

## **BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

September 25, 2018

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

9:08 to 10:35 A.M.

### **MINUTES**

The 301<sup>st</sup> meeting was called to order at 9:08 A.M. by the Chair, Ms. Michelle Pourciau.

#### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2018 BRTB meeting was made by Ms. Pourciau. A motion was made by Mr. Robert Andrews to approve the minutes and seconded by Ms. Heather Murphy. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY**

Mr. Kevin Racine, resident of Harford County, shared his excitement about how he can now get around using transit across states in the northeast using a series of transit passes. However, he suggested that a single card system (such as EZ-Pass) would make it easier for riders transferring between systems). In addition, Mr. Racine shared that demand responsive transit using smaller vehicles like taxis could assist riders in making linkages between services or accessing alternate transportation when a bus breaks down, etc.

#### **3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda reported that the comment period on the amendments to 2019-2021 TIP and *Maximize2040* for the I-95: Express Toll Lane Northern Transition and I-95: Port Covington Access Improvements closed Friday, August 31st. Staff worked with BRTB members to review all comments and then to generate a response to those comments. This has been sent to all who shared their thoughts on the proposed amendments.

This fall, BMC will host the next *What's on Tap* event at Diamondback Brewery featuring Mr. Michael Helta who will share information about the app "Transit" being used by the Maryland Transit Administration.

Lastly, Ms. Haines Benkhedda also shared that several staff participated in a pilot for a new NHI course on Environmental Justice Analysis. Staff are reviewing the data, knowledge and resources provided to assess what analysis efforts may be able to be implemented at the regional level.

***[Handout: Public Involvement Report –With public comments]***

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

Mr. Eric Norton reported the following from the September PAC meeting:

- The featured presentation was by Ms. Jade Clayton, Chair of Young Professionals in Transportation Baltimore about the first Transportation Camp “unconference” in Baltimore on May 12, 2018.
- The PAC voted to update their bylaws to reflect the mission of the PAC, including the promotion of equity and to make the Ad Hoc Equity Subcommittee a standing subcommittee of the PAC.
- The Ad Hoc Equity Group drafted a statement on recent calls to scale back bus service to White Marsh and a letter by Anne Arundel County Executive Steve Schuh requesting MDOT to close light rail stops. The Ad Hoc Group feels it is important to make a statement on maintaining transit access and ask for clarification on the decision-making process when calls like these are made by local leaders.
- Members approved PAC Resolution #2018-6 declining endorsement of the I-95 Express Toll Lanes Northbound Extension project and in support of the I-95 Port Covington Access Improvements project, with a comment that “The PAC understands the intended mode split for Port Covington is 50% for modes other than single occupant vehicles (SOV). The PAC recommends that the BRTB approve the project with a caveat that the project have a commitment to incorporating multimodal transportation options, and that these options be developed by and with the community and key stakeholders.”
- The Public Involvement Subcommittee met by phone with the Ad Hoc Equity Group to discuss ideas for potential partnering organizations and sponsors for additional Every Voice Transportation Academies in each of the jurisdictions in the region. They also worked with staff to generate a list of questions for local planning staff about their public involvement activities and polices, as well as any work they do around equity or outreach to vulnerable populations

***[Handout: PAC RESOLUTION #2018 – 6: AMENDMENTS FOR TWO MDTA PROJECTS ALONG I-95]***

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

Ms. Sara Tomlinson reported on the September 5th ICG meeting. The ICG determined that the following TIP and Plan Amendments meet conformity requirements: (1) I-95 Access Improvements and (2) I-95 Northbound ETL Extension. A new regional emissions analysis was

performed, and determined that emissions resulting from the transportation network will be below established motor vehicle emission budgets. The ICG also recommended BRTB approval of the CMAQ Performance Plan. MDE presented information on the status of the ozone season in the Baltimore region. The season ends at the end of October. However, to date, the region is still meeting the 2008 ozone NAAQS, and is still marginal nonattainment levels for the 2015 ozone NAAQS.

## 6. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Steve Cohoon reported the following from the September Technical Committee meeting:

- BMC introduced Resolution #19-5 that seeks to add two projects to *Maximize2040* and the FY 2019-2022 TIP as well as the associated air quality conformity determination. These amendments were subject to the public review from July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Fifteen comments were received from the public. There was considerable discussion about the change in the ETLs from Spring 2018 and to the response to comments. BMC staff will continue to work with the sponsor agencies on detailed responses.
- MTA introduced Resolution #19-6 that seeks to add a new grant-funded project to the FY 2019-2022 TIP. A grant to MTA has resulted from a successful request from the 2017 Bus and Bus Facilities Program (5339). The project titled, *Beyond the Bus Stop*, is for \$5.6M to improve amenities for both riders and operators at bus stops around the network.
- BMC provided an overview of Resolution #19-7 pertaining to the financial forecast for *Maximize2045*, the next regional long-range transportation plan expected to be adopted by the board in July 2019. Staff reviewed the forecasting methodology, presented by MDOT at a previous TC meeting.
- BMC introduced Resolution #19-8 which identifies carry-over activities that will need to be included in the 2019 UPWP. This is done to work being completed to be invoiced in a current UPWP. An additional project was considered for inclusion on the list. Members asked what the process is for such an action. If a situation arises, the member would bring it to the attention of the Executive Committee. In this case, Anne Arundel County believed they were entitled to the funds despite the time lapse, it was determined that the request should go through the committee process.
- BMC presented the CMAQ Performance Plan. The BRTB is federally required to develop a CMAQ Performance Plan, to be submitted as an attachment to the State baseline performance report. The MPO CMAQ Performance Plan describes the baseline condition and MPO targets for three CMAQ-related performance measures: 1) Peak hour excessive delay, 2) Percent non-SOV travel, and 3) On-road mobile source emission reductions from CMAQ-funded projects.
- SHA provided an overview of the state's performance targets for NHS bridges and pavement. The state received data from local bridge owners so the targets take into account projects that are already planned/programmed. The state bridge targets are well below the federal threshold of having less than 10% of bridges in poor condition.

## **7. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #19-5**

Mr. Don Halligan introduced Resolution #19-5. The resolution seeks to add two projects to the 2015 Regional Transportation Plan, known as *Maximize2040*, and the FY 2019-2022 TIP as well as the associated air quality conformity determination. Both projects are on I-95 and are sponsored by MDTA. One is for express toll lanes northbound on Section 200 and the other is for access improvements in the area of Port Covington.

These amendments were subject to public review from July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>, with public meetings on August 14 and 16. Fifteen comments were received from the public and the BRTB has responded to these comments. The Technical Committee recommended approval of Resolution #19-5. The PAC voted to support the I-95 access improvements project but did not endorse the I-95 Section 200 ETL project. The ICG has determined that the projects will not worsen the region's air quality or delay the timely attainment of national air quality standards.

Mr. Michael Rothenheber, JMT, summarized the I-95 Section 200 ETL project. The discussion focused on several topics including the return on investment of the existing ETLs, reasons why the PAC did not endorse the project, and the reasons for amending these projects into *Maximize2040* instead of going through the upcoming *Maximize2045* process. Mr. Russell Walto summarized the I-95 access improvements project, with discussion regarding the funding and timeline of the project.

Ms. Pourciau asked for a motion. Ms. Lynda Eisenberg made a motion to move Resolution #19-5 and Ms. Murphy seconded the motion. Ms. Pourciau asked if there was any discussion by the members and then by the audience. Ms. Pourciau asked for a vote and Resolution #19-5 was passed with a no vote from the City of Annapolis.

***[PowerPoint: I-95 Northbound Section 200 ETLs and I-95 Port Covington Related Access Improvements]***

## **8. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #19-6**

Mr. Halligan introduced Resolution #19-6 seeking to add a new grant-funded project to the FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program at the request of MTA. The Technical Committee recommended approval of Resolution #19-6. The ICG has determined that the project is exempt from the requirement to determine conformity according to the conformity rule.

Ms. Kate Sylvester summarized the project. MTA applied for and received a 2017 Bus and Bus Facilities Program (5339) grant for a project titled Beyond the Bus Stop. The section 5339 grant is for \$2.6 million, with MTA contributing an additional \$3 million. MTA is in the process of determining what elements from the initial scope can be implemented as \$12 million was requested in the application. The program will improve customer experience by adding real-time information signage and shelter improvements to bus stops, including some multi-modal transfers. The program also includes constructing comfort stations at Cedonia Loop and

Patapsco Light Rail Station for use by MTA operators. Blue Light phones will also be added at these locations.

Ms. Pourciau asked for a motion. Ms. Sally Nash made a motion to move Resolution #19-6 and Mr. Andrews seconded the motion. Ms. Pourciau asked if there was any discussion by the members and then by the audience. Ms. Pourciau asked for a vote and Resolution #19-6 was passed unanimously.

**[PowerPoint: *Beyond the Bus Stop*]**

**9. RECOMMENDATION OF RESOLUTION #19-7**

Mr. Halligan introduced Resolution #19-7 for endorsement of local, state and federal inputs to the financial forecast for Maximize2045: A performance-based Transportation Plan. MDOT Office of Finance developed state and federal funding forecast through the planning period (2024-2045) that included funding for system preservation, operations and expansion for all surface modes. This forecast defined an expected \$12.4B through the planning period to be available for transportation system expansion in the Baltimore region. The candidates for project for Maximize2045 has started and BMC staff is currently evaluating based upon the scoring methodology developed by the BRTB. There was roughly \$15B available under *Maximize2040*, so project prioritization will be more difficult. The Technical Committee recommended approval of Resolution #19-7.

Ms. Pourciau asked for a motion. Ms. Murphy motioned to move Resolution #19-7 for approval and Mr. Andrews seconded. Ms. Pourciau asked if there was any discussion by the members. Ms. Sally Nash asked why there is now expected to be less money available for this plan? Mr. Halligan stated that the revenues are expected to be lower through the planning period now than they were anticipated under the *Maximize2040* plan. Mr. Ramond Robinson asked about why there is such a large decrease in funding shown after the period between 2017 and 2019. Mr. Halligan informed the group that that is a result of a large project moving through the CTP currently and that once it is done the funds drop and a gradual increase can be seen from that point into the planning period. Ms. Murphy stated that the “bubble” moving through the CTP is typical, and that revenues are expected to be lower. Mr. Robinson asked about what was included in the system preservation and operations numbers and how the “preservation” money will be distributed in the future. Ms. Murphy stated that included all surface transportation modes and it’s not yet clear how the money will be distributed. Mr. Halligan reminded the group that a financial forecast is done as part of the Long Range Transportation Plan every four years. Ms. Pourciau asked if there was any discussion by the members of the audience, there were none. Ms. Pourciau asked for a vote and Resolution #19-7 was passed unanimously.

## **10. RECOMMENDATION OF RESOLUTION #19-8**

Mr. Halligan introduced Resolution #19-8 to reconcile the FY 2018 carryover funding into the FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Halligan informed the Board that the resolution adopts the projects that were initiated in previous UPWPs that had not been completed by the closeout of FY 2018 and officially incorporates them by adoption into the FY 2019 UPWP so that these projects can continue. The Technical Committee has recommended approval of this action. We now ask the BRTB to consider resolution #19-8. Mr. Halligan added that the figures sent out to the Board via email did not include the funding Anne Arundel County had available since 2014 and that the new sheet in front of them has new figures totaling an additional \$167,000 split between two projects in Anne Arundel County.

Ms. Pourciau asked for a motion. Mr. Clive Graham motioned to move Resolution #19-8 for approval and Ms. Lynda Eisenberg seconded. Ms. Pourciau asked if there was any discussion by the members and the audience, there was none. Ms. Pourciau asked for a vote and Resolution #19-8 was passed unanimously.

## **11. RECOMMENDATION OF RESOLUTION #19-9**

Ms. Sara Tomlinson presented on the BRTB CMAQ Performance Plan. The BRTB is federally required to develop a CMAQ Performance Plan, to be submitted as an attachment to the State DOT baseline performance report. This baseline performance report is due on October 1. The MPO CMAQ Performance Plan describes the baseline condition and MPO targets for three CMAQ-related performance measures: 1) Peak hour excessive delay, 2) Percent non-SOV travel, and 3) On-road mobile source emission reductions from CMAQ-funded projects.

Ms. Tomlinson mentioned that the baseline emission reductions for the CMAQ emission reduction measure have recently been updated in the report. MDOT requested that FHWA open the public access reporting database for CMAQ projects, so that the project information could be updated. MDOT has now updated their approach for accounting emission reductions for CMAQ projects.

In addition to describing the baseline information and targets, there is a table in the back of the document with a list of planned projects that are expected to result in emission reductions that will help the MPO to reach to 2-year and 4-year emission reduction targets.

Ms. Pourciau asked for a motion. Mr. Andrews motioned to move Resolution #19-9 for approval and Mr. Graham seconded. Ms. Pourciau asked if there was any discussion by the members and the audience, there was none. Ms. Pourciau asked for a vote and Resolution #19-9 was passed unanimously.

***[Handout: Baseline Condition for On-Road Mobile Source Emissions Measures, Revised]***

## **12. STATUS REPORT ON REINVEST MARYLAND 2.0**

Mr. Michael Bayer from the Maryland Department of Planning did not attend the BRTB meeting. Mr. Halligan stated the presentation may be rescheduled.

## **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Halligan provided copies of the schedule for the upcoming 5310 solicitation. Mr. Halligan expressed his sympathy and condolences over the passing of Mr. Emery Hines. Mr. Greg Carski provided details on Mr. Emery Hines viewing arrangements.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### ***Members***

Robert Andrews, Harford County  
Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration, Maryland Division  
Alexandra Brun, (for Tad Aburn) MD Department of the Environment  
Greg Carski, Baltimore County Department of Public Works  
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works  
Ken Choi, (for Bihui Xu) Maryland Department of Planning  
Lynda Eisenburg, Carroll County Department of Planning  
Clive Graham, Howard County, Office of Transportation  
Heather Murphy, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), OPCP  
Sally Nash, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning  
Michelle Pourciau, Baltimore City Department of Transportation  
Alex Rawls, Harford County, Department of Planning  
Ramond Robinson, Anne Arundel County, Department of Planning & Zoning  
Kate Sylvester, (for Holly Arnold) Maryland Transit Administration

### ***Staff and Guests***

Cindy Burch, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Tyson Byrne, MDOT  
Monica Haines-Benkhedda, BMC  
Don Halligan, BMC  
Meredith Hill, State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)  
Eric Norton, Chair, Public Advisory Committee  
Will Pines, Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA)  
Kevin Racine, Citizen, Harford County  
Michael Rothenheber, JMT  
Rebecca Smith, BMC  
Lisa Sirota, MDOT SHA  
Sara Tomlinson, BMC  
Russell Walto, MDTA

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary  
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board