

Comment	Topic	Received From	Recommended Response
Access to Information (p. 15)			
<p>1. Re: Having the draft participation plan only available online and in print at the BMC office for public review and comment - If you want participation and comment from the "interested parties", they would either have to have access to a computer or be able to get to the BMC offices.</p>	<p>Access to Information (p. 15)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pat Barth, Harford County (CAC member) 	<p>The BMC/BRTB web site will remain the primary source of information for several reasons (such as: the ability to provide up-to-date information, the opportunity to provide access to many in the region without limits of time, location, etc that would exist if only used print copies.)</p> <p>However, the BRTB recognizes the importance of reaching out to as many people as possible and therefore will expand availability to a number of area libraries in each jurisdiction in the region, as well as the planning offices in each jurisdiction.</p>
Adequate and Timely Public Notice (p. 10)			
<p>2. Suggest public notification period be changed to reflect at least 30 days for public hearings and/or meetings.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Public Meetings/Hearings: Post 30 days prior to mtg BRTB Meetings: Post 30 days prior to date, not 14. Committee Meetings: Have a 30-day notification period instead of 10-14 days. Special meetings: Have a 30-day notification period instead of 10-14 days. 	<p>Adequate and Timely Public Notice (p. 10)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy Rose, Harford County Matthew O'Neill - Capuco Consulting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Public Meetings/Hearings: Currently, the BRTB does provide 30 days notice for public meetings/hearings and documents out for public review. BRTB Meetings: Meeting dates and times for BRTB and subcommittee meetings are currently made available 30 or more days in advance. Agendas will continue to be made public 10-14 days in advance, as information is time sensitive and often unavailable 30 days in advance. Committee Meetings: See #2 above. Special meetings: Will strive to provide 30 days notice for special events.
<p>3. Suggest notification include public announcements via local newspapers, TV and radio.</p>	<p>Adequate and Timely Public Notice (p. 10)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy Rose, Harford County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will send press releases to area newspapers about public comment and review opportunities, special meetings, etc. Will place ads for public review periods in primary print/online news outlet in the region.

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Comment Period for Draft Participation Plan			
<p>4. Changes to public comment period: Originally to end on 10/12/06, extended at the 9/28/06 public meeting until 11/9/06. However, at the 10/4/06 CAC meeting, the deadline was returned to 10/12/06. TRAC does not feel it appropriate to shorten a comment period once the deadline has been publicly announced, and therefore urges the BRTB to return the public comment deadline to 11/9/06.</p>	<p>Comment Period for Draft Participation Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transit Riders Action Council of Metropolitan Baltimore 	<p>The deadline was extended through November 9, 2006.</p>
Diversity			
<p>5. Balance efforts to assure participation of the following communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic/Asian/African American Persons with disabilities Elderly Low-income/poor 	<p>Diversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC 	<p>The BRTB believes that its current efforts are balanced; however, the BRTB understands that public involvement is an ongoing process with room for change. As such, the BRTB remains committed to ensuring diverse involvement and will continue to improve upon its outreach techniques to ensure that individuals and communities from across the region are asked to participate.</p>
<p>6. Provide access assistance to BRTB meetings/events if required, e.g., via paratransit</p>	<p>Diversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC 	<p>In an effort to ensure accessibility the BRTB currently provides some accommodations for people with disabilities (see Accommodations policy) for BRTB meetings and events. At this time, however, the BRTB is unable to assist by arranging or coordinating paratransit services.</p>
<p>7. The participation plan does not seem to cover involving older people in the activity. Though they are covered indirectly since many elderly are disabled not all are who need regular or specialized transportation.</p>	<p>Diversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Eberhard, Howard County 	<p>This participation plan seeks to engage all in the region.</p>
Diversity - Outreach to Traditionally Underserved Communities and Individuals			
<p>8. Add senior citizens to list of underserved communities - currently focuses on minority, low income, disabled</p>	<p>Outreach to Traditionally Underserved Communities & Individuals (App A, p. 21)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy Rose, Harford County 	<p>This section is a summary of relevant Federal law, which does not specifically identify the elderly as a traditionally underserved community. However, the BRTB does recognize this is a growing population with specialized needs. Many of the tasks the BRTB and BMC complete work to address this growing need.</p>

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9. While the Plan says it wants to reach out to certain under-represented groups, it will be difficult at best for them to participate.	Outreach to Traditionally Underserved Communities & Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pat Barth, Harford County (CAC member) 	<p>The BRTB is committed to ensuring diverse involvement and will continue to improve upon its outreach techniques to ensure that individuals and communities from across the region are asked to participate. Additionally, the BRTB requests assistance and further input from CAC members to improve involvement.</p> <p>In addition to its public involvement efforts, the BRTB works to address some of the needs of the traditionally underserved. This is evidenced by BRTB leadership and involvement on the Human service coordination plan (Job Access and Reverse Commute programs), the Baltimore Regional Environmental Justice in Transportation Project, publishing the Out and About Travel Guide, participating in local disability work groups, etc.</p>
10. To increase participation from underserved communities, hold meetings in areas more accessible to them (i.e. closer to home). This would mean less travel for many people, which could mean higher turnouts at meetings.	Outreach to Traditionally Underserved Communities & Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew O'Neill - Capuco Consulting 	When possible, the BRTB will work to hold meetings in local communities, particularly those areas that are traditionally underserved.

Guidelines for Public Participation at BRTB Meetings (p. 11)

<p>11. Fifteen minutes for public participation at the beginning of BRTB meetings is insufficient, particularly in the case of a major issue.</p> <p>-- Recommend extend time limit or do not have a limit.</p>	Guidelines for Public Participation at BRTB Mtgs (p. 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew O'Neill - Capuco Consulting Judy Rose, Harford Co 	Based on previous participation rates a set time of 15 minutes has been sufficient. When insufficient, the Chair has extended the comment time. Should any major issues arise; the Chair will take appropriate actions to extend the time limit.
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LEP (p. 16)

12. Great coverage. Add Middle Eastern language, as this population is quickly increasing.	LEP (p. 16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy Rose, Harford County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on current population levels in the region for these ethnic groups, translating documents into languages such as Arabic, Farsi, or Hindi is not justified. As mentioned in the plan, the BRTB is currently exploring options for providing materials in Spanish. On the web site, we believe that 13 languages is sufficient at this time. However, we will expand the number of languages available as they are made available by Babelfish or other software. Outreach materials already available in alternative languages will continue to be made available (ex:
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			Disabilities brochure from Project Action available in Arabic)
Letter from BRTB Chair (p. 2)			
13. There is no name on the letter from the BRTB chair - Was the statement really written <i>by</i> the Chair in advance of his or her being appointed, or was it written <i>for</i> the Chair in anticipation of his or her being appointed?	Letter from BRTB Chair (p. 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pat Barth, Harford County (CAC member) 	The letter was written by staff. It was left unsigned because it was a draft document.
Media campaign/budget			
14. Develop an organized media campaign and budget. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify intended audiences Use demographic data Find and encourage those likely to become involved 	Media campaign and budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget – Funding for outreach is included in the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). BMC staff will continue working with the local jurisdictions to identify key stakeholders that should be included in outreach efforts. Would like further input from the CAC on potential messages for outreach/media campaign.
15. Promote the idea that development can only follow the public water and sewer lines and the roads.	Media campaign and budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloria Moon, Harford County (CAC member) 	Not applicable to the regional participation plan; however through the BMC web site, we provide information on local plans and B'more Involved announces public comment notices in local jurisdictions to encourage public participation. Land use decisions and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) legislation is under the purview of local jurisdictions.
Meeting Locations and Times (p. 10)			
16. All BRTB and subcommittee meetings should be held on a regular schedule. This allows not only members, but the general public to be able make arrangements to attend the meeting(s) of interest to them.	Meeting Locations and Times (p. 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeffery C. Springer (CAC member) 	Currently, most meetings of the BRTB and its subcommittees are held on a regular schedule. This list is published on the BMC web site and will now be included in the participation plan. For those without access to the BMC web site the list is also available in alternative formats upon request.

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<p>17. Meeting times: The times for the BRTB meetings are scheduled for 9am. Meetings with elected officials are set for 4:30pm. These times pose problems for the working public.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> BRTB Meetings w/elected officials: Reschedule from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Public Meetings on Plans and Programs: Reschedule from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. -OR- hold longer meetings (e.g. 3 to 8 p.m.) Other – consider holding some meetings on weekends 	Meeting Locations and Times (p. 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC • Judy Rose, Harford County • Matthew O'Neill - Capuco Consulting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> BRTB Meetings: At this time the meeting time will remain the same (9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.). Public Meetings on Plans and Programs: Every effort will be made to accommodate extended hours (for example: 3 to 8 p.m.) for all public meetings related to the long and short range plans, as well as any corresponding major amendments. If unable to accommodate, meetings will be held at 7 p.m. Other: The BRTB has in the past hosted meetings on the weekends. When appropriate the BRTB will continue to do so.
<p>18. Meeting locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Offer local and evening/weekend meetings in all jurisdictions Consider rotating broadly accessible meeting locations Suggest that public hearings in particular be held in the areas of local concern to permit the maximum possible attendees. To reach underserved communities, hold meetings in areas more accessible to them (i.e. closer to home). Less travel = higher turnout. 	Meeting Locations and Times (p. 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC • Judy Rose, Harford County • Matthew O'Neill - Capuco Consulting 	<p>In response to public comment, the BRTB will institute the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public hearings/meetings on the long-range plan will be held in each jurisdiction. • Public meetings on the short-range plan (TIP) will be held at BMC. • Public meetings on major amendments to the long-range plan or TIP will be held in the jurisdiction that is impacted, or BMC if regional in nature. <p>Efforts will be made to hold meetings in transit accessible and convenient locations and times to ensure maximum attendance.</p>
Open meetings (Getting Involved: BRTB Committees - p. 11)			
19. Be sure to address meetings that require confidentiality or closed doors (i.e. homeland security).	Open meetings (Getting Involved: BRTB Committees - p. 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation & Public Works Subcommittee 	Will change the text of the plan to: All meetings of the BRTB and subcommittees shall be governed by the Maryland Open Meetings Act and the Maryland Public Information Act. Some portions of meetings may be closed to discuss sensitive budget, finance, personnel, or homeland security issues.

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Outreach			
<p>20. Connect with people where they are to reach those who don't normally attend meetings.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employ innovative outreach ideas. Example: Outreach at a Home Depot on Saturday mornings 2. Get information out to transportation users (especially public transportation) in places and ways that they will see. 3. Make presentations at partner organization meetings 4. Ride transit and collect information from passengers 	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC • Teresa Duggan, Baltimore 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thank you for your excellent suggestions and innovative ideas. The BRTB will further explore these suggestions and implement where possible. 2. BMC Staff are currently talking with MTA and local transit providers to determine advertising policies and costs. 3. Currently doing some outreach presentations, but will expand upon the establishment of a speaker's bureau. Request CAC assistance in setting up presentation dates. 4. Because of current staff and budget limitations the BRTB would not be able to conduct this kind of survey in a manner that would be statistically relevant. However, staff do ride transit and will consider doing some data collection in the future.
<p>21. Broaden outreach beyond the "usual suspects".</p>	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC 	<p>This is an ongoing process that the BRTB is striving to achieve. New innovations such as the use of e-newsletters and an updated and expanded web site have increased involvement by individuals and groups that haven't participated before.</p>
<p>22. Establish a speakers bureau - Prepare a standard/base presentation for use by volunteers in meetings with groups</p>	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC 	<p>BMC staff will work with CAC members to establish a speaker's bureau, standard presentation and training process.</p>
<p>23. When doing outreach at events, gather information & comments. Ideas: 5-minute survey at fairs (use technology, kiosks, etc.)</p>	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC 	<p>Thank you for your excellent suggestions and innovative ideas. The BRTB will further explore these suggestions and implement where possible.</p>
<p>24. Work with the MTA to place signs above seats and flyers in the spaces where bus schedules should be (both of these spaces are often empty). Place on all buses, light rail, metro and MARC.</p>	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa Duggan, Baltimore 	<p>BMC staff are currently researching costs to determine possibility.</p>

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<p>25. Partner with a wide variety of organizations in region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make presentations at their meetings. • Ask them to disseminate info (flyers, newsletters, etc) <p>Potential groups to work with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The League of Women Voters, • Transportation Advocacy Groups, • Historical Societies, Environmental Groups, • Land Use groups (1000 Friends of Maryland has list) • Business Groups • Disability organizations 	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC • Gloria Moon, Harford County (CAC member) • Nancie Etzel (CAC member) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, the BRTB is already in contact with many of these groups. Efforts will be made to strengthen these relationships and improve effectiveness. • As per the mission of the CAC, the BRTB would like further assistance from CAC members to strengthen current relationships and building new partnerships. The BRTB requests that the CAC establish a public involvement and outreach subcommittee to address these and other outreach improvements.
<p>26. Work with community associations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask to hand out materials (printouts and electronic PDFs) to their members. • Ask to announce at meetings, post in newsletters. • Ask for names and addresses of people who would like to receive this information. • Publicize in community association and other local newsletters <p>Check with local governments for lists of community associations</p>	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa Duggan, Baltimore • Gloria Moon, Harford County (CAC member) 	See above
<p>27. Use non-electronic means of information dissemination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Print Media, including advertising inserts 2. Baltimore Examiner has list of government meetings—list BRTB events, meetings, committees, etc. 3. Billboards in well-placed locations 4. Posters on Public Transportation, Public Libraries, Shopping Centers, Educational Facilities, Senior Centers, Recreational Facilities, Facilities for the Disabled, etc. 5. Advertise on Public Transit via posters and electronic displays 	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC • Teresa Duggan, Baltimore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you for your excellent suggestions and innovative ideas. The BRTB will further explore these suggestions and implement where possible. • As per the mission of the CAC, the BRTB would like further assistance from CAC members to strengthen current relationships and building new partnerships. The BRTB requests that the CAC establish a public involvement and outreach subcommittee to address these and other outreach improvements.

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<p>6. Direct mail</p> <p>7. Leave a phone number and web address on posters asking people for input or to participate in survey questions. Keep short, easy to understand, and not too time consuming.</p>			
<p>28. Only some have access to your web site. Post printed materials in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All public libraries • Academic libraries if appropriate. • Local stores (1-page); Have local volunteers post. • Senior centers • Retirement homes • Offices on Aging • Recreation and community centers • All municipal buildings <p>Transportation for elderly or disabled is often provided to these places and will reach those who need it.</p>	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa Duggan, Baltimore • Gloria Moon, Harford County (CAC member) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above
<p>29. Broadcast e-mails must reach the widest possible audience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain & disseminate to Community Association, Political Advocacy and Business Group membership lists • BRTB Staff and CAC Members need to assure an exhaustive effort to enlarge the list 	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, the BRTB is already in contact with many of these groups. Efforts will be made to strengthen these relationships and improve effectiveness. • As per the mission of the CAC, the BRTB would like further assistance from CAC members to strengthen current relationships and building new partnerships. The BRTB requests that the CAC establish a public involvement and outreach subcommittee to address these and other outreach improvements.
<p>30. Work with city and county council members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask local council people to distribute to their email lists and announce at council meetings. Provide copies of your newsletter to distribute. • Stay connected by sending e-news, newsletters, and event announcements. 	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloria Moon, Harford County (CAC member) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The voting members of the BRTB are the chief elected officials in each jurisdiction (and the Secretary of MDOT) and therefore are our key contacts. However, newsletters and e-newsletters are currently being provided to many county council and general assembly members. • Efforts will be made to expand this list, strengthen existing relationships, and improve effectiveness.

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31. Use Comcast or other local Cable TV Public Access on a scheduled basis to broadcast BRTB meetings and to announce BRTB information, events, decisions, etc.	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC 	This option may be considered in the future, but not at this time.
32. Door-to-door outreach where appropriate in specific instances, balanced with special outreach to regional constituencies.	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC 	This option may be considered in the future, but not at this time.
Participation Plan			
33. Change the name of the plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come up with a more descriptive name for the plan. The subtitle is better than the title because it provides more detail about what the plan involves/relates to. • Remove the last 4 words of the title "Draft Public Participation Plan for Outreach and Education.". This limits the scope. Public participation and involvement (both terms used throughout the DPPP) properly include more than being outreached to or being educated. 	Participation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BPAG • Arthur E. Cohen, b'more mobile (CAC member) 	Will modify title to read <i>"2007 Public Participation Plan for Transportation Planning in the Baltimore Region"</i>
34. The plan should be drafted once SAFETEA-LU regulations are finalized.	Participation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthur E. Cohen, b'more mobile (CAC member) 	The BRTB believes that the proposed plan follows the spirit of intent and guidelines of SAFETEA-LU. Due to timeframe for annual public review and evaluation of the current plan, it was necessary to move forward using the proposed federal guidance.
35. Some things in old participation plan are not carried over into new one.	Participation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthur E. Cohen, b'more mobile (CAC member) 	True. Information that was outdated as well as any methods of involvement that were found to be ineffective in the past was deleted. As a result of current public comments, some of these strategies are added back or improved upon.

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<p>36. Place some info in tables. For simplicity, these tables could be provided as appendices – and included in the table of contents and referred to in the body of the text.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Standard meeting dates and times. Include: Meeting name, frequency, Day/date, Location, Time, Contact information, Notes Reports and Plans: Publishing a schedule of documents informs the public well in advance of when the BRTB intends to publish, and provide for public review and comment, its transportation-related products. Include: Title, Purpose, frequency, timeline, Comment period, Notes Staff contact info: Provide names and contact information for BRTB staff 	Participation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeffery C. Springer (CAC member) BPAG 	<p>Staff will review and add when appropriate.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Standard meeting dates and times: Will add, but please note that these meetings are subject to change. Reports and Plans: This is a good idea, however, we are unable to include a detailed schedule because these timelines often change. Information is made available to the public when ready. Staff contact info: Cannot include all names and contacts - too many and may become outdated. However, will add 3 primary contacts in easy to find location in document: Transportation Division Director, Policy Director, and Public Involvement Coordinator.
<p>37. Make new alternative formats for the plan available: Braille, DVDs (Mailable), Tapes and CDs (Mailable and mobile), Alternative Languages</p>	Participation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC 	<p>BMC staff is currently researching costs to determine possibility of providing alternative formats through the National Federation of the Blind and/or other vendors.</p>
Plans and Programs: Participation Plan (p. 15)			
<p>38. Page 15, the federally identified list of interested parties will have an opportunity for input and comment. That list is voluminous. Will all of those groups and individuals be given access to the draft plan in a manner other than the web site or visiting your offices?</p>	Plans and Programs: Participation Plan (p. 15)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pat Barth, Harford County (CAC member) 	<p>A paper copy of the draft plan was mailed to numerous "interested parties". In the future, we will e-mail/mail this list of contacts information regarding public comment opportunities and identify where the information could be found; such as internet, local planning offices, libraries, etc.</p>

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<p>39. Is a new Participation Plan written every 18 months to 3 years when a new CAC is appointed, or is this Plan the same one used by prior CACs?</p>	<p>Plans and Programs: Participation Plan (p. 15)</p>	<p>2. Pat Barth, Harford County (CAC member)</p>	<p>The participation plan is reviewed annually, usually by the CAC. The last CAC did review the 2005 Participation Plan prior to the end of their term. They reaffirmed the 2004 plan and only recommended some changes to the organization of the document – not the content. As a result of their feedback the plan was reformatted using a graphic design program to add color, photos, images, maps, etc and try to make it more reader friendly.</p> <p>This current participation plan is based on the last one. We used the last plan as a basis for this one, then looked at the new federal metropolitan planning regulations and addressed them in this new plan as needed.</p>
<p>Public Review and Comment: Consideration and Response to Public Input (p. 13)</p>			
<p>40. Revise the participation plan to explicitly encourage and ensure much fuller and more active public participation and involvement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At a minimum...include assurance from the BRTB that any and all transportation planning proposals developed by members of the public (and the CAC) which are submitted to the BRTB will receive full and open consideration, with written documentation by the BRTB in an open record of its decision to accept, reject, or return for revision any aspects of these public proposals, and the basis for such decisions. 2. The tone of the DPPP is one of public reaction to what is put before it by the BRTB (example phrases: "comment by," "review by," "consultation with" and "advice from" "input from" and "engagement of"). Phrases are ambiguous, applying as they do either to a passive or active process of involving the public. 3. Public participation and involvement should mean more. Its scope should be broader. 	<p>Public Review & Comment: Consideration and Response to Public Input (p. 12-13)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthur E. Cohen, b'more mobile (CAC member) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - All transportation proposals will receive full and open consideration and, within reason, the BRTB does and will respond to proposals submitted for consideration. 2 - The Participation Plan defines a process for affected parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved. Please provide any additional feedback you may have on ways to modify the plan to address your concerns. 3 - See # 1

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<p>Specifically, there should be an explicit openness on the part of the BRTB to receive both from members of the public and of the CAC any proposals on transportation for the Baltimore Metro Area which involve their own ideas, initiatives, and even fully-developed plans. If the public is to participate and be involved, this must go far beyond the current process of merely reacting to what is put before it by the BRTB.</p> <p>4. There is no question that the BRTB has the authority to make the final decision about which public suggestions to follow. However, prior to that decision, there should properly be few limits on what the public is actively permitted and encouraged to submit by way of suggestions to the BRTB. Authority for this can be inferred from the phrase “full and open participation process” contained in USDOT Proposed Rule 23 CFR sec. 316(a)(1)(x).</p> <p>5. Any action taken by the BRTB on such public proposals must be documented in a written record. This is consistent with the requirement in Proposed Rule 23 CFR sec. 316(a)(1)(vi) which requires the MPO, through the Public Participation Plan, to “[d]emonstrate explicit consideration and response to public input received during the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program).”</p>			<p>4 - Re: <i>“...there should properly be few limits on what the public is actively permitted and encouraged to submit by way of suggestions to the BRTB.”</i></p> <p>The BRTB remains committed to accepting public input and does welcome public comment at any point. This is evidenced by the opportunity for the public to comment on any topic at every BRTB meeting, as well as the option to submit comments on any topic via the BMC web site. In addition, members of the public are encouraged and welcome to send their comments in writing at any time for BRTB review and consideration.</p> <p>A key opportunity for the public to share their innovative thoughts and ideas is during public review and comment periods. Although the public is being asked to review a draft, the BRTB welcomes and encourages any feedback on the draft – both on what is included and also on what is not included but should be added.</p> <p>The public is also encouraged to participate at the local level, as jurisdictional plans feed into the regional and state planning processes.</p> <p>5 - The BRTB currently reviews, responds to, and publicly documents all public comments received on any document out for public review.</p>
Readability of Participation Plan			
<p>41. Too many technical/complex expressions (jargon); Verbiage is often too verbose—keep it simple</p>	<p>Readability (Participation Plan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft attempted to simplify concepts and issues in the text and utilized the Flesch-Kincaid Reading Level tools to improve readability. • Request input from CAC on specific examples that need to be addressed.

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<p>42. Written from point of view of BRTB Staff and Representatives, not the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People care about issues; Have difficulty expressing their opinions and identifying the specifics, processes and context of public documents and processes 	Readability (Participation Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC 	Request input from CAC on specific examples that need to be addressed.
<p>43. Overall, I think the draft Plan is a very well written and easy to understand document. It sets out clearly what everyone is expected to accomplish, the time frames, and responsibilities.</p>	Readability (Participation Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Barth, Harford County (CAC member) 	Thank you!
<p>44. Overall, I believe this is a good document. It is well organized and the language is clear and concise.</p>	Readability (Participation Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeffery C. Springer (CAC member) 	Thank you!
Regional Information Center (p. 9)			
<p>45. The RIC is a valuable and highly relevant source of information. However, its availability is limited to weekdays, during the normal workday, and for those who have the ability to travel to the center. For all intents and purposes, this information is not publicly available.</p> <p>Strongly recommend exploring further alternatives for making this material more accessible to the general public – such as the Internet, or possibly having multiple RICs (at the main branches of each of the counties served by the BRTB).</p>	RIC (p. 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC • Jeffery C. Springer (CAC member) 	<p>The RIC is a specialized library operated in partnership between the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the BMC. Operating an RIC in each jurisdiction would be cost prohibitive to the BMC. However, the public does have a number of alternatives to obtain information from the RIC without having to visit the RIC in person.</p> <p>For example, the RIC catalog of materials will soon be available via the internet and can be accessed online by any individual or librarian at any library in the region. Individuals wishing to review a document from the RIC are able to borrow the document from their local library via Interlibrary Loan.</p> <p>Further, the RIC librarian is available via telephone and e-mail to answer questions and provide data or other information.</p>
Plans and Programs: Participation Plan (p. 15)			
<p>46. Add senior citizens - currently focuses on minority, low income, disabled</p>	TEA 21 (Appendix B, p.24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy Rose, Harford County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove Tea-21 text (outdated). <p>Text of Federal law - can't change. May be able to address elsewhere in the document</p>

Comment	Topic	Received From	Recommended Response
Web site			
47. Streaming video of meetings via internet using interactive technology	Web site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC 	This option may be considered in the future, but not at this time.
<p>48. I have some concerns about the emphasis throughout the Plan to use the BRTB web site for communicating with those who are typically under-represented in transportation planning or those with special transportation needs, including low-income, minority, elderly, and disabled populations.</p> <p>On page 8 it says the core tool of BRTB to disseminate information is their web site. I am not sure how many of the low-income, minorities, elderly, and disabled have access to computers or the training needed to use them. For the elderly and disabled, this could be an issue even if they are able to get to a library.</p>	Web site (p. 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Barth, Harford County (CAC member) 	<p>The BMC/BRTB web site will remain the primary source of this information for several reasons (such as: the ability to provide up-to-date information, the opportunity to provide access to many in the region without limits of time, location, etc that would exist if only used print copies.)</p> <p>However, the BRTB recognizes the importance of reaching out to as many people as possible and therefore will expand its outreach and publicity efforts to both promote the web site as a resource, as well as communicate additional non-web-based ways the public can become involved.</p>
<p>49. The Plan has a lot of emphasis on making documents available electronically and on web sites, but that will only help the people already involved in planning.</p> <p>I personally think that www.baltometro.org is a great web site, but most people from the general public would never go there. Instead of expecting people to come to the web site, efforts need to be made to place clear and simple flyers and posters in places where people already are in the real world.</p>	Web site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa Duggan, Baltimore 	See above.