



The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MINUTES OF THE 214th MEETING OF THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DRAFT

**May 25, 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

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 (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

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)
Dunbar Brooks, BMC
Tyson Byrne, BMC
Tawanda Carter, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)
Terry Freeland, BMC
Joan Gorsuch, BMC
Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC
Dami Kehinde, State Highway Administration (SHA)
Todd Lang, BMC
Joseph Madison, MTA
George Mayo, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation
Jody McCullough, BMC
Theo Ngongang, MDOT
Kevin Racine, Citizen
Diane Ratcliff, MTA
Bernice Seiden, League of Women Voters
Sara Tomlinson, BMC

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Frank Johnson. Mr. Johnson commented that the sparse audience could be due to a carry-over of a week-long Bike-To-Work celebration which was held last Friday, May 21st. He thanked those who participated in the event.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2010 BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Johnson. A motion was made by Mr. Jamie Kendrick to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Carl Balser. Additionally, a request for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2010 BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Johnson. A motion was made by Mr. Kendrick to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Balser.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY:

Mr. Kevin Racine, citizen, said that he was invited by WILMAPCO to look at their transit and work along with their planning team in Newark. He said that they are trying to do things with their transit and they wondered how he was able to get up from Harford County to attend meetings. Mr. Racine feels that with the BRAC initiative, they could hook up all of these transit modes. He also mentioned that he is working with

Congressman Frank Kratovil's office. Mr. David Whitaker asked Mr. Racine if he was asking the BRTB to look at the linkage of these and suggested that the Technical Committee take a look at it. Mr. Todd Lang suggested that the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) can look into it and report back to the Committee; Ms. Diane Ratcliff agreed to coordinate.

REPORT FROM CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda reported on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and said that at the May 5th meeting, comments on the *Imagine 2060* workshops were provided by those who attended. They also shared information about possible next steps and were asked how they would like to be engaged in the future. At the June CAC meeting, *Imagine 2060* will be discussed as well as the format and concept of the upcoming Open Houses. Also, the CAC will be discussing whether or not they would like to host a series of “community conversations” or open houses in a similar format with specific demographic audiences. The Policy Subcommittee has been working on a draft CAC Policy Guide; the Membership Subcommittee is gearing up to do some outreach for new members for next year; and the Public Involvement Subcommittee has been involved with *Imagine 2060*. Mr. Harvey Gold noted that the public comment referring to the Anne Arundel County office complex on Riva Road is inaccurate as there is one bike rack although it is not readily visible and Mr. David Whitaker noted that visibility is a security issue with bikes. Mr. Don Halligan asked if there would be interest in thinking about a region-wide bike rack program for next year that might be CMAQ eligible. Mr. Lang noted that there have been similar discussions at the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Group and they are de-briefing on Bike-To-Work day. He also noted that we do have several Master Bike Planning efforts within the UPWP and a study will occur around 65 transit stations.

REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Johnson referred to a handout – Public Involvement Report – May 2010 – and thanked BMC staff for taking the time to put the information together. Ms. Haines Benkhedda said that there are two current Public Comment Periods now open (2011-2014 TIP and Air Quality Conformity Determination and FY 2011 Goal for Disadvantaged Enterprise Program). Ms. Haines Benkhedda indicated that we received our first comment on May 24th on the TIP. She also stated that 6 workshops were held on *Imagine 2060* during April and May, and 9 public open houses at public libraries are being planned starting June 9th through June 24th. Ms. Haines Benkhedda also noted that BMC does have a public comment form on our web site and because May is National Bike Month, we did have several comments relating to Bike and/or Pedestrian improvements and safety concerns. She indicated that there was a tremendous turnout at the event last Friday downtown and at all of the local jurisdictions. Ms. Regina Aris said that our Bike/Ped Coordinator has already contacted the appropriate personnel in the jurisdictions and she will coordinate with the jurisdictions on a response to the comments.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report – May 2010]

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Mr. Dunbar Brooks said that the Technical Committee (TC) met on May 4th and he reported on the April 27th BRTB meeting. He mentioned that the TC reviewed Resolution #10-23, Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2008 CMAQ Award, and a Nominating Committee was appointed with the City of Annapolis as Chair and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Harford County as Vice Chairs. There was a presentation by MDOT on the implementation of the Statewide Freight Plan and its importance for competitiveness. MDOT is taking a 4-point approach toward implementation and the Plan includes over 250 freight-related projects at a total cost of approximately \$35 billion in public and private funds. MDOT asked for volunteers to serve on a Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Ms. Aris asked if there would be anyone on the Committee representing the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO). There was an update on *Imagine 2060* and a progress report on UPWP projects. An update on the 2007 Household Travel Survey was also presented along with the status of the 2010 Census.

REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP: Ms. Sara Tomlinson reported on the ICG meeting of May 19, 2010 and said that the Committee approved the results of the Conformity Determination of the Fiscal Year 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and *Transportation Outlook 2035*. The ICG was comfortable with the results and authorized releasing it for public review. Ms. Tomlinson said that the results of the conformity determination show that the projects are under the budgets necessary for ozone, carbon monoxide and particulate matter. She also noted that the region is under the attainment budget for ozone even though it is not required. There was an update on the *Imagine 2060* values workshops and the values survey process and discussed how this would tie into the next long range transportation plan update next year. A new BMC staff member was introduced, Birat Pandey, along with a description of his duties involving the MOVES model. Then, an update on Clean Commute Month and the Clean Air Partners was provided.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO FY 2008 CMAQ AWARD: Mr. Johnson introduced Resolution #10-23 to the BRTB and said that this resolution substitutes one project for another (diesel particulate filters going from one set of trucks to another set of trucks). Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to approve Resolution #10-23. Mr. Kendrick made a motion to approve the resolution with Mr. Halligan seconding the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Mr. Balsler reported that the Nominating Committee met via telephone and nominated the existing slate of Chair and Vice-Chair, namely, Carroll County as Chair and Harford County as Vice Chair.

UPCOMING USE OF MOVES AND NEXT STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: Ms. Diane Franks presented information on the region's status related to federal air quality

requirements and future requirements for air quality planning. Working together early is important. The region is currently designated “nonattainment” for the 1997 ozone standard (as well as the annual PM2.5 standard); a SIP for the 1997 ozone standard was submitted to EPA in 2007. The draft conformity determination for the FY 2011-2014 TIP and Transportation Outlook 2035 shows that the region meets both the Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) and attainment motor vehicle emissions budgets for the ozone standard (as well as the budgets for PM2.5 and CO). In 2009, EPA proposed disapproval of the submitted ozone SIP, but did not act on it. A one-year extension for the region’s attainment deadline was given. The Baltimore region is currently on the second maintenance SIP for carbon monoxide.

On March 2, 2010, EPA published a Federal Register notice establishing a new motor vehicle emissions model, MOVES, as the official model replacing MOBILE6. There is a two year grace period for using this model in conformity determinations. Ms. Franks discussed potential effects that the new model may have on modeled emissions. Some pollutants will likely show higher emissions with the new model. In August 2010, EPA is expected to issue a new, stricter 8-hour ozone standard. The standard they have proposed is in the range of 0.060 to 0.070 parts per million. EPA is expected then to issue attainment/nonattainment designations in August 2011, with states being required to submit SIPs by December 31, 2013.

A discussion followed, regarding the fact that federal air quality standards continue to become stricter, with this being an issue that transportation planners are asked to address. There was a concern by one of the members regarding how EPA creates difficulty for transportation planners with the timing of releasing emission models being different from the timing of air quality planning requirements. Another member of the BRTB suggested that the Board should make additional efforts to look for ways to reduce transportation emissions to help meet air quality requirements. Ms. Franks said that MDE would take any recommendations from the BRTB but advised against doing a new SIP. Mr. Gold suggested that a presentation be made at the Technical Committee on the possible impacts of the MOVES model. Mr. Jon Arason requested a presentation from MDE on how state water quality regulations affect air quality.

[Handout: MOVES, the SIP and Conformity in the Baltimore Region – Diane Franks, MDE – May 25, 2010]

RESULTS OF THE HOUSEHOLD TRAVEL SURVEY: Mr. Robert Berger provided an update on the 2007/2008 Household Travel Survey. Mr. Berger opened by explaining some of the background of the project. Data collection occurred over a period of one year, with 4,650 Baltimore region households agreeing to participate. All households completed a travel diary. The sample was representative in a number of important ways. A database consisting of household, person, trip, and vehicle tables is available for research queries.

Mr. Berger also presented selected results from the survey. The presentation dealt primarily with trip purpose and mode choice, including number of trips, trip length, and

daily household miles traveled. Mr. Berger concluded by announcing that the focus of future work would be to understand the data in the context of demographic changes and social trends. Specifically, a series of Issue Briefs on relevant policy topics are being produced. Topics include the following: Commuting in Baltimore, Trip Tours, Demographics and Travel, and Travel and Energy Consumption.

[Handout: Results of Household Travel Survey]

UPDATE ON IMAGINE 2060: Mr. Johnson reported on Imagine 2060 and Beyond and said that public meetings were held in every jurisdiction and there were 143 people who attended. He noted that we have had over 360 survey responses for the online values survey. Mr. Johnson said that there are 9 Open Houses to be held at libraries throughout the region from June 9th through June 28th. He said that the next step is scenario development. The CAC will be giving input on the Open House format at their June meeting. He thanked BMC staff along with the staffs of the local jurisdictions. He also pointed out materials on the back wall which were put together at the workshops and invited the BRTB to review it.

A GUEST SPEAKER WILL GIVE THEIR PERSPECTIVE FOR THE REGION'S

VISION: Mr. George Mayo, Executive Director of the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF), gave his perspective on the region's vision for the long term. He said that MAEF is a non-profit, non-governmental organization which was incorporated in 1989. He said that they are the recipients of the revenues generated by the agricultural tag in Maryland and they are involved in every aspect of agriculture at many levels. The mission of MAEF is to promote the understanding and appreciation of the importance of agriculture in everyone's daily lives. Mr. Mayo said that most people think that agriculture is farming but that is not necessarily true. He noted that informed consumers make better choices, informed voters make better decisions, and informed students make better choices. MAEF works in every jurisdiction of the state and is extremely diverse, highly technical, innovative, and flexible. The factors that are important to other industries are also important to agriculture such as natural resources, human resources, access to customers, infrastructure and the economy. Mr. Mayo stated that agriculture in this region is more than just farming – it includes production, processing, marketing, distribution, retail & wholesale sales, finance, regulation, and safety and security. It also includes education, planning, technology, public health, the environment and natural resource management. Mr. Mayo showed a map depicting the top commodities of agriculture in each of the counties within the Baltimore region and the most common top agriculture commodities include: corn, dairy, and greenhouses. He noted that many of these farms that were dairy farms are now horse farms. He said that he himself is an ornamental horticulturist and it is one of the fastest growing segments of agriculture. Mr. Mayo mentioned that for agriculture to persist, there must be responsible laws and zoning. He said that the equine industry is very strong and most of these farms that were larger and devoted to dairy are now horse farms owned by people who never ran a farm before. According to Mr. Mayo, agriculture utilizes most forms of infrastructure – roads, trucks, boats, trains, planes,

bicycles and because we are in the mid-Atlantic, we are in a strong market area. The nursery industry did \$1.96 billion in Maryland in 2007 and \$740,507,428 in Central Maryland. There is one nursery on the Eastern Shore of Maryland that ships 30 trailer loads of plants out of their nursery every day in the spring. He said that these days, one could make a living on 5 acres because there is a market for locally grown produce. Mr. Mayo distributed a pamphlet depicting career examples with 5 pathways: agricultural production of animal systems, agricultural production of plant systems, food and fiber processing, environmental services, and natural resources management. He said that agriculture is ever evolving and will not disappear from the Baltimore metropolitan area. In closing, Mr. Mayo urged the Board to buy AG tags for their vehicles.

[Handout: Pamphlet - Career Discovery published by the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation]

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Balser made a motion to adjourn with Mr. Gold seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:04 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board