

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**April 6, 2010**

**BMC Conference Rooms A & B**

**9:30 A.M.**

**DRAFT**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members**

Carolina Arbelaez – Baltimore County Department of Public Works	410-887-3554
Iain Banks – City of Annapolis Department of Transportation	410-263-7964
Kimani Choi – Maryland Department of Planning	410-767-8876
Harvey Gold – Anne Arundel County Planning & Zoning	410-222-7440
Scott Graf – Carroll County Department of Planning	410-386-2145
Charles Grant – Maryland Transit Administration	410-767-3906
Valorie LaCour – Baltimore City Department of Transportation	410-396-6856
Mike Nixon – Maryland Department of Transportation	410-865-1308
Alex Rawls – Harford County Department of Planning	410-879-2000
Jim Wilkinson – Maryland Department of the Environment	410-537-3240

**Staff/Guests**

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-9572
Charles Baber – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500 x1056
Robert Berger – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500 x1037
Victor Bonaparte – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500 x1036
Dunbar Brooks – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-9574
Terry Freeland – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500 x1028
Dave Greenwood – Maryland Transportation Authority	410-931-0808
Dave LaBella – Maryland Transportation Authority	410-931-0808
Brian Ryder – Baltimore Metropolitan Council	410-732-0500 x1054
Kevin Racine – Citizen	410-939-2838

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 A.M. by the Vice-Chair, Mr. Alex Rawls.

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 3, 2010 TC MINUTES:** Mr. Rawls asked for approval of the minutes of the March 3, 2010 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Jim Wilkinson offered a correction to the minutes: Mr. Wilkinson stated that consideration should be given to testing two additional scenarios in the current vision planning process. He offered that testing the impact of the sea level rising due to climate change and testing impacts of various gasoline prices based on the “Peak Oil” phenomenon should be included in the vision planning process.

Mr. Iain Banks moved for approval of the minutes, as amended, with Mr. Scott Graf seconding the motion. The amended minutes were unanimously approved.

**REPORT ON MARCH 23, 2010 MEETING OF THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD:** Ms. Regina Aris reported that the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) met on March 23, 2010 and endorsed Resolution #10-15, approving interchange improvements on US 40 at MD 715 and the New Vail Street Extension in Baltimore City. The Board also approved Resolution #10-18, the Preferred Alternative and Conceptual Mitigation for MD 175 from MD 295 to MD 170. The BRTB heard a presentation on urban heat island effects as well as a report on climate change mitigation efforts by SHA. The Director of Transportation Projects for Easter Seals Project *ACTION* gave a presentation on Accessible Community Transportation. Updates by staff included the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities and the Regional Transportation Vision.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR FTA SECTION 5310 GRANT APPLICATIONS – INFORMATIONAL DUE TO DEADLINE:** Ms. Aris indicated that the deadline for applications was April 9<sup>th</sup> so no recommendations were available for the Technical Committee to consider. A list of organizations requesting local planning certificates was circulated as an indication of what BMC should expect by the deadline. Members will be given recommendations for their review in advance of the BRTB meeting later in the month. It is important to secure BRTB approval in April in order for local applicants to be eligible for statewide consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR FEDERAL GRANT ASSISTANCE FROM THE HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION PROGRAM:** Mr. Terry Freeland introduced this resolution and said that the Baltimore region faces the potential loss of unobligated funds under the FTA's Section 5316 program (Job Access / Reverse Commute, or JARC) and the Section 5317 program (New Freedom). These funds must be obligated by September 30, 2010. Because of this "use or lose" situation, the Maryland Transit Administration held a special solicitation for applications for projects that could be funded under these programs.

Seven applications were received by the deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup>.

- two applications requesting JARC program funds
- two applications requesting New Freedom program funds
- three applications requesting both types of funds

BMC staff provided a summary sheet showing the applicant, type of project, total project cost, and the amount of federal funds requested under each program. The second page of this summary also showed the total amount of federal funds available under each program compared to the total amount requested. For the JARC program, the total amount of

federal funds requested (\$663,023.10) is approximately \$137,000 lower than the total amount of federal funds available (\$800,000). For the New Freedom program, the total amount of federal funds requested (\$504,512.90) exceeds the total amount of federal funds available (\$500,000) by approximately \$4,500.

BMC staff will meet with MTA staff on Tuesday, April 13, to discuss the applications. Topics for discussion will include:

- whether or not the proposed projects are eligible to receive funding under these programs
- the scoring and evaluation of each application
- ways to reconcile the discrepancies between the total amount available and the total amount requested under each program

With respect to this last point, one option for the JARC program is to determine whether or not the applying agencies can contribute additional local funds to match increased federal amounts. For the New Freedom program, the discussion will center on which applying agencies should have their requested amounts reduced so that the total amount requested does not exceed the total amount available. Meeting participants also will discuss the justifications for recommending which applications should be approved for funding. The BRTB will vote on these recommendations at its next meeting.

***[Handout: Baltimore Region Job Access & Reverse Commute Grant Project Applications/Baltimore Region Both Job Access & Reverse Commute and New Freedom Grant Project Applications]***

**RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET:** Mr. Victor Bonaparte introduced Resolution #10-21 endorsing the Fiscal Year 2011 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget and approving its submission to both the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration. Additionally, the resolution authorizes the Baltimore Metropolitan Council to enter into contractual arrangements with the Maryland Department of Transportation and local jurisdictions to effectuate work program activities.

Mr. Bonaparte informed Committee members that, in compliance with the Final Rule for Metropolitan Transportation Planning, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board provided a 30-day public participation opportunity during the preparation of the Unified Planning Work Program. No comments were received during the comment period. During his overview of the budget summary attached to the resolution, Mr. Bonaparte pointed out that going forward, the work program document will include a listing of all fund sources, carryover funding (by fiscal year), uses, carryover fund balance and future initiatives. Mr. Mike Nixon, Maryland Department of Transportation, expressed his pleasure that the proposed Fiscal Year 2011 Program and Budget would substantially reduce the current carryover fund balance. Committee members, having received the draft Fiscal Year 2011

Unified Planning Work Program and Budget at their March meeting for review, had no comments, questions or concerns.

Mr. Rawls asked for a motion to approve Resolution #10-21. Mr. Nixon made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Harvey Gold. The Technical Committee approved the motion, and Resolution #10-21 will be forwarded to the BRTB for adoption.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF A POLICY FOR ESTABLISHING DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM:**

Ms. Aris introduced the resolution and indicated that no comments had been received, although the comment period does not close until April 15<sup>th</sup>. The overall organization of the resolution was discussed along with program obligations and responsibilities. Members had no additional comments on the resolution or attachment. Mr. Rawls asked for a motion to approve Resolution #10-22. Mr. Iain Banks made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Nixon. The Technical Committee approved the motion, and Resolution #10-22 was recommended to the BRTB for adoption.

**PRESENTATION BY LOCAL/STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Mr. David LaBella, Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA), presented an update of the I-95 project to add two Express Toll Lanes (ETLs) in each direction between north of MD 43 and I-895 in northeast of Baltimore. As a result of a change in priorities at MdTA from system expansion to system preservation, the ETL access ramps at MD 43 and I-695 have been deferred indefinitely. The ETLs will be added with the only access at the north and south termini, north of MD 43 and I-895, respectively. The MD 43 bridge will be replaced and interim ramp improvement will be made to the interchange. Tolls on the ETLs will be set according to the time of day and to maintain a level-of-service C on the ETL lanes. The toll rates will not be dynamic, responding to changes in travel, but could be in the future. Vehicles will be tolled electronically at one overhead gantry on I-95 near the Chesaco Avenue bridge. The ETLs are anticipated to open in 2014.

***[Handout: Maryland Transportation Authority - I-95 Express Toll Lanes]***

**VISION PLAN FOR THE BALTIMORE REGION:**

**Transportation Topic Paper:**

Mr. Robert Berger provided an update on the transportation topic paper to be used in the public outreach phase of the vision process. After the last meeting, individual Committee members had submitted their comments on specific sections of the document as follows: Highway – Ben Pickar; Transit – Theo Ngongang; Pedestrian – Jessica Keller; and Bicycle – Iain Banks. Mr. Berger distributed copies of the draft to the Committee. As the draft is to be finalized as soon as possible, he asked that additional comments be limited to major errors in the text. He pointed out that due to the large size of the document, it would probably have to be split up into smaller documents, edited, or both. Finally, Mr. Berger noted that the document reflected ideas generated by the Technical Committee and thanked them for their efforts.

***[Handout: Personal Travel and Public Choices White Paper]***

**PROGRESS REPORT ON UPWP PROJECTS:**

**ETL Modeling within Version 3 Travel Demand Model:**

Mr. Brian Ryder presented an update of the consultant project to incorporate Express Toll Lanes in BMC's Travel Demand Model. The consultant, URS and Baez Consulting, completed a survey of 11 Metropolitan Planning Organizations on their region's toll lane plans and modeling procedures. (A full report of the survey results, Survey of Managed Lanes Modeling Techniques, is available from BMC.) The survey provided a description of the MPO's overall modeling procedures, their region's toll lane plans (if any) and toll lane modeling procedures. Based on this research, the consultants gave BMC four options for incorporating toll lanes into BMC's model and BMC has selected one that will provide the most tolling policy options and should fit the model best. The toll model should be available for testing by BMC in late May and BMC staff will report to the Technical Committee with the results of the tests.

***[Handout: Travel Demand Model Toll Lane Modeling Survey Results]***

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

With no other business to discuss, Mr. Rawls asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gold moved for adjournment, with Mr. Graf seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.