



The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**MINUTES OF THE 213th MEETING OF
THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

DRAFT

**April 27, 2010
4:00 P.M.**

EMPOWERED MEMBERS

The Honorable Joshua Cohen
Mayor, City of Annapolis

The Honorable David R. Craig (Vice-Chair)
Harford County Executive

Diane Franks (for The Honorable Shari T. Wilson)
Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment

Harvey Gold (for The Honorable John R. Leopold)
Anne Arundel County Executive

The Honorable Richard E. Hall
Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning

The Honorable Dean L. Minnich (Chair)
Carroll County Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor, City of Baltimore

The Honorable James T. Smith, Jr.
Baltimore County Executive

The Honorable Beverley Swaim-Staley
Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation

The Honorable Ken Ulman
Howard County Executive

OTHERS PRESENT

Debra Adams, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)
Jon Arason, City of Annapolis Planning Department
Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Carl Balsler, Howard County Planning
Victor Bonaparte, BMC
Dunbar Brooks, BMC
Tyson Byrne, BMC
Ned Cheston, Howard County
Edward K. Cohen, Citizen
John Cutonilli, Citizen
Christopher Fields, Transit Riders Action Council
Charles Grant, MTA
Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC
Don Halligan, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Bob Hellauer, Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC)
Emery Hines, Baltimore County Department of Public Works
Frank Johnson, Carroll County
Dami Kehinde, State Highway Administration (SHA)
Jamie Kendrick, Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Dustin Kuzan, MDOT
Todd Lang, BMC
Anthony McClune, Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning
Theo Ngongang, MDOT
Mike Nixon, MDOT
Ryan O'Doherty, Baltimore City
Brian O'Malley, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Kevin Racine, Citizen
Diane Ratcliff, MTA
Michele Rosenberg, Citizen
Krista Sherwood, FHWA
LaTrina Trotman, MTA
Heather Weir, Citizen
Ralign Wells, MTA
David Whitaker, Maryland Department of Planning

WELCOME: The meeting was called to order at 4:01 P.M. by the Chairman, the Honorable Dean L. Minnich.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY:

Mr. Christopher Fields, Transit Riders Action Council, spoke of the need for alternative transportation as soon as possible because three-quarters of all oil consumption in the U.S. is for transportation. He also provided the BRTB with copies of two reports. He

commented that MARC transports 16-20% of the people southbound between Baltimore and Washington and that the Metro carries 12% of the people travelling in the I-795 corridor. Mr. Fields indicated that MARC was desperately overcrowded causing safety concerns and needed to be addressed. The light rail carries a much lower percent of the people travelling in the I-83 corridor. He emphasized the need to increase MARC's capacity and further enhance subway/light rail use. Mr. Fields also pointed out the lack of an interconnected transportation system around the region or a system that is hierarchal in nature.

Mr. Brian O'Malley, Director of Transportation Policy and Research for Central Maryland Transportation Alliance, thanked the BRTB for their efforts regarding transportation planning. He also asked the BRTB to be a part of CMTA's effort to encourage interest in HUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative. Through the Sustainable Communities Initiative, HUD is offering up to \$5 million for regions our size to improve regional planning efforts that integrate housing and transportation decisions, and increase the capacity to improve land use and zoning. Mr. O'Malley encouraged the BRTB to work together for a successful application.

Ms. Michele Rosenberg stated that she is concerned about the *Imagine 2060* process. Specifically, she wondered why there is a need for branding for *Imagine 2060*; that the process serves as window dressing for lack of a regional plan; and the online survey will not result in any useful information. Ms. Rosenberg has been frustrated that her substantial involvement over many years has not been meaningful since many recommendations are ignored by leadership, yet she is hoping for a real look at a regional transit system in this process.

Mr. John Cutonilli expressed his dissatisfaction with the lack of response he received from the MTA on his ideas for the proposed Red Line. Mr. Cutonilli indicated that he wants to improve transit by having conversations with local and state officials, and suggested many individuals had ideas that were worth the time to discuss. He was very frustrated that he was not receiving the time and response to his ideas. He asked, "How can we improve transit if we can't get feedback or have conversations on ideas."

Mr. Ed Cohen expressed his personal opinion that the public does not trust the transportation planning process. He believes this because empowered representatives are told how to vote in advance of a meeting, thereby nullifying any comments participants make at a meeting. Then Mr. Cohen turned to the proposed Red Line project and indicated the public was in an anti-incumbent mood; therefore, officials should seriously reconsider heavy rail as an option.

Mr. Kevin Racine shared his observations that transit connectivity is needed between Maryland and Delaware. Further, as transit service is reduced many people that are dependent on the service are, and will continue to lose their jobs. Mr. Racine again mentioned the issue of trains and buses returning to their point of origin without allowing passenger service.

Miss Heather Weir was complimentary of the speaker from Easter Seals at last month's meeting. Miss Weir also wanted to know if the BRTB had considered her request for a fund to be included in the TIP to guard against possible rate hikes that would adversely impact seniors and the disabled.

At the conclusion of the speakers, County Executive Jim Smith took a moment to discuss the evolution of the current *Imagine 2060* activities as being rooted in public comment from previous planning experiences. He encouraged citizens to participate because they were the genesis of the idea. Commissioner Minnich followed by stating he was prepared to respond to an earlier speaker who returned to his seat rather abruptly. Commissioner Minnich indicated that we all need to listen to one another and not always expect that the answer they want is the only answer and allow each other to be heard. Commissioner Minnich also reiterated his experience in Carroll County at planning meetings in 2000 where he heard doubters and yet planning in the region continues and transit is being extended into more communities over time.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SECTION 5310 GRANT PROGRAM:

Ms. Regina Aris introduced Resolution #10-19 to the BRTB. Eighteen applicants are seeking Metropolitan Planning Certificates on regional coordination for capital funds under the SAFETEA-LU section 5310 grant funding. Seventeen of the eighteen met the criteria to meet the regional coordination requirement. All applicants are still eligible to compete for funding through The Maryland Transit Administration's statewide competition. Staff's recommendations were approved as presented in the resolution. Chairman Minnich asked for a motion to approve Resolution #10-19. County Executive Smith motioned for approval and the County Executive Ken Ulman seconded the motion. Resolution #10-19 was unanimously approved.

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

Mr. Todd Lang introduced Resolution #10-20 to the BRTB. Seven applicants were applying for funding under the Job Access & Reverse Commute and New Freedom Programs of SAFETEA-LU. The recommendations will be sent on to Maryland Transit Administration for final approval. The review committee's recommendations were approved as presented in the resolution. Chairman Minnich asked for a motion to approve Resolution #10-20. County Executive Smith motioned for approval and County Executive Ulman seconded the motion. Resolution #10-20 was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM:

Ms. Regina Aris introduced Resolution #10-21 endorsing the Fiscal Year 2011 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget and approving its submission to both the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration. Additionally, the resolution authorizes the Baltimore Metropolitan Council to enter into contractual

arrangements with the Maryland Department of Transportation and local jurisdictions to effectuate work program activities.

Federal and local fund sources for the budget total \$9.2 million. Of this total, \$4.2 million are carried over from prior fiscal years. Uses for Fiscal Year 2011 include \$4.9 million for BMC directed activities and \$2.9 million to local jurisdictions to support regionally significant initiatives. The remaining \$1.4 million is available for FY 2012 activities. The Technical Committee reviewed and recommended for approval the FY 2011 UPWP in detail at their April 6th meeting. Ms. Aris informed Board members that, in compliance with the Final Rule for Metropolitan Transportation Planning, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board provided a 30-day public participation opportunity during the preparation of the Unified Planning Work Program. No comments were received during that time.

Chairman Minnich asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #10-21. County Executive Smith made a motion and it was seconded by County Executive Ulman. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF A POLICY ESTABLISHING A PROCESS FOR THE DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM: Mr. Lang introduced this resolution and provided information pertinent to the development of the policy and how it would be implemented. The policy had been available for 45 days for the public to review; no comments were submitted for consideration. Chairman Minnich asked for a motion to approve Resolution #10-22. County Executive Smith made a motion to approve the resolution with the County Executive Ulman seconding the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved.

REPORT FROM MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Ralign Wells, MTA Administrator, thanked the members for inviting him to meet with them and share MTA's mission. Mr. Wells identified opportunities where MTA and the BRTB are working together, such as: travel forecasting for the Red Line, review and recommendations for JARC/NF and 5310 grants, and development of the plan and TIP. This working relationship is important and was highlighted in a recent review of MTA by FTA where a stronger relationship was encouraged. Mr. Wells spoke of the need to balance the needs of current riders as well as future riders. There is also the need for system preservation today and the need to plan and invest for the future. Mr. Wells also appreciates the support for the Red Line which comes from the rail plan and has reached a major milestone with selection of a locally preferred alternative. Next MTA will enter the preliminary engineering phase with the additional feature added to the proposal of a double-track tunnel under Cooks Lane. Then Mr. Wells turned to his priorities as Administrator; these include: quality service initiatives, a police cadet program, expansion of an agency wide stat management program, additional support for local transit, strengthening community partnerships, and targeted marketing of their

services. In conclusion Mr. Wells committed MTA's participation as part of the BRTB in the *Imagine 2060* process.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chairman Minnich announced the appointment of Carl Balser as Chair of the Nominating Committee to be joined by Mr. Emery Hines and Mr. Mike Nixon. A slate of officers for FY 2011 will be presented to the BRTB in May.

UPDATE ON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION VISION: Mr. Frank Johnson provided an update on activities underway to support *imagine 2060*. Over the last month a wide range of outreach methods have been employed to announce a series of 6 workshops that are focused on values that will inform the vision and long-range transportation plan. Promotion of the workshops has included: thousands of postcards and e-mails, hundreds of personalized letters, local and regional newspaper ads, online newspaper advertising, local government web sites, Facebook and twitter feeds as well as newsletters.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Minnich asked if there was additional business. No additional business was reported and it was announced that the next meeting is May 25, 2010. Copies of two letters were provided to members.

Chairman Minnich asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. County Executive Smith made a motion to adjourn with County Executive David Craig seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board