

## **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)**

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

BMC Conference Room

5:30 P.M.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Members/Staff**

Michael Benelli – Anne Arundel County Disabilities Commission  
Edward Cohen – Transit Riders Action Council of Metropolitan Baltimore  
Sandy Conner – Sojourner Douglass College - Workforce Transportation & Referral Center  
David DiQuinzio – Annapolis Planning Commission  
Colin Furneaux – Citizen, Carroll County  
Monica Haines Benkhedda – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Albert Henry – Citizen, Harford County  
Dwayne Hess – A New Faith Community Center  
Frank Johnson – BRTB Liaison – Carroll County  
Todd Lang – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Brenda Latney-Lee – Southwest Development Committee  
Stephen Lauria – Citizen, Baltimore City  
Earl Matthews – Mayors Commission on Disabilities  
Irene Poulson – Neighborhood Design Center  
Kevin Racine – Citizen, Harford County  
Michele Rosenberg – Citizen, Baltimore City  
Alan Sweatman – Friends of Harford (*by phone*)  
Sharonlee Vogel – Transportation Advocates  
David Wright – Citizen, Baltimore City

CAC Vice-Chair, Ms. Sandy Conner, called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M.

### **1. INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no new member introductions.

### **2. REPORT ON RECENT AND UPCOMING BRTB MEETINGS**

Mr. Todd Lang, Transportation Director for the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), shared highlights of the February 23<sup>rd</sup> BRTB meeting. Action items included the approval of Resolution #10-16 in support of recommended changes to the competitive Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality project selection process. The Board also discussed Resolution #10-17 in support of projects meeting the intent of the Jobs Bill of 2010. This resolution was withdrawn for consideration at this meeting because the federal bill is still under consideration. The BRTB will revisit in the future when a final bill is passed by Congress.

The BRTB also received presentations on the following informational items: Update on the development of the Fiscal Year 2011 Unified Planning Work Program; Transportation related legislative initiatives presently filed in the 2010 session of the Maryland General Assembly; and grants that will be made available through the HUD/DOT/EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities.

Mr. Lang and Mr. Johnson also updated members on the development of the Regional Transportation Vision, including:

- 2060 Outlook – A consultant team for the Regional 2060 Economic Outlook was held on Friday, February 5, 2010 at the BMC. The event featured an economist from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond who provided an economic overview of Maryland and the region. A presentation from the consultant team was also given on the approach to be taken to produce a 2060 projection. This projection is expected to be completed by the end of April.
- RFP for technical support for the Index ESRI extension GIS – An RFP was issued and the deadline for responses was February 23rd.
- Public Participation RFP – A consultant has been selected for the Public Participation for Baltimore Region Vision Planning and Long Range Transportation Plan Development.
- "Kick-Off" workshop – A kick-off meeting with key stakeholders took place on March 2nd at the University of Maryland BioPark. The invitation list of approximately seventy-five included the BRTB, Planning Directors, Planning Commission representatives, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

The next meeting of the BRTB is Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 a.m.

Next, Mr. Lang updated members on the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Technical Committee meeting. At this meeting, TC members approved the following: Resolution #10-15 to amend the Plan and TIP to include two capacity projects (1. to extend existing Vail Street in Baltimore City and 2. to widen MD 715 at US 40 from 2 to 4 lanes to address safety issues by eliminating an unsafe U-turn on US 40); Resolution #10-18, endorsing the Preferred Alternative for MD 175 from MD 295 to MD 170. Members also reviewed Resolution #10-17; however, this item was withdrawn by MDOT due to the unlikelihood of the Jobs Bill – Stimulus II being passed with capital dollars still attached to it.

In addition, the Technical Committee received presentations and discussed matters related to: Vision "Kick-Off" Workshop and Regional Economic Outlook (REO) for 2060; 2008 GPS Household Survey; Round 7-C socio-economic forecasts; and the HUD/DOT/EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities.

### **3. DISCUSSION: MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> VISION KICKOFF EVENT**

The 5 CAC members who attended the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Vision "Kick-Off" workshop with key stakeholders at the University of Maryland BioPark provided a summary of the event and shared their thoughts and feedback. Overall, the CAC members appreciated the chance to attend and are looking forward to the next phases.

Suggestions for next phases include: invitation of local media; engagement of legislators; greater participation by local elected officials at events; inclusion of public events and announcements about Vision activities in e-newsletters of local government/community organizations.

### **4. SUBCOMMITTEE BRIEFINGS AND ACTION ITEMS**

- Membership – Ms. Michele Rosenberg reported that the group discussed openings and requests for leave of absences for Sean Egan, Brian Holmes, and AARP Maryland (Jen Holz/John Murphy). Mr. David DiQuinzio expressed some concern about providing a leave for AARP since they are unable to find a volunteer to serve. He recommended that the subcommittee consider only offering leave of

absences to members who experience events beyond their control such as illnesses, etc. The subcommittee agreed to revisit this issue at their March subcommittee meeting and return with recommendations on how to proceed. The subcommittee will also make a recommendation on an individual to fill the slot vacated by Sean Egan.

Mr. Todd Lang reported that the BRTB has reviewed the CAC's recommendation to appoint Mr. Donnell Zeigler – a resident of Baltimore City and a Community Planner for the Baltimore County Office of Planning – to the CAC. Unfortunately, the BRTB has expressed concerns about appointing employees of member agencies to the CAC, as the CAC is to provide independent advice to the BRTB. The Membership subcommittee agreed to review all applications on hand and submit a new recommendation next month.

Ms. Rosenberg also reported that the subcommittee has done some outreach to get additional applications.

*[HANDOUT: Membership Subcommittee: Meeting Summary – February 2010]*

- Policy – Mr. David DiQuinzio reported on the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the subcommittee and the progress the group has made in the development of a set of criteria and principles for evaluating transportation plans put forth by the BRTB. In particular, the group is seeking to use these principles to review the next TIP. Members asked if there was a current set of criteria that is used for evaluating the TIP. BMC staff agreed to follow-up with the subcommittee on this matter. Mr. DiQuinzio reported that the group is pulling together a more refined list of principles for the full CAC to review in April.

The group also discussed two items that members noted during the course of the February CAC meeting: Bicycles on MARC trains and Howard Street @ MLK Boulevard modifications. Details about this discussion are in the subcommittee handout.

*[HANDOUT: Policy Subcommittee: Meeting Summary – February 18, 2010]*

- Public Involvement – Ms. Sandy Conner reported that the group met on February 24<sup>th</sup> to review the current Glossary of Acronyms and Transportation Planning Terms, available on the BMC site for any needed changes or additions. The group recommended a number of updates and Ms. Haines Benkhedda agreed to update the file for the group's review in March. A final revised draft will be sent to the CAC for their review and approval at the April meeting. Once finalized, the glossary will be updated online and also made available in print as a booklet.

The group also discussed the importance of all CAC members helping to promote public comment periods. As such, the PI subcommittee recommended that all CAC members agree to help distribute fliers, e-mails, press releases, and/or social networking posts. CAC members accepted this request for assistance. Additional activities and discussions can be seen in the handout.

*[HANDOUT: Public Involvement Subcommittee: Meeting Summary – February 24, 2010]*

## **5. ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2010 MINUTES**

Due to a lack of quorum at the end of the meeting, this item was delayed to the next meeting.

## **6. APRIL AGENDA, OTHER BUSINESS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Haines Benkhedda shared the following announcements:

- Mr. Robert C. "Bob" Keith, an avid transportation and civic advocate, participant at many BRTB events, and author of a history of the Port of Baltimore, has passed away. Details can be found at

[http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2010-03-02/news/bal-md.ob.ci.keith02mar02\\_1\\_mr-keith-fells-point-documentary-filmmaker](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2010-03-02/news/bal-md.ob.ci.keith02mar02_1_mr-keith-fells-point-documentary-filmmaker)

Members who have ideas for the April meeting agenda or ideas for future meetings (speakers, topics, etc.) should notify the CAC Chairs or Ms. Haines Benkhedda by March 12<sup>th</sup>. Ideas for upcoming meetings included a presentation by the consultant for Vision Public Involvement and a speaker series including people like Baltimore Sun columnist Michael Dresser.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M. The next meeting of the CAC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 5:30 P.M.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

### CURRENT BUSINESS:

#### Openings for new members and requests for leave of absences

The group has the following openings and requests for leave of absences:

- Sean Egan – Sean has resigned due to taking a new position at the MTA. This provides an opening for 1 position that runs through December 2011.
- Brian Holmes – Brian was hit by a car at the end of last year and has emailed that he'll need some months to heal so he will resign. Michele Rosenberg feels that it is imperative that the CAC has people with points of view besides mass transit and bicycle advocacy and is seeking member thoughts on whether or not to ask him if he'd to take a leave of absence instead of resigning. Brian's term was scheduled to run through December 2011.
- AARP Maryland (Jen Holz/John Murphy) – John Murphy, the person who was to replace Jen Holz after she had a baby, is no longer able to attend due to his graduate school class schedule. Ms. Holz is very interested in finding a replacement, but is concerned that it may take a few months. If possible, they'd like to request a 2-3 month leave of absence in order to allow time for them to find a new volunteer to serve as a representative on the CAC. Is the group ok with this? Their term is through December 2010.

#### Outreach for new members

Applications have been distributed at the following events:

- Greater Baltimore Transportation: On the Road to Sustainability held at University of Baltimore on Feb. 24, 2010
- Weekly graduate seminar at University of Baltimore, Friday, Feb. 26. Topic of this seminar was Blue Collar Science and the Md. State Implementation Plan for Air Quality.

It will be essential to communicate with all types of groups concerning the CAC so that we can draw more people to submit resumes for potential membership.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Possible change in date/time/location for committee meeting.

**NEXT MEETING (TENTATIVE):** Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm at Panera Bread.

## POLICY AND LEGISLATION SUBCOMMITTEE

February 18, 2010

### ATTENDEES:

- Ed Cohen – Transit Riders Action Council of Metropolitan Baltimore
- Jud Malone – Central Maryland Regional Transit
- David Wright – Citizen - Baltimore City
- David DiQuinzio – Annapolis Planning Commission

### DISCUSSION:

The group discussed the Smart Growth Principles outline distributed by Jud Malone at the previous meeting with the aim of using it as a basis for establishing criteria against which the subcommittee will evaluate TIP projects this year.

This discussion led to the following general consensus items:

- Evaluating TIP projects objectively is difficult, at best, in the absence of an overall mobility plan for the region. We will need to make various assumptions and carefully apply our agreed criteria to this process as a result. The visioning effort should result, among other things, in the adoption of such a plan. This needs to be discussed with the full CAC.
- The group generally concurs with the content of the Smart Growth Principles outline with one important addition – geography as a key consideration. This affects the Baltimore region to a greater degree than other regions due to the unique formation of the region's rivers and Chesapeake Bay tributaries and the contours of its hills and valleys. These have converged over the years to determine settlement, land use and freight and passenger traffic patterns. In recent decades, with relatively cheap energy and ease of financing, transportation projects could be engineered and built through, over or above bodies of water, hills and valleys.

Going forward, however, in a resource- and fiscally-constrained environment, transportation projects will come full circle in terms of having to respect the lay of the land. This means establishing a hierarchy of systems (seaports, airports, Class I railroads, Amtrak, Metro) that works from the largest vehicles to the smallest. Its purpose is to identify what capacity is needed, and in what form, along what corridors and networks, and in support of what land uses, in order to maximize the region's economic competitiveness, job prospects, and overall quality of life while minimizing environmental degradation and using available funding most effectively.

Examples of concerns along these lines include using valuable deep-water harbor frontage for residences and selecting light rail from Mt. Royal northward in a deep, V-shaped valley that's better suited to commuter rail that can share track space with freight trains.

- The group discussed next steps in the TIP project evaluation process. Specifically, the group noted that BMC staff receive and review the projects first and they use a standardized scoring sheet to rank them. In the past, the CAC has been given copies of the blank scoring sheet, but they have not seen completed sheets produced by BMC staff for specific projects. The group resolved to request copies of staff's completed sheets as they are produced.

The group also discussed two items that members noted during the course of the February CAC meeting:

- Bicycles on MARC trains – the group fully supports increased use of bicycles for both commuting and for mobility in general. This includes maximizing the extent to which bicyclists can bring their bikes aboard rail vehicles and thereby make multi-modal trips. At the same time, however, the group understands the logistical challenges involved – especially for MARC trains that are overcrowded at peak times and generally not able to accommodate many bicycles at off-peak hours. The group agreed that other transit and rail operators are farther along in accommodating bicyclists than MARC. Therefore, the group resolved to suggest that the MTA or BMC staff or other appropriate body undertake a “best practices” survey of other operators to identify future steps MARC might take in terms of equipment purchases, during overhauls or in day-to-day operations to be more bike-friendly.
  
- Howard Street @ MLK Boulevard modifications – the City of Baltimore has recently undertaken a series of street, footway and related changes to this intersection with reports of objections by and inadequate participation on the part of neighboring residents and business owners. The group resolved to refer this item to the Public Involvement Subcommittee.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon at Arcos Restaurant (129 South Broadway, Baltimore)

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

February 24, 2010

### ATTENDEES:

- Sandy Conner – Sojourner Douglass College - Workforce Transportation & Referral Center
- Dwayne Hess – A New Faith Community Center
- Monica Haines Benkhedda – Baltimore Metropolitan Council

### DISCUSSION:

#### **Glossary of Acronyms and Transportation Planning Terms**

Members reviewed the current list of acronyms and planning terms on the BMC site ([www.baltometro.org/get-involved/glossary-of-acronyms](http://www.baltometro.org/get-involved/glossary-of-acronyms)) for any needed changes or additions.

The group recommended a number of updates and Ms. Haines Benkhedda agreed to update the file for CAC review.

In addition, it was recommended that the glossary also be made available in a booklet format. This booklet would include a Quick List of Frequently Used Acronyms, as well as the full alphabetical listing of terms. Ms. Haines Benkhedda would be responsible for the layout and printing of this file. Members could then use at meetings and distribute as needed.

### ACTION ITEMS:

#### **Promoting public comment periods**

The PI committee recommends that a request is sent to all CAC members to distribute fliers, e-mails, press releases, and/or social networking posts for the following comment periods:

- TIP Amendment (closes March 16<sup>th</sup>)
- UPWP (February 26 – March 26)
- DBE (Dates TBD)
- Stimulus II (Dates TBD)

#### **Vision & CAC Community Conversations**

Last fall, the CAC was asked to be involved in the Vision process in several ways. One way was to host some Community Conversations. At this time, the BRTB believes this could be done during the first phase, which will work with members of the public to identify values. A Public Involvement consultant has recently been selected and once the contract is finalized, the CAC will likely be contacted by staff and/or the consultant to further this activity.

Members agreed to discuss with the full CAC their role in hosting Community Conversations.

#### **Meeting date and time**

Confirm with the members if the current meeting date and time works for most members.

**NEXT MEETING** is Wednesday, March 24, 2010 (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month) at 2:00 p.m. at Sojourner-Douglass College, 500 N. Caroline Street, 21205.