

## BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

April 26, 2016

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

9:00 to 9:45 A.M.

### MINUTES

The 280<sup>th</sup> meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Valdis Lazdins.

#### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2016 BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Lazdins. A motion was made by Mr. Tony McClune to approve the minutes and seconded by Ms. Lynda Eisenburg. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

No one from the public offered comments at this meeting.

#### 3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda reported on two open comment periods, one closed comment period and the upcoming Bike to Work Day:

- 2016 Federal Certification of the BRTB, through April 29, 2016. The public meeting was held on Monday, April 25 at BMC with approximately 20 people in attendance. In addition, staff have received approximately 60 surveys to date, as well as a number of verbal and written comments.

Ms. Haines Benkhedda encouraged anyone who has not yet taken a moment to complete the survey to do so by visiting [www.baltometro.org](http://www.baltometro.org). This is an excellent opportunity to directly express opinions to FHWA and FTA about the work of the BRTB and its efforts to address major transportation issues facing the region. Staff looks forward to receiving all of the feedback as it continues efforts to improve the public involvement process.

- Carrs Mill Road Bridge Replacement Project (*Amended 2016-2019 TIP Amendment*) is open for comment through Friday, May 6, 2016 with public meetings on Monday, May 2 from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Harford County Public Library, Bel Air branch and a presentation to the PAC Policy Subcommittee on Wednesday, May 4 at 4:30 p.m. at BMC.
- Ms. Haines Benkhedda noted that the comment period for the MD 32 Widening Project, advancing from 2030 to 2020 (*Amendment to Maximize 2040* and the *Amended 2016 – 2019 TIP*) closed on Friday, April 8, 2016. No public comments were received during this time.
- Lastly, Ms. Haines Benkhedda reported that Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 20 and features over 30 events around the region. Registration is live at [www.Bike2WorkCentralMD.com](http://www.Bike2WorkCentralMD.com).

**[Handout: Public Involvement Report – April 2016]**

#### **4. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Eric Norton, PAC Vice Chair, reported the following from the [April PAC meeting](#):

- The PAC approved PAC Resolution #2016-03: Comments on the 2016 [Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\) and Federal Transit Administration \(FTA\) Federal Certification Review of the BRTB](#). The PAC reviewed and offered comments on the purpose and objectives of the certification review, progress made since the 2012 Certification, and key public involvement questions.

In general, the PAC believes that the process has improved significantly since 2012. The BRTB does a great job of supporting the PAC and the public involvement process and they have made a diligent effort to make the improvements in the process as recommended by FHWA/FTA after the last certification review.

The PAC also feels that although the public involvement process for *Maximize2040* went well, with many comments received and considered by the MPO during the process, there is significant concern among PAC members over the manner in which the Red Line project was cancelled. While it may have been legal, members feel it circumvented the public involvement process conducted for the years prior to the cancellation. It seems to many that the public was offered many opportunities to comment going in and none going out. The PAC encourages a review of the planning process to address such significant changes.

*Maximize2040* was also short-circuited by the cancellation of the Red Line which occurred late in the process. This left a gaping hole in the plan which has yet to be rectified. In addition, the PAC noted several areas in which *Maximize2040* doesn't achieve the goals and performance measures, without an explanation as to why or what could be done about it.

Overall, the PAC feels the BRTB is compliant with the Federal requirements and makes a serious effort to make continuous improvements to the public involvement process.

- The PAC approved PAC Resolution #2016-04 in support of the *Maximize2040* and the TIP amendment for MD 32 widening and safety improvements.

- The PAC approved PAC Resolution #2016-05, providing support, with comments, on the BRTB's updated Budget and Work Program for FY 2016-2017. The comments and recommended changes on the updated FY 2017 UPWP relate to the following projects and focus areas:
  - Project: Boston Street Multimodal Corridor Study
  - Project: Regional Coordination and Planning, Transit Service Study
  - Project: Regional Coordination and Planning, Regional Patapsco Greenway
  - Focus Area: Regional Attitudes and Behavior Differences in Commuter Travel Options
  - Focus Area: Locally Operated Transit Systems (LOTS) Funding and Support
  - Focus Area: Sponsored Regional Events
- Mr. Norton also noted that several members of the PAC attended the April 25<sup>th</sup> public meeting on the 2016 Federal Certification review. Though there was low public (non-PAC) turnout, the meeting on the process was very open and allowed for all in attendance to share their feedback verbally or in writing.

## **5. REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP**

Ms. Regina Aris reported on the April 6 meeting of the ICG:

- BMC staff provided four lists of draft projects for the FY 2017-2020 TIP to ICG members. These lists contain project names, descriptions, TIP project year, and year of operations, along with a draft assessment of whether or not the project is exempt from conformity requirements. The ICG agreed to the non-exempt/exempt status of all of the projects as listed on the handouts, with the exception of the Curtis Avenue project. This project is exempt from conformity requirements because it is not adding capacity.
- BMC staff presented information on one draft amendment to the *Amended 2016-2019 TIP*. This amendment is for the Carrs Mill Road Bridge #216 over Bear Cabin Branch project. The ICG agreed that the project is exempt from conformity requirements because it is a bridge replacement project that does not add lanes.
- Ms. Alex Brun, MDE, shared the good news that the Baltimore region is attaining the 75 ppb standard for ozone. Now MDE is working with the Governor's Office on a re-designation request for EPA on ozone and is now in the process of establishing a 10-year Maintenance SIP. The maintenance plan will show how the region will continue to meet the standard. MDE has begun modeling to establish the mobile budgets for the EPA submission. BMC is now reviewing to see how those numbers relate to transportation output. There will be 3 years of mobile budgets in the Maintenance Plan, they include: 2014, 2025, and 2030. MDE plans to submit the SIP to EPA in early summer after working with ICG and the BRTB. There will be a 30-day review before going to EPA.

## 6. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Scott Graf reported:

- Resolution #16-14 was introduced to the Technical Committee. SHA is requesting to advance the implementation date from 2030 to 2020 for the segment of the MD 32 corridor from MD 108 to Linden Church Road in *Maximize2040* and the *Amended 2016-2019 TIP*. The Interagency Consultation Group has determined that the project is non-exempt and thus it was included in the regional emissions analysis of *Maximize2040* with a year of operation of 2030. Since the year of operation for this segment has advanced to 2020, the model has been retested with this earlier year and the ICG has determined that the project will not worsen the region's air quality or delay the attainment of National Air Quality Standards.
- Resolution #16-15 was introduced to the Technical Committee. Staff reviewed the status of the Addendum to the FY 2016-2017 UPWP. In FY 2016 the BRTB decided to move to a 2-year UPWP with the option to update the budget and any new tasks in the second year. With approval of funding at the federal level the budget for FY 2017 has been adjusted to reflect new numbers. Additionally, there are four new subarea projects as well as seven new focus areas. The focus areas include: attitude and behavior survey, traffic management in relation to the CMP task, lots support, alternative transportation options, household survey, and regional events.
- Resolution # 16-16 was introduced to the Technical Committee to reflect updates to the TC Rules of Procedure agreed upon at the March meeting with the edits shown in red. Subsequently, MDOT suggested several additional changes after the mailing that is shown in blue track changes. Staff walked through the MDOT edits to provide all members a chance to understand and ask questions. It appeared all members were satisfied with the proposed updates.
- Two graduate students from the Johns Hopkins/Maryland Institute College of Art discussed their recent work exploring design-based solutions to improve transit riders experience on MTA's service by upgrading information on MTA's signs and kiosks. Their approach was to use a "human centered design process" to create a system of signage and wayfinding that is viable and meets MTA's business requirements, is technologically feasible and can be easily maintained, is desirable and usable by transit users. They conducted user interviews, did research on "best practices", identified themes, critiqued current signage and info and developed a rough concept diagram of information and layout for MTA to consider during BaltimoreLINK changes.
- MTA briefed the Technical Committee on BaltimoreLINK signage and wayfinding providing information on project goals, research, and work plan and draft schedule. The project goal is to have signage and wayfinding in place by June 2017 that is feasible to implement, makes the system easy to navigate, and is flexible across core modes. Update to the signage and wayfinding will be based on the principles of good design to be flexible, legible, accessible and good looking. Mta has identified several agencies with innovative practices. Examples from the identified agencies were shared. Based on this research and the need to replace 6,000 plus signs, progress to date for sign information elements are as follows: route name, route destination, service frequency, and bus stop id. An implementation plan along with stakeholder outreach is under development.

- MDE is working with the Governor's Office on a re-designation request for EPA on ozone and is now in the process of establishing a 10-year Maintenance SIP. The maintenance plan will show how the region will continue to meet the standard. MDE has begun modeling to establish the mobile budgets for the EPA submission; BMC is now reviewing to see how those numbers relate to transportation output. Looking for consensus on the numbers to include in the Plan. There will be 3 years of mobile budgets in the Maintenance Plan, they include: 2014, 2025, and 2030. Try to align with travel demand horizon years. MDE plans to submit to EPA in early summer after working with ICG and the BRTB. There will be a 30-day review before going to EPA.
- The Freight Movement Task Force recommended the creation of the P-2-P working group in late 2015 to study the impacts of the proposed development at Sparrows Point and the increased freight traffic around the Port of Baltimore and region. The mission of the P-2-P working group is to lead and coordinate efforts to study access improvements between the port and TPA. The first task is a traffic study to determine if there is adequate capacity for efficient truck movement along the existing highway infrastructure to accommodate growth in container and induced (related growth in passenger and commercial traffic) traffic with minimal impact to local communities.
- A briefing on the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) regarding matters of nondiscrimination on the basis of disability, BMC falls under two federal laws, the ADA of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Title II of the ADA applies specifically to all activities of state and local governments, including metropolitan planning organizations such as BMC/BRTB, and requires that government entities provide people with disabilities equal opportunity to benefit from all of the programs, services and activities that may be offered. BMC staff conducted an ADA self-evaluation using the 2010 ADA standards for accessible design. Areas checked for compliance include approach and entrance to the building, parking, reception area, library, conference rooms, kitchen, and doors and entrances.

## **7. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #16-14**

The BRTB was asked to consider Resolution #16-14 in support of an amendment to *Maximize2040* and the *Amended 2016-2019 TIP*. Mr. Todd Lang said that SHA is requesting to advance the implementation date from 2030 to 2020 for the segment of the MD 32 corridor from MD 108 to Linden Church Road. The project was publicized for public review from March 4, 2016 through April 8, 2016 with a public meeting at the Dayton Oaks Elementary School on March 22 and a presentation to the public advisory committee on April 6. Both the Technical Committee and the PAC recommended approval of Resolution #16-14.

Ms. Tara Penders presented on the project. It will upgrade MD 32 to a four lane divided highway from MD 108 to Linden Church Road, including 10 foot outside shoulders. It is a design build project with a total cost of \$33.2 million, with Howard County contributing \$16.5 million and State funds covering the remainder. The project will advertise in July 2016 with a projected completion date of fall 2019. This project is segment 1 of the MD 32 corridor project. Segment 2 extends from Linden Church Road to I-70. The CTP also includes a preliminary planning study along MD 32 in Carroll County from I-70 to MD 26.

Mr. Lazdins asked for a motion. Mr. Frank Murphy made a motion to move Resolution #16-14 and Ms. Heather Murphy seconded the motion. Mr. Lazdins asked if there was any discussion by the members and then by the audience. Mr. Lazdins asked for a vote and Resolution #16-14 was passed with unanimous support from the members.

***[PowerPoint: MD 32 Widening and Earlier Year of Operation, Handout: April TIP Amendment Summary]***

## **8. RECOMMENDED ACTION OF RESOLUTION #16-15**

The BRTB was asked to consider Resolution #16-15 in support of an Addendum to the FY 2016 – 2017 UPWP. Mr. Lang indicated that Resolution #16-15 updates the budget for the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) due to the passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, including inclusion of new subarea and regional tasks, and identification of several new focus areas. A public review period on this resolution was held from February 12, 2016 through March 16, 2016. There were two comments from the public and several comments from the PAC that members responded to and shared with all involved. Both the Technical Committee and the PAC recommended approval of Resolution #16-15.

Mr. Lazdins asked for a motion. Mr. McClune made a motion to move Resolution #16-15 and Ms. Sally Nash seconded the motion and the Resolution passed with unanimous support from the members.

## **9. RECOMMENDED ACTION OF RESOLUTION #16-16**

The BRTB was asked to consider Resolution # 16-16 to update the TC Rules of Procedure. The primary purpose of this update is the addition of Queen Anne's County as a non-voting member, similar to the update to the BRTB Bylaws. Several other edits were made to clean up minor changes.

Mr. Lazdins asked for a motion to approve Resolution #16-6. Mr. McClune made a motion to move Resolution #16-16 and Mr. Pat Keller seconded the motion and the Resolution passed with unanimous support from the members.

## **10. PRESENTATION ON FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW OF THE BALTIMORE REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING PROCESS**

Ms. Aris provided an overview of the federal certification process to members and guests. The presentation covered the 3 key steps (a site visit with a public meeting, a report, and a presentation to the BRTB), the possible outcomes (the process is certified, certified with recommendations, or decertified), and a list of topics to be discussed over two days. Ms. Aris also explained why the process and review are important, and why the public and stakeholders have the opportunity to talk directly to federal partners. Ms. Lindsay Donnellon of FHWA briefed the BRTB on the public meeting held for the Certification Review on April 25, 2016.

***[PowerPoint: Introduction to the Federal Certification Process]***

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business. Mr. Lazdins reminded participants that the next BRTB meeting will be May 24, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

***Members***

Alexandra Brun (for Tad Aburn), MD Dept. Environment, Air Quality Planning & Monitoring Program  
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works  
Lynda Eisenberg, Carroll County Department of Planning  
Emery Hines, Baltimore County, Department of Public Works  
Pat Keller, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), Statewide Service Development  
Val Lazdins (for Clive Graham), Howard County, Office of Transportation  
Tony McClune, Harford County, Department of Planning  
Frank Murphy, Baltimore City Department of Transportation  
Heather Murphy, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), OPCP  
Sally Nash, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning  
Brian Ulrich, Anne Arundel County, Department of Planning & Zoning  
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning, Transportation Planning

***Staff and Guests***

Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Maryland Division  
Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Robert Berger, BMC  
Tyson Byrne, MDOT  
Lindsay Donnellon, FHWA  
Lyn Erickson, MDOT  
Terry Freeland, BMC  
Scott Graf, Chair, Technical Committee  
Don Halligan, BMC  
Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC  
Victor Henry, BMC  
Sandra Jackson, FHWA, DC Office  
Zach Kaufman, BMC  
Todd Lang, BMC  
Eric Norton, Chair, Public Advisory Committee  
Tara Penders, State Highway Administration

Rebecca Smith, BMC  
Spencer Stevens, FHWA, Headquarters  
Dwayne Weeks, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Headquarters  
Kathleen Zubrzycki, FTA, Region III

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary  
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board