

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**July 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
Richard Jaramilla – Maryland Transportation Authority	410-537-5676
Dami Kehinde – State Highway Administration	410-545-5560
Theo Ngongang – Maryland Department of Transportation	410-865-1308
Ben Pickar – Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	410-313-4360
Jim Wilkinson – Maryland Department of the Environment	410-537-3240

**Staff/Guests**

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)	410-732-9572
Charles Baber – BMC	410-732-0500 x1056
Robert Berger – BMC	410-732-0500 x1037
Tyson Byrne – BMC	410-732-0500 x1048
Dunbar Brooks – BMC	410-732-9574
Terry Freeland – BMC	410-732-0500 x1028
Monica Haines Benkhedda – BMC	410-732-0500x1047
Todd Lang – BMC	410-732-9566
Brian Muldoon – Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	410-313-4363
Mike Nixon – Maryland Department of Transportation	410-865-1295
Kevin Racine – Citizen	410-939-2838
Diane Ratcliff – Maryland Transit Administration	410-767-3787
Stephanie Yanovitz – BMC	410-732-0500 x1030

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Ben Pickar.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 1, 2010 TC MINUTES:** Mr. Pickar asked for any corrections to the minutes. Mr. Graff noted that he was in attendance at the June Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Pickar asked for approval of the amended minutes of the June 1, 2010

Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Iain Banks moved for approval of the minutes with Mr. Harvey Gold seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**REPORT ON JUNE 22, 2010 MEETING OF THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD:** Mr. Dunbar Brooks reported that the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) met on June 22, 2010. Resolution #10-24 (Approval of Fiscal Year 2011 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) was approved with revisions, setting the DBE goal at 24.5% instead of the 20% as originally stated. The Nominating Committee proposed Baltimore County as Chair and Harford County as Vice-Chair which met approval of the BRTB. Mr. Carl Balsler was presented with a Proclamation of Appreciation upon his retirement from Howard County. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) updated the BRTB on the status of the Red Line. Recent federal grant announcements were discussed as well as an update on *Imagine 2060*. In addition, the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) gave their perspective for the region's vision.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Banks proposed Harford County for Chair and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) for Vice-Chair. Members voted to approve the slate offered. In the absence of Mr. Alex Rawls, Mr. Theo Ngongang chaired the remainder of the meeting. Mr. Brooks offered appreciation from BMC to Ben Pickar who would be leaving the TC to serve on the BRTB. Mr. Pickar introduced Mr. Brian Muldoon who is now the Howard County representative to the TC.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF ROUND 7-C SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA:** Mr. Brooks introduced Resolution #11-1 for approval of the Round 7-C socio-economic forecasts developed by the local jurisdictions and the BMC staff. The Round 7-C forecasts include projections of population, households and employment between 2000 and 2035. Mr. Brooks stated that the new forecast set is not all that different from the current forecast (Round 7-B). He mentioned that Round 7-C forecasts show an adjustment in the near-term (2010 – 2020) to recognize the effects of the current economic downturn. He said that in most cases the forecasts show a rebound after 2015 and in some cases the socio-economic growth actually exceeds the 2035 figures in Round 7-B. Mr. Ngongang asked for a motion to approve Resolution #11-1. Mr. Pickar made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Gold. The TC approved the motion; therefore, Resolution #11-1 will be recommended to the BRTB for endorsement.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF SELF CERTIFICATION OF THE BALTIMORE REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS:** Ms. Regina Aris took a moment to explain that self-certification is a federal metropolitan planning requirement that occurs in conjunction with the adoption of each TIP, in this case the FY 2011 TIP. The action certifies that the metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all ten applicable requirements as listed on the first page of the resolution. Mr. Ngongang asked for a motion to approve Resolution #11-2. Mr. Banks made a motion for approval that

was seconded by Mr. Gold. The TC approved the motion; therefore, Resolution #11-2 will be recommended to the BRTB for approval.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE FY 2011 TIP AND CONFORMITY**

**DETERMINATION:** Mr. Tyson Byrne introduced Resolution #11-3 for the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program and the Conformity Determination of *Transportation Outlook 2035* and the 2011-2014 TIP. Both documents were out for public review from May 22, 2010 through June 26, 2010. Several comments came in about Baltimore City projects and staff and the city are jointly crafting responses. Mr. Charles Baber then discussed what goes into the Conformity Determination. A question was raised as to which document the Committee was voting on in the resolution. Both documents are linked together as the TIP is not valid without the Conformity Determination and the Conformity Determination is based on the projects within the TIP. Mr. Baber then explained the attachments relating to air quality. Mr. Ngongang asked for a motion to approve Resolution #11-3. Mr. Pickar made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Gold. The TC approved the motion; therefore, Resolution #11-3 will be recommended to the BRTB for approval.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF STREET SMART PROCLAMATION:**

Ms. Stephanie Yanovitz explained that the resolution was essentially a proclamation in support of safety initiatives directed at improving pedestrian and bicycle conditions. On July 8, the region will launch Spring activities with media and internet tools. It was clarified that Street Smart is a pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign conducted through communications that target awareness and enforcement across the region by the analysis of crash data. Mr. Gold asked about the location of crashes and Ms. Yanovitz indicated that data was on our web site. Mr. Ngongang asked for a motion to approve Resolution #11-4. Mr. Gold made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Pickar. The TC approved the motion; therefore, Resolution #11-4 will be recommended to the BRTB for endorsement.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO FY 2011 UPWP:**

Mr. Pickar explained that Howard County requested a small reduction in the amount of funds approved for pass-through. At the conclusion of the local budget process, the county had less available matching funds for the federal funds than was previously anticipated. Mr. Ngongang asked for a motion to approve Resolution #11-5. Mr. Banks made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Pickar. The TC approved the motion; therefore, Resolution #11-5 will be recommended to the BRTB for endorsement.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE BALTIMORE RED LINE TRANSIT PROJECT:**

Ms. Diane Ratcliff, Maryland Transit Administration, outlined the improvements added to the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Baltimore Red Line. With the changes in the New Starts evaluation criteria and the expected ridership increase of 60,000 riders generated from MTA's 2008 On Board Rider Survey, MTA is able to add \$121 million to the project. These

improvements include double tracking the Cooks Lane tunnel; a high end signal system; enhancements to the train maintenance facility to be constructed on Calverton Road; a crossover in the three-mile downtown tunnel; and four additional light rail vehicles. *Transportation Outlook 2035* is below the increased cost of \$1.778 billion in current dollars and this resolution is to approve the intent of the BRTB to continue the project at the new funding level. In addition, a TIP sheet will be added to the 2011-2014 TIP to reflect the intent to apply for New Starts funds for Project Engineering. Mr. Gold indicated that he liked MTA's presentation and that this resolution is about the intent to continue the project at the higher funding level; however, with the next long range transportation plan in the works, the BRTB cannot guarantee that the additional funds will be available. Mr. Ngongang asked for a motion to approve Resolution #11-6. Ms. Carolina Arbelaez made a motion for approval that was seconded by Mr. Scott Graf. The TC approved the motion, and Resolution #11-6 will be recommended to the BRTB for approval.

***[Handout: Resolution #11-6 Amended]***

**IMAGINE 2060 AND PLAN IT 2035:**

Ms. Aris explained that Ms. Jody McCullough has left BMC to return to the FHWA and that Mr. Terry Freeland will be assuming responsibility for overseeing the completion of *imagine 2060* and the development of the next long-range transportation plan update.

**Status of Imagine 2060 Open Houses to date:**

Mr. Freeland gave a brief overview of progress on the *imagine 2060* initiative. The second round of public meetings wrapped up on June 24. BMC staff is working on written summaries for each of these public meetings and will provide them to committee and board members when they have been completed. Also, staff is tabulating and analyzing the public input from these meetings and will provide the results in written form when the analysis is complete. Approximately 170 responses (i.e., different land use / transportation system combinations) were received in the second round of public meetings.

**Comments on Long-Range Transportation Plan goals & Objectives:**

Mr. Freeland referred the members to the long-range transportation goals sent in the packet. Staff is soliciting comments on these goals from the committee members. Mr. Freeland also referred members to the livability principles established through the FHWA / HUD / US EPA partnership. BMC's FHWA liaison has recommended that staff consider these livability principles when developing and refining the goals for the next long-range plan update.

Ms. Aris added that the goals will support the next phase of the long-range plan process: the call for projects to be sent later this summer to the partner agencies and jurisdictions. She asked that committee members send any comments they have to Mr. Freeland by July 19.

***[Handout: Baltimore Region Long Range Transportation Plan 2035 – Development of Goals]***

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Todd Lang reported that a Partnership for Sustainable Communities was formed by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure that housing and transportation goals are met while simultaneously protecting the environment, promoting equitable development, and helping to address the challenges of climate change.

***[Handout: Technical Committee Rules of Procedure]***

With no other business to discuss, Mr. Ngongang asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and have a Closed Session to discuss proposed Request for Proposals (RFPs). Mr. Gold moved for adjournment, with Mr. Pickar seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.