



Baltimore Regional Transportation Board

The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

DRAFT

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
January 6, 2009
BMC Conference Rooms A & B
9:30 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

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|---|--------------|
| Carolina Arbelaez – Baltimore County Department of Public Works | 410-887-3554 |
| 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 |
| Scott Graf – Carroll County Department of Planning | 410-386-2145 |
| Keith Kucharek – State Highway Administration | 410-545-8792 |
| Joseph Madison – Maryland Transit Administration | 410-767-2948 |
| 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 |
| Jim Wilkinson – Maryland Department of the Environment | 410-537-3240 |

Staff/Guests

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|---|--------------------|
| Bala Akundi – Baltimore Metropolitan Council | 410-732-0500 x1019 |
| Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council | 410-732-9572 |
| Tyson Byrne – Baltimore Metropolitan Council | 410-732-0500 x1048 |
| Edward K. Cohen – TRAC | 4120-837-6582 |
| Matt de Rouville – Baltimore Metropolitan Council | 410-732-0500 x1051 |
| Kameel Hall – State Highway Administration | 410-545-8546 |
| Victor Henry – Baltimore Metropolitan Council | 410-732-0500 x1034 |
| Vimal Kumar – Baltimore Metropolitan Council | 410-732-0500 x1052 |
| Kenya Lucas – State Highway Administration | 410-545-8545 |
| Jody McCullough – Baltimore Metropolitan Council | 410-732-0500 x1052 |
| Jennifer Ray – JMT | 420-316-2231 |
| Brian Ryder – Baltimore Metropolitan Council | 410-732-0500 x1054 |
| Rebecca Thomas – URS | 410-785-7220 |
| Sara Tomlinson – Baltimore Metropolitan Council | 410-732-0500 x1035 |
| Dudley Whitney – Parsons Brinckerhoff | 410-385-4147 |

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Jeff Drinkwater.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 3, 2008 MINUTES: Mr. Drinkwater asked for approval of the minutes of the November 3, 2008 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Harvey Gold moved for approval of the minutes with Mr. Alex Rawls seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

REPORT ON NOVEMBER 25, 2008 AND DECEMBER 2, 2008 MEETINGS OF THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD: Ms. Regina Aris briefed the Committee on the highlights of the November 25th meeting of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board. She noted endorsement of Resolution #09-10, Approval of an Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which seeks to reallocate \$50,000 in FY 2009 UPWP funds toward two safety activities and the completion of the regional external survey. There was also a presentation on the results of the regional travel behavior survey and an update on the amendment process for *Transportation Outlook 2035*. The State Highway Administration (SHA) presented on park-and-ride facilities in Maryland and there was a presentation from the Corridor Transportation Corporation (CTC) regarding their November 13th Summit.

Ms. Aris also briefed the Committee on the highlights of the December 2nd BRTB meeting and noted that this was a meeting officiated by the designated members (elected officials) of the BRTB. Six individuals spoke at this meeting which was followed by presentations from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). In addition, the BRTB approved a motion to initiate a vision planning process in the Baltimore region.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #09-11: Ms. Aris introduced Resolution #09-11 that seeks to reallocate \$90,000 in FY 2009 UPWP funds. The proposed changes include the deferral of the development of an income model and redirecting funds toward the 2008 Aerial Photography Survey. Ms. Aris introduced Mr. Victor Henry who presented some of the highlights and products from previous surveys that were conducted in 1999, 2002, and 2005. Mr. Henry concluded his presentation with a preview of the new web-based retrieval environment that will be finalized this spring as part of the product deliverables. Mr. Drinkwater asked for a motion to approve Resolution #09-11. Mr. Gold moved for approval, with Mr. Ben Pickar seconding the motion. Resolution #09-11 was unanimously approved.

[Handout: Attachment A – Resolution #09-11; Congestion Monitoring Using Aerial Photography in the Baltimore Region]

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #09-12: Ms. Kameel Hall, Project Manager, State Highway Administration (SHA) and Ms. Jennifer Ray, JMT, presented the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study (ARDS) for MD 198 from west of MD 295 to MD 32. This project involves improving existing capacity and traffic operations, enhanced access to Fort Meade in response to BRAC, and increased vehicular and pedestrian safety along MD 198, while supporting existing and planned development in the area. Mr. Drinkwater

asked for a motion to approve Resolution #09-12. Mr. Rawls moved for approval with Mr. Theo Ngongang seconding the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS BY LOCAL/STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mr. Drinkwater stated that in an effort for Committee members to share information with the Technical Committee about projects occurring in their jurisdiction, he will present information regarding the Boston Street project in Baltimore City. The scope of this project is changing. Committee members were invited to the back of the meeting room to view a visual layout of the updated project. The original project included a viaduct on Boston Street. The updated project involves a new north/south connection of Boston Street to O'Donnell Street adjacent to Haven Street as well as an extension of Eaton Street from Boston Street to O'Donnell Street along abandoned railroad right-of-way. This represents the locally-preferred alternative from the Boston Street Viaduct Environmental Assessment. According to Mr. Drinkwater, this project is being presented at this meeting for the benefit of the Technical Committee so that they can become more familiar with it. A resolution for this project will be brought to a future Technical Committee meeting as well as a BRTB meeting, as it will require a TIP amendment.

PROGRESS REPORT ON FY 2009 UPWP PROJECTS:

FY 2010 TIP/Conformity Determination Kick-off:

Mr. Tyson Byrne presented the 2010-2013 TIP production schedule. He pointed out important dates and told the Committee that there will be a training session after the February 3, 2009 Technical Committee meeting for the staff inputting the data into the TIP web site database. Ms. Aris discussed the status of the 2009-2012 TIP, stating that a likely staff recommendation, with MDOT's approval, is to have the BRTB officially pull the document to have an official end to the 2009 TIP process. TC members were asked to review their 2008 TIP and draft 2009 TIP to determine possible local impacts. Members were asked to get back to Tyson Byrne.

[Handouts: 2008 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program – Baltimore City – Highway Capacity; 2010-2013 TIP Production Schedule]

Presentation on Findings from the Multi-year External Survey Effort:

Mr. Bala Akundi presented the results from the survey of vehicle and person trips at select external stations of the Baltimore region travel demand model. The purpose of the study was to determine the number of trips that enter the Baltimore region from adjacent states/counties and the nature of those trips. Mr. Akundi acknowledged the presence of Ms. Rebecca Thomas from URS who led the consultant team effort over the past 4 years. The external survey oversight committee selected 5 locations at which a postcard survey would be conducted and another 9 locations where a license plate matching study would be conducted. The postcard surveys were conducted along MD 45 and MD 30 at the Pennsylvania/Maryland state line, I-95 and US 40 at the Susquehanna River, and MD 3 at the Anne Arundel/Prince Georges County line. The survey along MD 45 was conducted during May 2006 as a pretest following which minor modifications were made to the survey instrument. Data collected at the postcard survey sites include origin and destination,

vehicle occupancy, vehicle type, trip purpose, trip frequency, and time of day. Mr. Akundi noted that survey returns ranged from 8 percent to 28 percent with the lower response being recorded at the I-95 toll plaza where only cash customers received postcards. A significant percent of the traffic on I-95 uses EZ-Pass and could not be captured for this survey. The responses from the returned surveys were expanded to represent two-directional Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) and geocoded to the BMC travel demand model Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ). Mr. Akundi noted that several trip tables were developed from this effort – the committee received a handout containing Tables 4-9 from the draft final report that highlights trips by purpose at origin, purpose at destination, vehicle occupancy, trip purpose, and trip frequency.

Addressing a comment from the oversight committee, Mr. Akundi pointed out that the average cost of conducting a postcard survey at a location with an AADT of 10,000 is approximately \$25,000. This includes the cost of traffic control and “survey ahead” signs, coordination with the U.S. Postal Service, printing and distribution of postcards, and the processing and geocoding of the returned postcards. The second phase of the external survey involved conducting license plate matching along I-95, US 29, and MD 295 to determine the number of through trips crossing jurisdictional boundaries. In October 2007, the consultant team set up specialized video equipment on overpasses along each of these facilities and recorded license plates of all vehicles in the southbound direction between 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM. The handout includes a map and a table showing the locations where these cameras were setup. Following an extensive period of data reduction that involved over 270,000 license plates, the consultant team provided site-to-site trip tables over a 24-hour period. The results show that a majority of the trips are local with origins and destinations in a single county or in adjacent counties. The draft report includes the results of this effort. The BMC travel demand staff will further analyze and examine these results and compare them with model data.

Mr. Pickar noted that the results of the license plate surveys show a significant difference from figures generated by the model and noted the need for a careful examination of model inputs. Mr. Gold noted that the results from the MD 3 postcard survey could benefit the SHA planning study and asked if they were shared with the project team. He also pointed out that the I-95 results may be of use to the Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA) as they work on sections of I-95 north of Baltimore City. Mr. Akundi noted that these results will eventually be shared with all of the stakeholders, including SHA and MdTA once they have been finalized. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Duah on why there were some license plates that were unrecognizable, Mr. Akundi noted that there are plates that are hard to read or the plates were covered in dirt. Ms. Thomas noted that some trucks have their license plates a lot further in and it was difficult for the cameras to capture them or they were bent.

[Handout: Survey of Vehicle and Person Trips at the External Stations of the Baltimore Region – Travel Demand Model, Final Summary, January 6, 2009]

Presentation on Results from the 2007 On-Board Transit Survey:

Mr. Matthew de Rouville reported on the On-Board Transit Survey conducted from Spring 2007 to Spring 2008. It was commissioned by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)

as part of the Red Line Study in order to improve the modeling tools to be used. Over 13,000 valid surveys were received, which were then expanded to represent typical weekday travel. Various graphs were displayed showing characteristics of transit trips and transit users, including the number of trips, time of day, purpose, mode, household income, age, driver's license status, auto availability, method of fare payment, and sex. Some notable results were the relatively low utilization of transit by those over age 65, the two to one ratio of female riders, and the high share of walk access to transit.

[Handouts: On-board Transit Survey General Findings]

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Aris reminded members of the TO 2035 public meeting on January 15th.

Mr. Ngongang indicated that the MTA would be looking for approval of the Red Line selected alternate in the coming months.

There being no other business to discuss, Mr. Drinkwater asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ngongang moved for adjournment, with Mr. Duah seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.