

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

June 27, 2013

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

4:35 – 5:40 P.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 P.M. by the Chair, County Executive David Craig who welcomed everyone to the 250th meeting of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB). Mr. Craig welcomed new BRTB members, the Honorable Jim Smith at MDOT and Mr. Robert Smith at MTA. He asked that citizens limit their testimony to 3 minutes each or 5 minutes for representatives of organizations to make sure that there is time for all to be heard. He also asked that citizens seeking to comment on specific action items on the agenda hold those comments until those items are brought before the Board; time will be provided during consideration of each item.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

- Mr. Stephen Lauria, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), reported on recent CAC public involvement activities and accomplishments. He stated that the CAC has been submitting feedback to the BRTB on its work products and transportation projects. Through these resolutions, the CAC often recommends that projects offer better integration of Complete Streets principles and increase access to jobs. Mr. Lauria stated that there has been significant progress in addressing these concerns, however there is still more that needs to be done. On June 20th the CAC co-sponsored a Community Workshop on Environmental Justice and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. This fall, the CAC will be joining the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Group in co-sponsoring a forum on pedestrian safety. Finally, Mr. Lauria noted that the CAC has initiated a practice of hosting CAC meetings in jurisdictions. A meeting was held in Baltimore County in April and a meeting this fall in Howard County is being scheduled. He thanked the BRTB for their support in scheduling additional meetings in the jurisdictions.
- Ms. Mary Alexander stated she is a resident of East Baltimore. She joined the CAC because she was upset about local businesses looking for employees from out of state when local residents

are willing and ready to work. She said that too much focus was on helping big business, and then asked about ordinary people.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake reported that Baltimore City establishes Memorandum of Agreement with local employers about hiring practices. She recommended that Ms. Alexander and other residents connect with the Mayor's Office of Employee Development (MOED) which focuses on job training and career development for youth and adults, as well as serving as a "concierge" for employers looking for City residents to fill positions. Ms. Alexander asked if the Mayor could refer her directly to the appropriate person at MOED as she had called and was transferred around to several people. Mayor Rawlings-Blake agreed to follow-up with Ms. Alexander.

Ms. Alexander thanked the Mayor for her assistance and encouraged the other BRTB members to think about access to jobs for all residents as they plan local transportation and economic development projects.

- Ms. Michele Rosenberg offered positive comments on the Community Workshop on Environmental Justice and Title VI in Transportation held on June 20th at BMC. She said that the event showed how organizations can collaborate and work together successfully. She also said you could tell it was a valuable event when many of the attendees stayed well after the event concluded to talk and share information. Ms. Rosenberg commended Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda and other staff for pulling together this helpful event.
- Ms. Heather Weir thanked Baltimore City for a bench at a local bus stop. She said that a little bench at the corner of Greenmount Avenue may not seem like much in comparison to the millions of dollars spent on transportation, but it is so helpful to the people with disabilities and seniors that live in her building. Ms. Weir reported that she was told to call 311 by an MTA operator about the bench and within 6 days she was surprised to see that the bench was installed.

2. APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Craig introduced Resolution #13-27 in support of applications for consideration through the CMAQ program. Mr. Todd Lang described that the requests for funding are from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program which are jointly administered by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. These funds have been allocated to the BRTB by MDOT to implement emission reduction projects in the Baltimore region. The current application process opened on January 28 and closed on March 12. Mr. Rick Gordon

from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association (MARAMA) was introduced to provide the recommendations from the review team. First a 3-member technical review team compiled quantitative and qualitative scores that were then sent to a 7-member subcommittee. This group evaluated the projects based upon their ability to reduce air pollution emissions from the transportation sector. Three projects were recommended to move forward including: Baltimore City Westside Bicycle Improvement Project, Anne Arundel County / BWI Business Partnership vanpool incentive program and a regionwide bicycle parking project. A question was raised if all of the funds allocated to the BRTB for CMAQ will have been programmed with these selections. Mr. Lang responded that staff will work with the appropriate committees to open a second selection process to allocate the available funding and that projects that were not recommended during this period would be eligible to re-apply.

Mr. Craig asked for a motion to approve Resolution #13-27. A motion for approval was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Rawlings-Blake. Resolution #13-27 was unanimously approved.

3. ELECTION OF BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD OFFICERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

Mr. Lang stated that the BRTB is being asked to elect a slate of officers for the BRTB during Fiscal Year 2014 which will begin July 1, 2013. A Nominating Committee was appointed and returned a recommended slate of officers including Harford County for Chair and the City of Annapolis for Vice-chair. Mr. Craig then asked the Board to call for nominations from the floor, there were no new nominations. This was followed by a vote for officers which was approved unanimously as presented.

4. BRIEFING FROM THE NEWLY APPOINTED SECRETARY OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Honorable James T. Smith thanked the BRTB for the opportunity to present and appreciated the difference now that he is not a County Executive at the table but the Secretary of a department full of talented people. Mr. Smith appreciates the revenue increase that will allow the department to get work done. There will be \$4.4 billion dollars over six years and construction can now get underway that have been studied, designed and engineered. Mr. Smith gave a nod to another new BRTB member, Mr. Robert Smith at MTA. Mr. Smith stated that 57,000 jobs are tied to the announcement of \$1 billion worth of projects to date and folks will see what they are getting for their dollars.

Mr. Smith also shared his excitement to be working with the BRTB. He believes that the BRTB and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council have become even more important in light of the federal approach of having the MPO play such a major role in determining what the local government and the state have to do to satisfy federal laws such as the Clean Air Act, making the BRTB even more important

than it was just a few years ago. This is a partnership that we all need to increase the vitality of Maryland and improve the lives of the people who live here.

County Executive Ken Ulman thanked Mr. Smith and welcomed Mr. Robert Smith. Mr. Ulman extended his appreciation for the added investment in MARC for evening and weekend service.

5. BRIEFING FROM THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF FREIGHT AND MULTIMODALISM

Mr. Bradley Smith began a presentation that included a review of 4 passenger and commuter rail projects and one freight rail project. 1) The largest project is Maryland's participation in the Amtrak Northeast Corridor (NEC) planning effort to determine service development needs by 2040 along a corridor spanning Washington, D.C. to Boston, MA. The initial planning effort should be complete by 2015, followed by work on breakout projects. 2) A description of a project near the BWI rail station that would add nine miles of track between the Halethorpe station in Baltimore County to north of the Odenton station in Anne Arundel County. This 4th track will allow a realignment of platforms at the BWI station to increase capacity. Planning will be complete in 2015 with the remaining schedule dependent on securing funding. 3) Currently underway is preliminary engineering and environmental documentation for a new tunnel to replace the existing B&P tunnel built in 1873. A new tunnel will support higher train speeds and allow expanded capacity on the Northeast Corridor through Baltimore City. Consideration of rehabilitating the existing tunnel for freight needs is also under consideration. 4) Another project pursuing preliminary engineering and environmental documentation is the Susquehanna River Bridge. The scope for a new river crossing for rail will allow for increased capacity and also accommodate higher speed passenger operations in this same Northeast Corridor. The existing bridge will be considered for continued use by MARC, Amtrak regional and freight service. 5) Mr. Smith described efforts to relocate the CSX intermodal facility currently at Seagirt Marine terminal to another location that will free up space at the port and also allow for double stack of container cargo. Last September, after initiating a review of 4 other locations, MDOT and CSX identified the Mount Clare Yard in southwest Baltimore City as the preferred site for a new facility. This underutilized rail property is already owned by CSX and can be ready by spring of 2015. There was a discussion of economic benefits from this project that lead Mr. Ken Ulman to comment that a reconsideration of the benefits to include jobs created off site would be beneficial.

Following the presentation a question was posed as to why this site was selected after all of the effort that went into the original four sites under consideration. Mr. Smith stated that the Mt. Clare site is smaller than they were originally looking for so was not included in the initial screening. Another question was whether there would be transit to the site or nearby distribution and

warehouse jobs to allow City residents an opportunity for employment. Mr. Smith stated there were conversations with MTA underway related to the #53 line serving the area.

[PowerPoint: Current Rail Initiatives in Maryland]

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business to discuss, Mr. Craig asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cardwell made a motion with Mr. Shoemaker seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

George Cardwell (for the Honorable Laura Neuman)

Anne Arundel County Executive

The Honorable Joshua Cohen (Vice Chair)

Mayor, City of Annapolis

The Honorable David R. Craig (Chair)

Harford County Executive

The Honorable Richard E. Hall

Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning

The Honorable Kevin Kamenetz

Baltimore County Executive

Kathy Kinsey (for the Honorable Robert Summers)

Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment

The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

Mayor, City of Baltimore

The Honorable Haven Shoemaker

Carroll County Board of Commissioners

The Honorable James T. Smith

Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation

The Honorable Robert Smith

Administrator, Maryland Transit Administration

The Honorable Ken Ulman

Howard County Executive

Staff and Guests

Mary Alexander, Citizen and Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

Mrs. Alexander, Citizen

Jon Arason, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning (BRTB empowered rep)

Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

Toni Bridges, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Tyson Byrne, MDOT

Ben Cohen, BWI Business Partnership, Inc.

Amanda Conn, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)

John Cutonilli, Citizen

Samuel Davis, Central Maryland Regional Transit

Terri Dunbar, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)

Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment (BRTB empowered rep)

Rick Gordon, Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association

Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC

Don Halligan, MDOT (BRTB empowered rep)

Victor Henry, BMC

Emery Hines, Baltimore County Department of Public Works (BRTB empowered rep)

Mark Howard, CAC

William Hwang, Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BRTB empowered rep)

Pat Keller, Maryland Transit Administration (BRTB empowered rep)

Larry Klimovitz, BMC

Todd Lang, BMC

Steve Lauria, Citizen, CAC

Anne Myers, Partners In Care and CAC

Tony McClune, Harford County Department of Planning (BRTB empowered rep)

Mike Nixon, MDOT

John Powell, Howard County Office of Transportation (BRTB empowered rep)

Michele Rosenberg, Citizen and CAC

Ted Rosenberg, Citizen

Bradley Smith, MDOT

Louise Tinkler, CAC

Heather Weir, Citizen

Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning (BRTB empowered rep)

Mary Yull, MTA

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary

Baltimore Regional Transportation Board