

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

August 23, 2016

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

9:05 to 10:15 A.M.

MINUTES

The 283th meeting was called to order at 9:05 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Clive Graham.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2016 BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Graham. A motion was made by Ms. Valorie LaCour to approve the minutes and seconded by Ms. Lynda Eisenberg. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

Mr. Kevin Racine shared some of his recent activities working with others to improve transportation in and connecting to the region. Mr. Racine noted that during his travels by transit he was surprised to see MARC trains in Delaware and the Philadelphia area on SEPTA lines. Mr. Pat Keller of the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) reported that MTA does not run service in that area, but SEPTA is leasing trains from MTA and other nearby transportation agencies due to a safety issue found on SEPTA railcars.

Mr. Racine thanked MTA for providing him transportation to their public meeting last week about reverse commuter bus service to the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) area. Mr. Keller reported that MTA was happy to assist Mr. Racine getting to the meeting and appreciates his involvement.

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda reported that the comment period on the [I-95 Project \(2016-2019 TIP and Maximize2040 Amendment\)](#) closed on Friday, August 5. Two comments were received, one from Ms. Judy Rose and one from Ms. Kim Letke. A response was issued to Ms. Rose by the BRTB on August 22. BMC is working with MDOT on a response for Ms. Letke.

Ms. Haines Benkhedda also shared that the second What's on Tap Regional Forum is scheduled for Monday, September 19 at 4:30 p.m. at Open Works, located at 1400 Greenmount Avenue, in Baltimore's Station North neighborhood. *What's on Tap: Makerspaces, Hackerspaces, Fab Labs & Micro-Manufacturing* features two exciting speakers: Mr. Will Holman, General Manager of Open Works and co-founder of the Industrial Arts Collective; and Mr. David Woessner, General Manager of the National Harbor Local Motors facility. Following the presentations there will be a tour of Open Works followed by a networking event. Space is limited. Please register by visiting baltometro.org/about-bmc/whats-on-tap-regional-forums

[Handout: Public Involvement Report – August 2016]

4. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ms. Haines Benkhedda reported that PAC Chair, Mr. Greg Schafer is out of town on business and apologizes for not being able to attend today's meeting

- The August PAC meeting featured a presentation by Mr. Kevin Quinn of MTA regarding Baltimore LINK 2.0.
- This was followed by a PAC discussion on a recommended process for removing projects from long-range transportation plans. They are currently doing a review of other states to identify any best practices in planning and public involvement
- The PAC passed PAC Resolution #2016-09 in support of the I-95 road reconfiguration project.

[Handout: PAC Resolution #2016-09]

5. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Scott Graf reported the following from the August TC meeting:

- The Technical Committee Officers elected for FY 2017 will be Carroll County for Chair and the City of Annapolis for Vice Chair
- Resolution #17-8 was introduced for the Round 8B socioeconomic forecast for 2010-2040. The data set contains updates from Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, and Howard County. There are two large-scale projects impacting Baltimore City and County (Port Covington and Tradepoint Atlantic) and the addition of a portion of Queen Anne's County, each of which are included in the forecasts for the first time.
- Resolution #17-9 was introduced for the I-95 project involving restriping I-95 to provide one additional lane of traffic, including reconstruction of at-grade shoulders, replacement of at-grade median concrete traffic barriers, and reconstruction of portions of existing bridge decks and all concrete bridge parapets. The \$51.1 million project is funded entirely by MdTA and is slated for completion in summer 2018. The expedited timeline will result in project completion prior to the commencement of a major project on I-895 that is anticipated to increase traffic on I-95.

- A Visit Baltimore representative explained that the FAST Act added two new planning factors that MPOs need to address in developing their plans and programs. These are 1) improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system, and 2) enhance travel and tourism.
- MTA discussed BaltimoreLINK Phase Two. The purpose remains focused on two areas: 1) linking modes, places, and people, and 2) improving safety, efficiency, reliability, and customer service. After extensive outreach in Phase One captured over 1,280 comments, MTA reviewed the comments and revised 56 of 65 bus routes. MTA identified a number of specific routes that changed due to comments. New with Phase Two, MTA partnered with BMC and MDP to contribute analysis of a wide range of factors. The analysis allowed MTA to have a much better sense of how the system benefits customers.
- BMC reported on InSITE and PopGen, which are the main tools used for scenario planning. As a follow-up of the joint meeting in July, BMC proposed multiple demographic scenarios that can be simulated through PopGen. Using PopGen, BMC will generate the population distribution under different scenarios. The possible scenarios are: 1) Graying but Working; 2) Young Migration/Immigration and Working; 3) Young Migration/Immigration and Working with Household Formation with Children; and 4) Migration/Immigration – Seniors Moving Out.
- BMC reported that consultant contracts authorized through the FY 2016 UPWP resulted in the expenditure of \$345,000. For FY 2016 the BRTB had a DBE goal of 29% and the year-end total reached was an impressive 37%.
- BMC will be hosting the Northern Transportation and Air Quality Summit on August 30th and 31st. Sessions will cover regulatory issues, freight and fuel issues, funding initiatives, climate change, resilience, travel forecasting, and regional and project-level air pollution emissions.

6. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #17-8

Mr. Todd Lang asked the BRTB members to consider Resolution #17-8 endorsing the Round 8B Cooperative Forecasting Process through 2040 for use in local and regional transportation and air quality planning purposes. The BRTB established the Cooperative Forecasting Group to develop a consensus among State, local and regional planners regarding the current estimates and long-range projections for growth and development in the Baltimore region. The previously adopted Round 8A forecasts have been updated to reflect the most current socioeconomic development in the Baltimore region. These forecasts which consist of data for population, households and employment for small geographic areas, called transportation analysis zones, capture the development projected in earlier forecasts and any new development.

Mr. Shawn Kimberly presented a brief overview of the Round 8B socioeconomic forecasts for 2010-2040. He noted that the Round 8B forecast data set contains updates from Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, and Howard County, and that Anne Arundel County and Harford County made no updates to their Round 8A forecasts. Mr. Kimberly highlighted two large-scale projects (Port Covington and Tradepoint Atlantic) and the addition of a portion of Queen Anne's County, each of which are included in the forecasts for the first time.

Mr. Clive Graham asked if the forecasts that are endorsed by the BRTB match the forecasts that are available from the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). Mr. Kimberly replied that the forecasts do not match, but that MDP uses the forecasts endorsed by the BRTB in most cases. Asked to clarify, Mr. Kimberly said that MDP has in some instances used internally developed forecasts for a jurisdiction when their own methodology has produced disparate results from that submitted by the jurisdiction. Asked for an example, Mr. Kimberly stated that MDP has in the past used its own internally developed projections for Baltimore City.

Mr. Graham asked if there is coordination between the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council as it relates to demographic forecasts. Mr. Kimberly said that the groups share demographic data, providing the most recent forecast updates to one another upon endorsement by their respective boards. The updated demographic data from each region is then incorporated into the Travel Demand Model of the other region. Mr. Kimberly noted that while the regions are distinct in their definitions, there is overlap between the two for modeling purposes.

Mr. Graham. asked for a motion. Ms. Sally Nash made a motion to move Resolution #17-8 and Mr. Pat Keller seconded the motion with unanimous support from the members.

[PowerPoint: Round 8B Cooperative Forecast]

7. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #17-9

The BRTB was asked to consider Resolution #17-9 in support of an amendment to *Maximize2040* and the *Amended 2016-2019 TIP*. The Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA) is requesting to advance the implementation date from 2030 to 2018 for the I-95: Moravia Road to Fort McHenry Tunnel project. Mr. Jeff Roberta presented on the project. It will reconfigure I-95 to provide four continuous mainline lanes in each direction. The project limits extend from north of the Fort McHenry Toll Plaza to the I-95 Express Toll Lanes (ETLs) in the northbound direction, and from north of the Fort McHenry Toll Plaza to north of O'Donnell Street in the southbound direction. The project involves restriping I-95 to provide one additional lane of traffic, including reconstruction of at-grade shoulders, replacement of at-grade median concrete traffic barriers, and reconstruction of portions of existing bridge decks and all concrete bridge parapets. The \$51.1 million project is funded entirely by MdTA and is slated for completion in summer 2018. The expedited timeline will result in project completion prior to the commencement of a major project on I-895 that is anticipated to increase traffic on I-95.

Mr. Lang said the project was publicized for public review from July 5, 2016 through August 5, 2016 with a public meeting and presentation to the public advisory committee on August 3. Both the Technical Committee and the PAC recommended approval of Resolution #17-9. In addition, the ICG has determined that the project will not delay the attainment of National Air Quality Standards.

Mr. Graham asked for a motion. Ms. LaCour made a motion to move Resolution #17-9 and Ms. Eisenberg seconded the motion. Mr. Graham asked if there was any discussion by the members and

then by the audience. Mr. Graham asked for a vote and Resolution #17-9 was passed with unanimous support from the members.

[PowerPoint: Amendment for I-95: Moravia Road to Fort McHenry Tunnel, Handout: August TIP Amendment Summary]

8. PRESENTATION ON THE FINDINGS OF THE FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW OF THE BALTIMORE REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING PROCESS

Mr. Gregory Murrill, FHWA Administrator for Maryland provided an overview of the certification review for the Baltimore region. Mr. Murrill focused on the 6 noteworthy practices and 6 recommendations for improvement. The final report, issued July 13, 2016 stated, "...the transportation planning process carried out by the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board for the Transportation Management Area is certified as meeting the requirements...".

Ms. Bihui Xu asked about a comment on pedestrian and bicycle information and Mr. Murrill responded that the BRTB is doing a lot but it is not shared on the website. Mr. Graham asked BMC staff how the BRTB will go about addressing the recommendations. Mr. Lang responded that each year at the BRTB/TC retreat staff make a presentation on progress and suggestions for new work in the UPWP to make sure all issues are carefully addressed.

[PowerPoint: Baltimore Region MPO Federal Certification Process "Closeout"]

9. REVIEW OF FTA SECTION 5310 SPECIAL SOLICITATION

Ms. Elizabeth Kreider, Director of the Office of Local Transit Support, Maryland Transit Administration, provided an overview of a recent special solicitation for the 5310 grant program, including the purpose, timeline, and eligibility.

The goals of the Section 5310 Program are to provide 1) assistance in meeting the special transportation needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities, 2) service for low income workers to access jobs and employment related activities, and 3) improved mobility for individuals with disabilities through services beyond current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) minimum standards.

The Spring Special Solicitation was comprised of funds from three federal grants that had been awarded over the prior three years. The funds, which were left over after the original award items had been purchased, were expiring and needed to be allocated or returned to the FTA. There was \$1,344,543 in statewide funds available. In addition, \$2,054,380 in 5310 funds had to be awarded in specific areas, including \$1,121,493 in the Baltimore region.

Due to the short turnaround between MTA's grant announcement and the expiration of funds, MTA chose to open the grant only to FY 2016/2017 5310 award recipients. The special solicitation was designed to expand their original awards and was limited to items already included in their federal grants.

Although a significant amount of funds was allowed to lapse statewide, seven organizations applied and received awards in the Baltimore region: Action in Maturity, Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc., CMRT, Easter Seals of Baltimore, Humanim, Progress Unlimited, and Winter Growth.

The next round of 5310 awards will be for the FY 2018/2019 grant period. Applications will be available to the public starting September 2016. Awards will be made in April 2017. Ms. Monica White, also of the Office of Local Transit Support, can provide technical assistance to Baltimore region non-profit organizations submitting applications.

Finally, Ms. Kreider challenged the Board to “Encourage awareness of the 5310 grant to non-profit and faith based organizations ...and Work with non-profit and faith-based organizations on grant writing,” adding “More competition increases better grant applications and new services.”

Mr. Ulrich asked why AAWDC no longer applies for funding and MTA provided a response relating to a change in personnel and the opening of Arundel Mills. A question was also posed for the nature of the work that CMRT does for the large amount of funding it receives. Ms. Eisenberg requested a presentation by Ms. White for the Carroll County Transportation Advisory Council. Other members said they would approach Ms. White after the meeting.

[PowerPoint: MTA – Office of Local Transit Support – 5310 - Grant Program, Handout: New Freedom/JARC/5310 Awards Between 2012 - 2017]

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Lang noted that the MTA is completing their 2-year term as the voting representative for eligible public transportation providers. He will be polling the other eligible providers on their interest in the seat and then will ask for a vote amongst them.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration, Maryland Division
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County, Department of Public Works
Lynda Eisenberg, Carroll County Department of Planning
Clive Graham, Howard County, Department of Planning & Zoning
Pat Keller, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), Statewide Service Development
Valorie LaCour (for Frank Murphy), Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Heather Murphy, Maryland Department of Transportation, OPCP
Sally Nash, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning
Alex Rawls (for Tony McClune), Harford County, Department of Planning
Brian Ulrich, Anne Arundel County, Department of Planning & Zoning
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning, Transportation Planning

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Robert Berger, BMC
Tyson Byrne, MDOT
Terry Freeland, BMC
Scott Graf, Chair, Technical Committee
Don Halligan, BMC
Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC
Victor Henry, BMC
Zach Kaufman, BMC
Beth Kreider, MTA
Shawn Kimberly, BMC
Todd Lang, BMC
Gregory Murrill, FHWA
Kevin Racine, Harford County resident
Jeff Roberta, Rummel, Klepper, & Kahl
Glen Smith, Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA)
Rebecca Smith, BMC
Sara Tomlinson, BMC
Monica White, MTA

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board