



The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
**November 3, 2008**  
**BMC Conference Rooms A & B**  
**9:30 A.M.**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members**

Kimani Choi – Maryland Department of Planning	410-767-8876
Jeff Drinkwater – Baltimore City Department of Transportation	410-396-7665
Kwaku Duah – City of Annapolis Department of Transportation	410-263-7782
Harvey Gold – Anne Arundel County Planning & Zoning	410-222-7434
Carolina Arbelaez – Baltimore County Department of Public Works	410-887-3554
Keith Kucharek – State Highway Administration	410-545-8792
Scott Graf – Carroll County Department of Planning	410-386-2145
Theo Ngongang – Maryland Department of Transportation	410-865-1308
Benjamin Pickar – Howard County Department of Planning	410-313-4360
Alex Rawls – Harford County Department of Planning	410-879-2000

**Staff/Guests**

Bala Akundi – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500 x1019
Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-9572
Charles Baber – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500 x1056
Dunbar Brooks – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-9574
Matt de Rouville – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500 x1051
Victor Henry – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500 x1034
Vimal Kumar – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500 x1052
Jody McCullough – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500 x1052
Michael Pack – University of Maryland	301-403-4594
Brian Ryder – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500 x1054
Eileen Singleton – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500 x1033
Sara Tomlinson – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500 x1035
Russ Ulrich – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-9575

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Jeff Drinkwater.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 6, 2008 MINUTES:**

Mr. Drinkwater asked for approval of the minutes of the October 6, 2008 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Ben Pickar moved for approval of the minutes with Mr. Kwaku Duah seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**REPORT ON OCTOBER 28, 2008 MEETING OF THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD:**

Ms. Regina Aris briefed the Committee on the highlights of the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board. She noted approval of three resolutions: #09-07, P&N statement for an interchange planning study at I-795 and Dolfield Boulevard; #09-8, Bylaws of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Group; and, #09-9, an amendment to the 2008-2012 Baltimore Region TIP. Regarding the BPAG, the BRTB agreed to ask the members to consider MDE and MDP as voting members of the Group. If that is approved, another set of Bylaws will be circulated for approval. There was an update on the amendment process for Transportation Outlook 2035 as well as an overview of the development process for the 2010 UPWP. In addition, representatives from the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and BMC briefed the Board on the process and outcomes of the three regional planning workshops held recently at BMC. The Director of Planning & Public Works for the City of Westminster presented an overview of the planning process relating to an update of the City's Master Plan. Finally, there was a discussion of two resolutions developed by the CAC related to the TIP and the proposed plan amendment.

***[Handout: Baltimore Regional Traffic Signal Forum – November 5, 2008]***

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #09-10:**

Mr. Bala Akundi presented information on three items that were requested to be funded by reprogramming funds from an activity that was approved but will not be moving forward. Mr. Dunbar Brooks stated that responses to requests for development of an income module were significantly beyond the financial range that BMC has allotted. \$50,000 will be programmed for conclusion of the External Survey, Development of a safety data tool, and traffic data for corridors in a Baltimore County "Crime / Crash" Study. Mr. Pickar inquired into the availability of the safety tool to the local jurisdictions and the response was that a web-based tool would be available to all members. Mr. Harvey Gold expressed concern over legal liability if the County should be in possession of information sought in court cases. Mr. Akundi will provide documentation at an upcoming meeting as to how Montgomery County handled the issue with the Maryland Highway Safety Office. Mr. Brooks also explained the use of private source data from Claritas that BMC will use to approximate an income model. Mr. Drinkwater asked for a motion for approval of the resolution. Mr. Pickar moved for approval, with Mr. Theo Ngongang seconding the motion. Resolution #09-10 was unanimously approved.

**PRESENTATION ON THE REGIONAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION SYSTEM (RITIS):**

Mr. Michael Pack, Director of the Center for Advanced Transportation Technology (CATT) Laboratory at the University of Maryland College Park, provided an overview of the Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS). RITIS, which was initiated by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments using federal transportation earmark funds and homeland security funds, has three major components: real time data integration and dissemination; data archiving and performance measures; as well as traveler Information. At full build-out, RITIS will accept data from state and local sources

(i.e., state and local DOTs, transit agencies, computer aided dispatch systems) and private sources (i.e., SpeedInfo, Traffic.com, Inrix) and push data back to those sources from all other sources in a standardized format. This will enable users to access data from outside sources from within their own incident management systems. RITIS will also send out data to agency web sites, 511 systems, the media, and third parties (i.e., private traffic web sites). Currently, RITIS receives data from SHA / CHART, District of Columbia DOT, Virginia DOT, WMATA, and the National Weather Service. In addition, SHA / CHART, DDOT, and VDOT have reconfigured their systems to receive RITIS data from each other through RITIS. Mr. Pack said that WMATA bus data will likely be available on RITIS within the next year and currently has some rail data. RITIS also shows real-time data. Mr. Pack said the CATT Lab staff is working on developing forecasting capabilities to estimate conditions one to two hours in the future. There are many tools in RITIS that can be used to analyze incident and traffic data (speed and volume). Some of these tools are being redesigned to accommodate more users. These newer tools, yet to be released, were demonstrated during the presentation. One of the many benefits of RITIS is that it can show all activities for an incident on one screen: who was called when, when they arrived and left the scene, lane closures, VMS messages, and speed and volume data. These data are shown in real-time and are archived. Data are archived indefinitely; however, closed circuit television camera images are not being archived. All CHART data is sent to RITIS, and Mr. Pack said that he is always looking to expand the types of data in RITIS; he is particularly interested in getting transit data and traffic signal data. Most types of data would be accepted, but they must be in an electronic format. In response to a question about the cost of adding a new data source to RITIS, Mr. Pack said that requests would ultimately need to go through the RITIS Advisory Board, but that initial requests can be vetted through Mr. Pack directly. There may be no fee or, if a fee was charged, it would likely be low depending on the level of cooperation and technical capabilities of the agency. Mr. Pack welcomes any additional questions ([packml@umd.edu](mailto:packml@umd.edu), 301-403-4594).

### **PROGRESS REPORT ON FY 2009 UPWP PROJECTS:**

#### **Status of the Plan Amendment – Results of the 2008 Baltimore Regional Travel Behavior Survey.**

Ms. Jody McCullough gave an update on the status of the proposed amendment to the Baltimore Regional long-range transportation plan - *Transportation Outlook 2035* was presented. Discussion occurred regarding the initial available revenue projections of \$340 million and how the projected revenue forecast may have changed due to the recent economic downturn impacting the state and the Maryland Department of Transportation revenue sources. Continued discussion about the options the Board has to proceed; projects should be introduced into the plan at 2013 at \$340 million or amended projects should be deferred until after years 2020 at \$225 million. The recent cuts of \$1.1 billion in projects from the CTP were discussed; it was anticipated that it may take 7 to 8 years for the program to recover from the project delays that have resulted from the downturn. The Technical Committee concurred that further analysis and discussion is needed before a decision could be made regarding the level of funding and project dates for the Plan amendment. The proposed date for approval of the amended Plan is February 24<sup>th</sup>.

***[Handout: Consolidated Project List – November 3, 2008]***

Mr. Russ Ulrich reported on the results of the recent Travel Behavior Survey, which was conducted to find out how the summer's historically-high gasoline prices have affected both residents and businesses in our region. During September, WB&A Market Research interviewed 400 residents and 100 businesses throughout the region. Among the survey's key findings:

- 72 % of residents reported some change in their travel behavior
  - 41% combined trips/errands
  - 31% reduced vacations and other pleasure trips
- 30% of those changing behavior said they did so once gasoline began selling at \$3.00 per gallon
- 36% of commuters stated that they would, or had reduced, the number of days they commute, and 27% had or are considering teleworking
- 33% of all respondents have, or are considering purchasing, a more fuel efficient vehicle and 21% may use public transportation in the future
- 58% of businesses stated that they have or will pass cost increases onto customers
- 41% of businesses have or will refrain from hiring
- 35% have or will downsize their workforce
- 7% said they are considering closing some or all of their locations

Interviewers also asked two questions concerning awareness of and attitudes toward climate change and found that 12% of residents are familiar with climate change, believe it is real, that human activity is a primary cause, and are willing to change their behavior. About 11% of businesses gave similar responses. The complete report is available on-line at [www.baltometro.org-featured](http://www.baltometro.org-featured) links.

***[Handout: 2008 Baltimore Regional Transportation Survey – Residential and Business – November 3, 2008]***

*Discussion of the future direction of TP+ and Citilabs software Renewal:*

Mr. Matthew de Rouville discussed the need for member agencies that are using the Citilabs modeling software to renew their maintenance agreement, which expires at the end of November. The cost is \$250 for TP+ software and \$500 for Viper. Mr. de Rouville also said that consideration should be given to upgrading to more advanced software products produced by Citilabs, called Cube Voyager and Cube Base, respectively. While BMC would still be using the older software in the immediate future, at some time there may be changes that would require the newer software. He noted that one year from now would be an appropriate time to upgrade the software. This would allow members to include the cost in their budgets for Fiscal Year 2010. Currently, Citilabs has offered a special upgrade price of \$1,500 (plus the maintenance fee) if all current users would make the upgrade as opposed to the regular price of \$3,000 (plus maintenance). There is no guarantee this price break would be in effect should members decide to upgrade next year. Mr. de Rouville presented three possible courses of action:

- Upgrade software,
- Keep current software with maintenance upgrade, or

- No longer participate in using modeling software

For those not using the modeling software, he noted that BMC staff are willing to provide technical assistance and modeling services to member agencies under the UPWP. He requested that members inform him of their intentions by Friday, November 14.

***[Handouts: Citilabs Software Renewal]***

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

There being no other business to discuss, Mr. Drinkwater asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gold moved for adjournment, with Mr. Pickar seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:36 A.M.