



**BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**REVISED MINUTES OF THE 216<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF  
THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**DRAFT**

**July 27, 2010  
9:00 A.M.**

**EMPOWERED MEMBERS**

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

Ben Pickar, Acting Chief  
Division of Transportation Planning  
Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning

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

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

Jamie Kendrick, Deputy Director  
Baltimore City Department of Transportation

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

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

Cindy Parr, Chief, Administrative Services  
Carroll County Government

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

Matt Power (for 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)  
Charles Baber, BMC  
Robert Berger, BMC  
Jamie Bridges, BMC  
Dunbar Brooks, BMC  
Lorenzo Bryant, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)  
Tyson Byrne, BMC  
Rev. David Casey, BRIDGE, Inc.  
Peter Conrad, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)  
Terry Freeland, BMC  
Joan Gorsuch, BMC  
Charles Grant, MTA  
Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC  
Robert Hellauer, Greater Baltimore Committee  
Richard Jaramillo, Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA)  
Nancy Jones, BMC  
Dami Kehinde, State Highway Administration (SHA)  
Mike Kelly, BMC  
Larry Klimovitz, BMC  
Valorie LaCour, Baltimore City Department of Transportation  
Todd Lang, BMC  
Marsha McLaughlin, Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning  
Barker Much, Citizen  
Theo Ngongang, MDOT  
Brian O'Malley, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance (CMTA)  
Kevin Racine, Citizen  
Krista Sherwood, FHWA  
Sara Tomlinson, BMC  
Heather Weir, Citizen  
Stephanie Yanovitz, BMC  
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2010 BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Hines. A motion was made by Mr. Tony McClune to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Don Halligan.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY:** Mr. Brian O'Malley, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance (CMTA), spoke regarding the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. He stated that this is a \$5 million dollar opportunity to do a regional plan that integrates transportation, housing, economic development, environmental stewardship and other elements. Mr. O'Malley noted that, more importantly, the points that the region earns in the application for this grant are used to get preferred status for future federal funding opportunities. He noted that he was before the BRTB in April and, since that time, a number of local non-profits have been meeting regularly trying to position this region to put in a strong application. He feels that this region is very competitive based on work that has been done in a number of arenas. Mr. O'Malley also noted that the state has identified 14 transit oriented development (TOD) sites and has been working on a number of fronts including housing, environment, economic development, etc. Applications are due August 23rd and it is a very tight timeframe. The CMTA learned last week that the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) will be the lead applicant and a number of conditions came with BMC being involved. Mr. O'Malley said that the key is not just getting the application in but scoring well to compete for future grants. He encouraged the BRTB to use their many strengths in this application and build their working committees in a way that demonstrates that transportation will be integrated into the application. Mr. Jamie Kendrick asked for an explanation of lead applicant status. Mr. Todd Lang explained that the required consortium to make an application under the grant includes four specific members: the traditional principal city within a region which is Baltimore City; the most populous county within the region - Baltimore County; the third required partner would be the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) - BRTB; and the fourth required partner is a non-profit, educational institution or foundation.

Reverend David Casey, Director, Baltimore Regional Initiative Developing Genuine Equality (BRIDGE) works with over 60 congregations throughout the region on the issues that affect the lives of their congregation's membership. He said that recently they hosted a Maryland premier of the "New Metropolis" movie which is a film about what's going on in the first-ring suburbs since they now have more poor people and people of color than our central city does. Reverend Casey noted that they have had Earth Day celebrations and have been working on regional housing problems since their inception in 2002. He noted that early on, they worked with other non-profits, local government folks, the State of Maryland, and said that it has been a very tough and rewarding process. Reverend Casey said that he is before the BRTB to encourage them to look at creative ways to engage other parts of the state government to help steer this in some way. He said that he is looking forward to working with the BRTB so that they can come up with something that allows those who are key stakeholders to be part of what happens and not be on the sidelines. A short discussion followed and in response to a question of who he and his partners have engaged at the local government level, the Reverend Casey responded that there have been representatives from Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, and Howard counties, as well as Baltimore City, the state government, non-profit groups, along with staff representation from BMC. Mr. Halligan noted that a lot of credit is due to Mr. O'Malley in pulling together these

conversations so far which have been about a year so we are anticipating that some money would come to Maryland.

Mr. Kevin Racine shared two experiences that related to difficulties for bicyclists and transit riders crossing the Susquehanna River at the Thomas J. Hatem Bridge. Cyclists are prohibited from riding across the bridge; therefore, a rider from New Jersey was inquiring how to cross and there was no answer from MdTA officers. Next, Mr. Racine related an experience where he demonstrated to a new resident of Havre de Grace how he could use transit to get to Philadelphia; the only problem was that no transit service crosses the Hatem bridge so they had to pay cab fare. Finally, the City of Havre de Grace held a public forum on future development where Mr. Racine felt the regional *imagine 2060* process tied in to the efforts in the City.

**REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda referred to a handout – Public Involvement Report – July 2010, and noted the public comment period closed for the FY 2011-2014 TIP and Air Quality Conformity Determination in June and there were comments from two individuals. Copies of the letters to the individuals along with the matrix were provided to the BRTB. She noted that there were no public meetings and no general comments submitted so far this month. Ms. Haines Benkhedda said that there was no CAC meeting in July but the August meeting will be seeking new members for terms starting in January 2011. There are about 10 openings and applications are available today to get started.

***[Handout: Public Involvement Report – July 2010; Letter to Michele Rosenberg & Drew Brown with responses to Public Comments]***

**REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:** Mr. Alex Rawls said that the Technical Committee (TC) met on July 6, 2010 and announced the election of officers for Fiscal Year 2011. He noted that Harford County was elected Chair and the Maryland Department of Transportation was elected Vice-Chair. Mr. Ben Pickar was thanked for his service on the Technical Committee and will be leaving the TC to serve on the BRTB, with Mr. Brian Muldoon serving in his place. Resolutions #11-1, #11-2, #11-3, #11-4, #11-5, and #11-6 were recommended to the BRTB for approval and will be presented today. A status of the *imagine 2060* Open Houses was given along with comments on the Long-Range Transportation Plan Goals and Objectives. Also, under “Other Business,” Mr. Lang presented information on the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program which will be discussed today.

**REPORT FROM INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP:** Ms. Sara Tomlinson provided a report from the July 7, 2010 meeting of the ICG. The ICG provided consensus on the conformity determination of the FY 2011-2014 TIP and Plan and recommended BRTB approval of the Resolution #11-3. BMC staff gave an update of *Plan-it 2035* and *Imagine 2060*. There was a lot of discussion regarding the draft goals. ICG members have submitted their comments to staff in order to compile them for the

BRTB. Additionally, Mr. Chris Rice, Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), presented information on the efforts that the MEA has put into electric transportation in the past year. One bill that was put into state law this year to help with consumer acceptance of electric vehicles was a \$2000 excise tax credit for the purchase of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, beginning in October. He also mentioned the MEA Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program in which MEA is offering up to \$1 million to fund truck stop electrification and electric recharging infrastructure projects. He also reported that the GM plant in White Marsh will produce rear drive electric motors with production up and running in 2013. Also, at the ICG meeting, Mr. Brian Hug, MDE, discussed the potential impacts of the recent hot days with poor air quality. This could make it difficult for the Baltimore region to get a second 1-year extension to attain the 1997 8-hour ozone standard. Ms. Diane Franks then added that the result of the days with poor air quality could be a bump-up from “moderate” nonattainment to “serious” nonattainment classification for the region.

**APPROVAL OF ROUND 7-C SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA:** Mr. Lang introduced Resolution #11-1 which endorses the Round 7-C Cooperative Forecasting process through 2035 for use in local and regional transportation and air quality planning purposes. Mr. Hines asked for a motion to approve Resolution #11-1. Mr. Jon Arason made a motion to approve the resolution with Mr. McClune seconding the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF SELF CERTIFICATION OF THE BALTIMORE REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS:** Mr. Lang introduced this resolution and explained that this approves the self-certification process of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board and meets the requirements of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Final Rule. This certifies that the planning process is addressing the major issues facing the metropolitan area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements. Mr. Arason noted that on attachment 1, first page, last paragraph, there was no mention of the City of Annapolis and Mr. Kendrick noted that last year he voted against this and said that steps forward have been made. Mr. Hines asked for a motion to approve Resolution #11-2. Mr. Kendrick made a motion to approve the recommendations and Mr. Arason seconded the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE FY 2011 TIP AND CONFORMITY DETERMINATION:** Mr. Lang introduced this resolution and said that this resolution approves the 2011-2014 Baltimore Region Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the accompanying Conformity Determination. He said that two individuals submitted comments during the open comment period. Mr. Hines asked for a motion to approve Resolution #11-3. Mr. Kendrick made a motion to approve and Mr. Don Halligan seconded the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF STREET SMART INITIATIVES:** Mr. Lang introduced this resolution and said that the Board is being asked to pass a resolution supporting the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Campaign known as Street Smart and said that safety is one of the primary planning factors identified in SAFETEA-LU. He asked that the Board review the handout and noted that there is safety promotional material in the back of the room. Mr. Hines asked for a motion to approve Resolution #11-4. Mr. Kendrick made a motion to approve the nominations and Ms. Cindy Parr seconded the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO FY 2011 UPWP:** Mr. Lang introduced this resolution and said that the resolution amends the FY 2011 UPWP at the request of Howard County. He noted that this reduces the amount designated for Howard County at their request by \$1,292 associated with their Columbia Town Center O/D Study. Mr. Hines asked for a motion to approve Resolution #11-5. Mr. McClune made a motion to approve and Mr. Ben Pickar seconded the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE LPA FOR THE BALTIMORE RED LINE TRANSIT PROJECT:** Mr. Lang introduced this resolution and said that the Red Line project was refined to include a double track tunnel under Cooks Lane. This resolution amends Resolution #10-8 for the current project configuration and cost that is estimated at \$1.778 billion and would recognize that the Board intends to include the Red Line in the next update to the Long Range Plan in 2011. Mr. Gold commented that we do intend to include it but since we don't have any information on future budgets, nothing is guaranteed for the Red Line. Mr. Hines asked for a motion to approve Resolution #11-6. Mr. Kendrick made a motion to approve the nominations and Mr. Arason seconded the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved.

**STATUS OF IMAGINE 2060 AND PLAN IT 2035:** Mr. Terry Freeland gave a brief overview of the status of the *imagine 2060 and Plan It 2035* efforts. *Plan It 2035* is the name adopted for the next update of the long-range transportation plan. First, he referred the BRTB members to the document identifying the goals from Transportation Outlook 2035, the current long-range transportation plan. These goals have been distributed to the Technical Committee and the other advisory committees for review and comment. To date, BMC staff members have received comments from most of these committees (e.g., BPAG, ICG, Freight, M&O Partnership) as well as most of the jurisdictions. Once all comments have been received and considered, BMC staff will prepare a summary of the comments for the next TC meeting. The document outlining the current goals also includes a list of the planning factors from SAFETEA-LU as well as a list of the six livability principles established through the joint efforts of US DOT, HUD, and USEPA. BMC staff members will consider these planning factors and livability principles as they develop the goals and strategies for *Plan It 2035*.

Next, Mr. Freeland directed the members' attention to the second document: a summary of public input from the recent *imagine 2060* efforts. These efforts have included a series of values workshops held in May and June, an online values survey available to the public through the BMC Web site from May to July, and a series of open house meetings held in July focusing on transportation / land use scenario planning. The document provides an up-front summary of some of the main points learned through these efforts; more information on the setup and schedules for the workshops and meetings; and more detailed discussions and analyses of the data gathered from the workshops, survey, and meetings. For example, BMC staff learned through the online survey that more people value easy access to where they live, work, and play as a top priority than any other value statement. As another example, nearly nine out of 10 people indicated in the scenario planning open house meetings that they would like to see development concentrated within the established Priority Funding Areas. Mr. Freeland noted the pages in the document where BRTB members can find additional data and mentioned that the summary document will be available on the BMC's web site.

Mr. Freeland also brought to the members' attention a memo discussing a proposed *imagine 2060* photo contest. The primary objective of the photo contest is to help maintain momentum in the *imagine 2060* initiative through the remaining summer months. The contest will be held from early August through September 2010 and will be open to any resident of the region. Entrants can submit photos in any or all of four categories: transportation, community, natural environment, and prosperity. Winning photos will be used in the *Plan It 2035* document as appropriate. Also, other means of publicizing the winning photos have been discussed, including a potential calendar. The cover memo contains a link to the results of a recent photo contest held by the Chicago area MPO as part of its vision initiative in the event that BRTB members want to take a look at that region's efforts.

Ms. Regina Aris added a couple of points: (1) BMC staff is seeking the approval of the BRTB to proceed with the *imagine 2060* photo contest and (2) the transportation / land use scenario planning exercise will be available shortly through the BMC web site for those people who did not attend one of the open house meetings.

***[Handouts: Baltimore Region Long Range Transportation Plan 2035 Development of Goals; Summary of Public Input from Values Workshops; memo dated July 27, 2010 to BRTB Members from Todd Lang, Subject: Imagine 2060 Photo Contest]***

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

##### **Update on HUD Sustainable Communities NOFA**

Ms. Marsha McLaughlin, Howard County Planning Director, presented an update on the HUD Sustainable Communities Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) that was released on June 24, 2010. The BMC Board has agreed to submit an application, due August 23, 2010. The grant requires the development of a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development that integrates transportation, housing, environment, economic development and water infrastructure. The NOFA requires the applicant to consist of a

consortium of member agencies. In the case of the application for the Baltimore region, this should include Baltimore City, Baltimore County, BRTB as the MPO, and BMC as the non-profit.

Mr. Matt Power, Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), spoke to provide background on MDP's efforts and outreach over the last 6 months to potentially lead a regional sustainable communities application. Since the final NOFA eliminated state eligibility as a lead applicant, and makes the BRTB a mandatory member of any potential application for the region, Mr. Power suggested that the BRTB build on the partnerships that had already been developed. Mr. Power noted that there were two core goals of the NOFA: (1) to include non-traditional partners, and (2) to truly integrate land use, housing, and transportation in innovative ways with non-traditional governance structures. Mr. Power encouraged the BRTB to build on the strength and diversity exemplified in the region over the last six months and to utilize it in both content and governance. Mr. Power stated that those elements will be critical to creating an application that HUD will fund and that MDP is looking forward to working with BMC and the BRTB on an application that builds on the work that has been done to date.

BRTB members expressed concerns about the governance structure and the role of the state and other potential partners. Mr. Arason also stated a concern about the role of Annapolis and its voting rights in any future governance structure that may result if the grant is awarded. Mr. McClune stated they had similar concerns. Mr. Kendrick acknowledged the role that CMTA and MDP have played so far in anticipation of the NOFA and suggested that the BRTB build on the partnerships that have already formed.

On August 12, 2010, a special meeting of the BRTB will be held at 9:00 AM to vote on a resolution to support the region's application. The meeting will replace the scheduled August 24, 2010 BRTB meeting. Mr. Lang is the primary contact person for matters concerning the grant application.

***[Handout: HUD – Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program – Notes on NOFA]***

Mr. Kendrick mentioned that Baltimore City is pursuing a TIGER II grant and asked that the BRTB submit a letter of support. He made a motion to submit a letter of support with Mr. Pickar seconding the motion.

Mr. Halligan noted that MDOT put in for a statewide weigh station among other issues and said that he would like to offer an amendment to include those projects. Mr. Lang said that information on this could be distributed to the membership and could be handled via an e-mail vote. Ms. Aris asked that the members send her the information to be put together and she could draft a letter inasmuch as Mr. Lang will be out the remainder of the week.

Mr. Hines asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Arason made a motion to adjourn with Mr. Pickar seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary  
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board