the various modes of transportation. Ms. Rosenberg noted that a variety of documents are being analyzed by the Committee including the Maryland Transportation Plan, the Baltimore Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenways and information on Complete Streets. The Committee also discussed long-term activities including the Vision plan, the 2011 long-range transportation plan, TIP, and the Unified Planning Work Program. She noted that the most recent committee meeting did not take place due to inclement weather. In addition they need to replace two members and Ms. Rosenberg noted that the Committee is distributing a brochure at various places. Next month's agenda will include the Vision plan.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Mr. Pickar, Chair, said that the Technical Committee (TC) met on February 2nd and reviewed Resolution #10-16 – CMAQ Competitive Selection Process – which was recommended for approval by the TC. Mr. Pickar asked that there be a report from staff at the next TC to report on how they will implement the movement of funds. In addition, he mentioned that there were recommendations for developing an Emergency Ride Home Program. Mr. Mike Nixon said that the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) would fund \$200,000 to support this effort which would be an expansion of the Washington region program for at least the next two years. He noted that funding for St. Mary's County is included and the program is state funded. They are looking at a start-up of Fiscal Year 2011 and are looking for marketing support from the rideshare coordinators. Mr.

Pickar said that the Technical Committee is working on scenarios for topic papers for the vision plan and are also working on the UPWP budget.

[Handout: Recommendations for Development of an Emergency Ride Home Program]

REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP: Mr. Emery Hines provided an update from the February 3, 2010 ICG meeting. First, SHA presented information on the US 40 / MD 715 project in Aberdeen. Also, the ICG finalized a letter to be sent to the FHWA, FTA, and EPA regional offices, describing the methodology and assumptions for the conformity determination of the FY 2011-2014 TIP. There was discussion about EPA's proposal to lower the ozone standard to a level within the range of 0.060 to 0.070 parts per million. In 2008, the standard was set at 0.075 ppm. Also, BMC staff presented on the BMC and MDOT initiative, *TeleworkBaltimore.com*. Additionally, Dr. Russell Dickerson, a professor at the University of Maryland Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science, presented a study, funded by MDE, on the impact of upstream urbanization on urban heat island effects, which impacts air pollution levels. BRTB members expressed interest in learning more about the study.

APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO BRTB CMAQ COMPETITIVE SELECTION PROCESS: Mr. Johnson introduced a resolution to revise the process for the BRTB to select applications for federal CMAQ funding. The BRTB's CMAQ project selection process is being updated based upon comments from CMAQ review participants, award recipients and staff, as well as feedback from the BRTB members and the Technical Committee. Copies of the draft resolution and updated BRTB CMAQ guidelines were made available to BRTB members. Updates to the process include clarification of eligibility requirements, streamlining of the application and review processes, and a recommendation that applications under \$50,000 explore combining applications with others. There was also a requirement added that projects not making reasonable progress within 6 months of federal approval have their funding be referred back to the BRTB to determine disposition.

Mr. Pickar said that the updated guidelines attached to the resolution reflect the comments made by the Technical Committee. As a side note, he has made the suggestion to explore how SHA and MTA can more quickly secure federal funding approval. Based on a question from Mr. Kendrick, there was clarification that the wording on Page 6-7 of the BRTB guidance document reflects a locally-based policy for match requirements, rather than federal policy. Mr. Kendrick proposed that the wording be changed to reflect federal match requirements only. However, Mr. Carl Balser motioned to approve the resolution and attachments as written, with Mr. Harvey Gold seconding the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE 2010-2013 BALTIMORE REGION TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO INCLUDE FUNDING FROM THE JOBS BILL OF 2010 – STIMULUS II: Mr. Nixon stated that the Maryland Department of Transportation thought that Congress would be further along with this by now; however, since there is no new information, Mr. Nixon asked that the resolution be deferred until next month. He said that any bill likely will require projects to be under contract within 90 days of signing.

Mr. Johnson said that approval would have to be conditional and this can be approved via telephone vote. Mr. Nixon also noted that the projects will primarily be maintenance projects. Mr. Kendrick remarked that it would be helpful to have a list of projects before the vote. Mr. Balser noted that last month, MDOT had requested that jurisdictions send their lists directly to MDOT. Mr. Johnson said that this item is withdrawn from today's agenda.

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK

PROGRAM: Mr. McClune stated that the Subcommittee is continuing their work and has met five times so far. The Subcommittee is composed of 3 members of the BRTB and 3 members of the Technical Committee. They will be meeting one more time to finalize the draft report before the public review begins. He said that the public review is scheduled to begin Friday, February 26th, and will continue until March 26th. Mr. McClune noted that the TC and the BRTB will consider a resolution to adopt the UPWP at the April BRTB meeting. He said that there are not many significant changes expected, noting that the Vision and the Long-Range Transportation Plan are the major efforts. Mr. McClune mentioned that it looks as if we will be able to stay on schedule with the business plan recommended by FHWA.

PRESENTATION ON TRANSPORTATION RELATED LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES OF THE 2010 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Mr. Bruce Gartner, Director, Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs, MDOT, addressed two issues: the 2010 legislative bills being discussed at the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis, and the Jobs bill or Stimulus legislation. He said that this is one of the slowest starts in Annapolis on transportation issues that the State has had in many years, with the dominant theme being the fiscal situation. Some of the bills that are being discussed this year in terms of transportation finances include an excise tax credit for electric vehicles (which would not have an impact on the trust fund), SB 229 and HB 710, safety legislation, drunk driving, texting, etc. Mr. Gartner noted that this year the Department has a light package of bills since they usually have 15-20 bills. Several bills are technical in nature such as HB 93 and SB 85. In a review of federal requirements, a few bills include SB 66 and HB 1151, dealing with commercial vehicles. These bills can be reviewed online at the General Assembly web site. Other bills of interest regarding transportation include HB 216, unauthorized signs on highway rights-of-way. Mr. Johnson asked for clarification of SB 760 and HB 1155 under the Consolidated Transportation Program since there are local concerns. Mr. Gartner said that there has been much discussion regarding the Department's prioritization process and the way projects get added to the CTP.

On the federal side, Mr. Gartner said that the jobs bill before the Senate is basically a short term extension of the authorization act which takes it to December 31st. According to Mr. Gartner, the Department is hearing that any future infrastructure funds under stimulus won't be as high as the originally proposed House amount. The Department was hearing estimates of about two-thirds to one-half of the amount for transportation infrastructure projects in any Senate jobs bill. The projects that the Department thinks they can deliver in a tight time period of 90 days are system preservation – resurfacing, not major bridge work. They think the first round will be 70% resurfacing type projects, with the remaining including signalization, safety issues,

environmental storm water, pedestrian type projects. Mr. Gartner said that MDOT will continue to monitor the legislation on a daily basis.

[Handout: 2010 MDOT Legislative Package; P.L. III-5, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) – H.R. 4847, The Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010]

UPDATE ON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION VISION: Mr. Johnson updated the BRTB on the regional transportation vision. He said the main focus is the kickoff workshop for which an announcement was sent out scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, at the University of Maryland BioPark from 9:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M. He said that stakeholders have been invited. He noted that Requests for Proposals (RFPs) have been sent out for public outreach assistance, a consultant has been selected, and a contract is being developed. Mr. Johnson also said that a preliminary workshop was held on February regarding the development of a long-term economic forecast and we are looking for that work to be completed by the end of April. In addition, an RFP for technical support for the index ESRI extension GIS support was sent out and that deadline for response is February 23rd.

A GUEST SPEAKER WILL GIVE THEIR PERSPECTIVE FOR THE REGION'S VISION: Mr. Johnson announced that this topic has been postponed until next month.

UPDATE ON FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES: Mr. Jamie Bridges detailed for the Board the new Partnership for Sustainable Communities. The Partnership, a collaboration between HUD, DOT, and EPA, was formed in March 2009 in order to coordinate federal policies, plans and programs to deliver livable communities. This year, the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities was established in HUD and as lead to the Partnership. On February 19th, the Partnership held a listening session in order to further refine the specifications of both the Partnership work plan and one fund source for implementation – the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. Included in the handouts was an Advanced Notice of Funding Availability, or NOFA, for the Planning Grant Program. The program will offer \$100 million total, and up to \$5 million for large metropolitan areas in order to develop Regional Plans for Sustainable Development. The plan would be required to address housing, transportation, economic development, land use, energy, green space and water infrastructure priorities. With such a plan in place, areas would be eligible for additional funding to implement actions. Mr. Bridges provided members with handouts with the questions the Office would like to have answered on the Notice of Funding Availability. The Office of Sustainable Housing will accept comments until March 12.

Member discussion focused on the criteria for determining eligible activities. Members agreed to review the draft program and grant specifications and respond with comments at which point the Board could decide to consolidate and submit to HUD. Mr. Bridges agreed to provide a follow-up presentation at the March meeting.

[Handouts: Agenda – Partnership for Sustainable Communities – February 17, 2010; Department of Housing and Urban Development – Docket No. FR 5396-N-01]

OTHER BUSINESS:

[Handouts: Letter to MDOT dated January 27, 2010 re: TIP; Letter to The Honorable Ray LaHood dated February 4, 2010 re: Section 5309 Bus & Bus Facilities; Letter to EPA, FHWA, and FTA dated February 18, 2010 re: conformity]

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Balsler made a motion to adjourn with Mr. Gold seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:52 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board