

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

July 24, 2018

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

9:07 to 10:42 A.M.

MINUTES

The 300th meeting of the Baltimore MPO, the BRTB, was called to order at 9:07 A.M. by the Chair, Ms. Valorie LaCour. To celebrate the occasion, refreshments were taken and photos snapped. Joining the BRTB was Mr. Pete Gutwald, a former representative to the BRTB from Harford County, now sitting in representing the City of Annapolis. Also, the Chair took the opportunity to announce the retirement of Mr. Victor Bonaparte, a former representative to the BRTB from Baltimore City (and former Chair) who has been at the BMC for some time as the coordinator for the local jurisdictions on UPWP activities.

[Handout: Issue 1 of TSC Notes, December 1994, in recognition of Mr. Bonaparte]

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2018 BRTB meeting was made by Ms. LaCour. A motion was made by Ms. Heather Murphy to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Ramond Robinson. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

Mr. Kevin Racine, a resident of Harford County, commented on the transit connection between Perryville and Newark that had been missing, he and other riders are appreciative of the connection. Mr. Racine also shared concerns about a policy change related to purchasing MARC tickets online. Mr. Racine asked how seniors, who may not understand how to purchase tickets online or those without computers, will be able to buy them. He suggested that MTA should provide more information about how to purchase tickets.

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda shared highlights of current public involvement activities:

A 30-day comment period on amendments to the draft 2019-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and amended *Maximize2040* for 2 projects on I-95 (Section 200

Express Toll Lanes and Access Improvements at Port Covington) will open this week and run through late August. Public Meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. in White Marsh and Thursday, August 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Cherry Hill Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore.

A comment period on the draft 2019-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) ran from Wednesday, May 23 through Monday, June 25. Staff worked with BRTB members to review and respond to comments. The responses were posted online as well as sent to nearly 1000 interested parties in an effort to provide transparency in decision-making and educate the public on the BRTB's process.

Ms. Haines Benkhedda also invited the BRTB members and guests to participate in BMC's next Summer Trail Ride on Thursday, July 26, 2018 from 5 to 7 p.m. beginning at Riverside Park and ending at Leon Day Park via the Gywnns Fall Trail.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report – Report with Response to Public Comments]

4. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Eric Norton reported on the PAC:

- The July meeting was cancelled due to the Independence Day holiday.
- The August 1st PAC meeting features presentations by BMC staff about changes to the Vulnerable Populations Index (VPI) mapping tool, as well as a presentation by the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) on updated plans for two projects: Section 200 of I-95 Express Toll Lanes and I-95 Access Improvements near Port Covington. The BRTB will hold a 30-day comment period on these projects since they trigger an air quality conformity determination.
- Mr. Norton also reported that the PAC Chairs are working with staff to conduct a survey of current and previous members to solicit feedback on what works and what could be improved to maintain membership throughout the term of service. The PAC and staff will use input gathered to update and modify outreach for new members and as possible, make changes to improve volunteer satisfaction.
- Lastly, Mr. Norton thanked staff for coordinating a meeting with several BRTB members to discuss the PAC's proposal for an Equity Framework.

5. REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

Since the July ICG meeting was held jointly with the Technical Committee, Mr. Steve Cohoon will report on the meeting under the following agenda item.

6. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Cohoon reported the following from the July meeting:

- The FY 2019 Officers were elected to include: Queen Anne's County as Chair and Howard County as Vice Chair.
- After a brief overview of the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) the TC and ICG voted to send Resolution #19-1 to the BRTB for approval.
- The members reviewed results of the modeling for the conformity determination as it related to outputs for two criteria pollutants. The outputs were compared to the budgets established in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). The TC and ICG voted to send Resolution #19-2 to the BRTB for approval.
- The members reviewed report on the self-certification of the BRTB's transportation planning process. This occurs with the development of each new TIP. The TC and ICG voted to send Resolution #19-3 to the BRTB for approval.
- A presentation and discussion took place around the competitive TA Program. Staff reviewed the fifteen applications with four applications recommended for full or partial funding. The TC and ICG voted to send Resolution #19-4 to the BRTB for approval.
- MDOT described two projects they are asking the BRTB to amend into the Plan and TIP. The two projects both involve I-95: Section 200 ETLs and Port Covington area improvements. These projects require a conformity determination, therefore a 30-day review period will begin in late July with anticipated approval before the ICG, TC and BRTB in September.
- MTA provided information on intercity bus travel in the region. There was a description of funding that MTA receives under the Section 5311f program to support intercity bus transportation. Per federal requirements, 15 percent of this funding program is set aside for the intercity bus program. In 2009, MTA's Office of Local Transit Support conducted a statewide assessment of intercity transit needs, which included an inventory of existing services and a demographic analysis. Because of this assessment, MTA's Office of Local Transit Support established and currently manages intercity bus service in two corridors. These regions are: 1) I-68/I-70 corridor from Grantsville, Maryland to Baltimore and 2) from the Washington, DC to the Delaware.

7. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL ON RESOLUTION #19-1

Mr. Todd Lang introduced Resolution #19-1 in support of the FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program or TIP for short. The 2019-2022 TIP is the list of regional transportation projects requesting federal funding in the near term. It includes approximately \$3.2 billion in proposed federal, state and local money for highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects during the next four years.

Ms. Regina Aris then gave an overview of the 2019-2022 TIP. It includes 127 projects requesting a total of \$3.2 billion – \$2.22 billion in federal funds and \$0.98 billion in matching funds. SHA (\$1.59 billion), MTA - Transit (\$741 million), and Baltimore City (\$317 million) are the largest sources of fund requests by implementing agency. Of the nine project categories, highway preservation (70) and highway capacity (25) have the largest number of projects. The highway preservation (38.1%), highway capacity (23.1%), and transit (16.7%) categories

account for approximately 78% of funds programmed. There are four new projects in the 2019-2022 TIP, including one each from Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard County, and the MDOT Office of the Secretary.

A 30-day public review began on May 23 and ended on June 25. Public involvement activities included one public meeting with approximately 30 attendees, a presentation to the Public Advisory Committee, and advertisement in *The Baltimore Sun* online. In addition, BMC staff developed an interactive project map that allows people to view and search for TIP projects. A range of comments were received from six individuals/organizations and the BRTB has responded to those comments. Responses to the comments were shared with members and a request was made to indicate any edits before they were sent out by 2 pm on Wednesday.

Ms. LaCour asked for a motion. Ms. Lynda Eisenberg made a motion to approve Resolution #19-1 as presented and the motion was seconded with unanimous support from the members.

[PowerPoint: Baltimore Region 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program]

8. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #19-2

Mr. Lang Resolution #19-2 in support of the Conformity Determination for the FY 2019-2022 TIP and Amended *Maximize2040*. The Baltimore region has been designated as not meeting National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and, as a result, the BRTB must review its current transportation plan and program to ensure conformity with the state plan to meet these standards, known as the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Ms. Sara Tomlinson then presented additional information on the Conformity Determination of the 2019-2022 TIP and Amended Plan. The ICG began the process of the conformity determination 6 months ago by determining the approach and methodology for performing the determination. The ICG decided to use the MOVES2014a model, assess emissions for 2020, 2030, and 2040. They also determined which emission budgets (limits) that would be used for the analysis. Then, in April they decided which projects are required to be included in the travel demand model and emissions modeling.

Both BMC staff and MDE staff ran the emissions modeling, and developed estimated emissions from the transportation network in the specified future years. The projected emissions are below the motor vehicle emissions budgets. Both the ICG and Technical Committee, at their joint July 11th meeting, recommended BRTB approval of the Conformity Determination of the 2019-2022 TIP and Amended Plan, and that the projects in the TIP and Plan will not worsen air quality in the region.

Ms. LaCour asked for a motion. Mr. Alex Rawls made a motion to approve Resolution #19-2 as presented and Ms. Lynda Eisenberg seconded the motion with unanimous support from the members.

[PowerPoint: Conformity Determination of the 2019-2022 TIP and Amended Maximize2040]

9. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #19-3

Mr. Lang introduced Resolution #19-3 in support of approving the Self-Certification Review of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board. Federal Regulations require that the MPO shall certify at least every four years, or concurrent with the submittal of the proposed TIP, to the FHWA and the FTA that the planning process is addressing the major issues facing the metropolitan area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Mr. Terry Freeland described the self-certification approach to the BRTB's transportation planning process. This occurs with the development of each new TIP. The language of this self-certification document remains essentially the same as last year's document, with some important revisions. These include updates to reflect the development of the FY 2019-2022 TIP; progress made in developing the next long range-plan, particularly in adopting performance targets; the adoption of a revised Public Participation Plan; and the establishment of a new DBE participation goal.

Ms. LaCour asked for a motion to approve Resolution #19-3. Mr. Ramond Robinson moved to recommend approval of the resolution, and Mr. Steve Cohoon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

[PowerPoint: Self-Certification of the Regional Transportation Planning Process]

10. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #19-4

Mr. Lang introduced Resolution #19-4 in support of applications seeking funding under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program for Transportation Alternatives (TA) Projects.

Ms. Aris provided some background on the TA Program and then presented staff recommendations for funding relating to fifteen applications. Fourteen of the applications totaling \$18.9 million are competing for funds in the amount of \$2.1 million in the Baltimore Urbanized Area. Three applications were recommended for full or partial funding. There was also one application for the Aberdeen-Bel Air North-Bel Air South Urbanized Area totaling \$4 million competing for funds in the amount of \$528,493. The recommendation from staff was to award all available funds from that Urbanized Area and match it with an equal amount from the Baltimore Urbanized Area.

Due to the limited funding for the Aberdeen-Bel Air North-Bel Air South Urbanized Area, Mr. Rawls asked that the BRTB consider applying all of the remaining funding in the region to the Ma & Pa Connector Trail. This would not cover all of the request but make the project a better candidate during the statewide competition. Harford County has had few TA awards and none of this magnitude.

A member asked about the primary purpose of the trail, transportation or recreation. Mr. Rawls indicated it serves both purposes but is primarily recreation.

Ms. LaCour asked for a motion to approve Resolution #19-4. Ms. LaCour asked for a motion and Mr. Cohoon moved to recommend approval of the Resolution as presented. Ms. Murphy seconded the motion. The motion passed. Then Ms. LaCour asked if there were further comments from the BRTB, hearing none, Ms. LaCour asked if there were comments from the audience.

Mr. Rawls made a motion to amend the Resolution to include the remaining funding in the region to the Ma & Pa Trail. Ms. Murphy seconded the motion. Mr. Clive Graham asked for clarification of the use of TA funds for recreational trails rather than for transportation related projects. Mr. Gutwald shared his 10-year experience working on this trail from his time in Harford County. Mr. Racine asked if the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee was involved in this process. Ms. Murphy stated that this was not included in their role currently. Further, she stated that she saw this project as a good transportation project as it was an alternative to US 1 in an urban area.

Ms. LaCour asked for a motion for the amended Resolution. Mr. Ramond Robinson made a motion and Mr. Cohoon seconded. All members supported the amended resolution.

[PowerPoint: Transportation Alternatives Program]

11. ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS (AMPO) - RESEARCH AND WORKGROUP ACTIVITIES

Mr. Bill Keyrouze, Technical Program Director for the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), joined the BRTB to discuss AMPOs research efforts and emerging technology activities. Mr. Keyrouze began with a description of the existing and new work groups that serve to build capacity, address knowledge gaps and support a range of stakeholder groups. A newer, federally-funded work group deals with connected and autonomous vehicle planning. The group explored activities at the MPO, state and federal level and also undertook a literature review, reviewed manufacturer commitments, and examined public survey responses.

The significance of this area of innovation is that these new technologies may fundamentally alter the way people travel in the future, with potentially dramatic impacts on safety, mobility and system performance. A strategic plan for emerging transportation technology for the St. Louis region was shared. An FTA report and progress at DVRPC, MTC/MAG, and RTC of Southern Nevada was also discussed. The AMPO Work Group has identified a number of strategies to consider when beginning to work in this area. As the Work Group wraps up its initial work there is a national workshop planned for the Fall in Denver. All products of this and other AMPO work groups are available on the [AMPO](#) website.

[PowerPoint: AMPO Research Efforts and MPO Emerging Technology Activities]

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Heather Murphy distributed the [MDOT Tour Schedule](#) for Fall 2018.

Ms. Lynda Eisenberg asked for an update on the Retreat date to discuss upcoming UPWP planning activities

Ms. Aris notified the BRTB of issues with the BMC website and indicated a small, short-term site was available. However, if members were looking for any items in particular they should always call and request assistance.

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Alexandra Brun, (for Tad Aburn) MD Department of the Environment
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works
Lynda Eisenberg, Carroll County Department of Planning
Kate Sylvester (for Holly Arnold), Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)
Clive Graham, Howard County, Office of Transportation
Alex Rawls, Harford County, Department of Planning
Valorie LaCour (for Michelle Pourciau), Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Heather Murphy, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Pete Gutwald (for Sally Nash), City of Annapolis, Department of Planning
Ramond Robinson, Anne Arundel County, Department of Planning & Zoning
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning

Staff and Guests

Bala Akundi, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Regina Aris, BMC
Charles Baber, BMC
Robert Berger, BMC
Victor Bonaparte, BMC
Tyson Byrne, MDOT
Monica Haines-Benkhedda, BMC
Terry Freeland, BMC
Blake Fisher, BMC
Adam Groves, PTV
Taffy Gwitira, member, Public Advisory Committee (PAC)
Don Halligan, BMC
Victor Henry, BMC
Dan Janousek, MDOT

Bill Keyrouze, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO)
Todd Lang, BMC
Eric Norton, Chair, PAC
Jordan Ogborna, Baltimore City DOT
Kevin Racine, Citizen, resident, County
Rebecca Smith, BMC
Sara Tomlinson, BMC

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board