

## **BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

October 23, 2018

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

9:06 to 11:02 A.M.

### **MINUTES**

The 302<sup>nd</sup> meeting was called to order at 9:06 A.M. by the Chair, Ms. Michelle Pourciau.

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

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2018 BRTB meeting was made by Ms. Pourciau. A motion was made by Mr. Alex Rawls to approve the minutes and seconded by Ms. Lynda Eisenberg. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Mr. Kevin Racine, resident of Harford County, expressed frustration that, despite having a reduced fare transit pass as a person with a disability, he continues to have problems using the card. Last month, the schedule for the train he normally takes home was changed and upon boarding a bus to go home, the driver told him he could not use the card and had to pay full fare. This morning, another driver told him he must pay full fare for his transit ride, despite having a card. Mr. Racine said it upsets him very much that not only did it take a long time to get his card, requiring assistance from others intervening on his behalf, but that he continues to be charged different fares with different transit drivers. Mr. Racine said he has spent the last 17 years working on transportation and asked to know why it is so difficult to get this system working in Maryland. In Philadelphia, he produced certification of disability and he received a card and has not had issues using it. Lastly, Mr. Racine stated that nobody dealing with cancer or facing health issues such as he is should have to deal with this continual frustration. Further, every time he has to spend his limited income on higher transit fares is income he cannot use for other needs and without a receipt, he is not even able to show staff at social services how he is using his funds or provide proof to MTA about problems he's having with the cards. Ms. Pourciau said she would ask staff to recommend next steps.

Mr. Samuel Jordan, President of the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC), expressed serious concerns about demands for reductions and/or cancellation of transportation services in the Baltimore region, many of which included racially-coded allegations. Mr. Jordan asked

why the BRTB and BMC have been silent on these issues, expressing frustration and asking “Who will stand up for Baltimore and prevent a race-based transit policy wall from being built around the City?” Lastly, Mr. Jordan asked that the BRTB convene a regional leadership conference on equal access to all transportation systems within the purview of BRTB. He cited Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act “requiring compliance by all agencies, including BRTB, engaged in the oversight of any and all transportation services and programs receiving even one dollar in federal funds as do the Light Rail and BaltimoreLink network.”

***[Handout: BTEC Open Letter to Baltimore Regional Transportation Board]***

Mr. Graham suggested that a conference may be useful, however local jurisdictions already submit Title VI plans and compliance reports to MTA. He wondered what the content of a conference would be, so as not to be duplicative.

Mr. Robert Rueter, resident of Baltimore City and former transportation engineer, expressed sadness that, according to METRO magazine, in the 1970s Baltimore was ranked as 7<sup>th</sup> best in transit services, but is now 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda invited members and guests to join BMC on Tuesday, October 30 at Diamondback Brewery to hear from Mr. Michael Helta, Chief Innovation Officer for the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration about MDOT MTA’s partnership with Transit, a mobile app provider that shares real-time transit information, simple trip planning, step-by-step navigation, and more.

In addition, Ms. Haines Benkhedda solicited the BRTB’s support in recruiting potential volunteers to serve on the Public Advisory Committee for terms beginning January 2019. Volunteers from Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne’s counties are particularly needed. Applications are welcome through Tuesday, November 27, 2018.

***[Handout: October 2018 Public Involvement Report]***

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

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

- MDOT shared highlights of the [2040 Maryland Transportation Plan \(MTP\)](#) and [FY 2019-2024 Consolidated Transportation Program \(CTP\)](#).
- The PAC discussed the proposal from the TC to obtain better geographic representation on the PAC by adding the option for members to participate remotely (via GoToMeeting for example) for at least part of the year. PAC members agreed that this would be a good policy change and the Public Involvement and Membership subcommittees will host a joint meeting on October 24 to develop proposed language for virtual participation in PAC meetings.

- Over the last few months, the PAC discussed concerns about recent calls by the public and Anne Arundel County Executive Steve Schuh requesting MDOT close stops at the Ferndale and Linthicum stations, and serve North Linthicum and the Cromwell Station/Dorsey Road terminus only during peak hours. After a lengthy discussion and several changes to the draft, the PAC voted to approve PAC Resolution #2018-07 Regarding Calls to Close Light Rail Stations.

Ms. Pourciau stated that the BRTB will work with staff to discuss the PAC's comments and determine next steps.

### ***[PAC Resolution #2018-07 Regarding Calls to Close Light Rail Stations]***

## **5. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

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

- BMC provided details on the proposed targets for bridge and pavement performance, as noted in resolution 19-10, Adopting System Performance Targets Related to Pavement and Bridge Conditions.
- BMC introduced Resolution 19-11, involving proposed performance targets for travel time reliability on the National Highway System. It was noted that MDOT SHA used RITIS data from the University of Maryland's CATT Lab to arrive at the proposed statewide targets.
- BMC shared highlights of the proposed changes to the PAC bylaws. First, the PAC recommended adding a subcommittee to reflect the third element of the PAC's regarding equity. The PAC also recommends updates to the nondiscrimination language to be more inclusive. Last, the PAC made some minor updates such as the list of jurisdictions by name. The TC voted support the bylaws with a caveat to address geographic representation by allowing members to attend electronically.
- Harford County introduced details of the proposed TIP amendment. Harford County is requesting to adjust construction funds in the 2019-2022 TIP for the Robinson Mill Road Bridge #154 over Broad Creek project. Funds had been budgeted for construction in previous TIPs, but the project was delayed due to difficulties with land acquisition.

## **6. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-10**

Mr. Todd Lang introduced Resolution #19-10 adopting six regional bridge and pavement performance measures, as required by current federal transportation law.

Ms. Eileen Singleton then provided background information for the resolution on proposed regional targets for pavement and bridge performance. Through MAP-21, Congress required FHWA to establish measures to assess performance in 12 areas, including the condition of bridge and pavement assets, on the National Highway System, regardless of owner. There are six target measures related to bridge and pavement performance. The BRTB has the option to

support the state targets or establish regional targets. Based on projections of regional bridge and pavement conditions on the NHS, the recommendation is to adopt regional targets.

Following the presentation, there were questions about federal thresholds for bridge and pavement performance. There was also discussion about the difference between targets and goals. The term "targets" as used by FHWA refers to the projected condition of the asset based on currently planned and programmed projects; goals, which are not part of this federal performance regulation, reflect a desired condition of an asset which may necessitate additional resources to meet.

Ms. Pourciau asked for a motion. Mr. Steve Cohoon made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Heather Murphy. Ms. Pourciau asked for any comments. The members requested the resolution add clarification on the thresholds and the BRTB's intent regarding bridge and pavement conditions. An amended motion was made by Mr. Cohoon and seconded by Ms. Eisenberg. The amended resolution and will be shared with the Executive Committee for review before the Chair signs.

***[PowerPoint: Resolution on Proposed Regional Targets for Pavement and Bridge Performance]***

## **7. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-11**

Mr. Lang introduced Resolution #19-11 adopting three regional travel time reliability performance measures, as required by current federal transportation law.

Ms. Regina Aris provided background information for the resolution on the three targets proposed for travel time reliability. Two measures for on travel reliability on and off of the Interstate System and a third focuses of truck travel time reliability. The base year reflects congestion, crashes, weather and work zones. The two target years of 2019 and 2021 are based on an understanding of programmed capacity and ITS-related projects. The TC supported the recommendation to support the state targets for reliability. There were several questions and staff agreed to provide a map and to identify the scaling used for truck travel time.

Ms. Pourciau asked for a motion. Ms. Nash made a motion that was seconded by ???. The motion passed. The amended resolution and will be shared with the Executive Committee for review before the Chair signs.

***[PowerPoint: Resolution on Proposed Regional Targets for Travel Time Reliability Performance]***

## **8. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-12**

Mr. Lang introduced Resolution #19-12. Harford County is requesting to update construction funds in the FY 2019-2022 TIP for Robinson Mill Road Bridge #154 over Broad Creek. Funds had been budgeted for construction in previous TIPs, but the project was delayed due to

difficulties with land acquisition. The TC recommended sending the resolution to the BRTB as presented.

Mr. Carlos Smith, Harford County DPW, introduced details of the proposed TIP amendment to the committee. The bridge was closed to through traffic in March 2017 due to its deteriorating condition and requires a full replacement. The new bridge width of 22 feet will match that of the approach roadway. It will be realigned along with a portion of the approach roadway to improve Broad Creek's stream flow and to minimize property impacts. Construction funds include federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds in the amount of \$1.185 million along with \$380,000 in county match.

Ms. Lynda Eisenberg, vice chair, asked for a motion. Ms. Nash made a motion to move Resolution #19-12 and Mr. Clive Graham seconded the motion. Ms. Eisenberg asked if there was any discussion by the members and then by the audience. Ms. Eisenberg asked for a vote and Resolution #19-12 was passed unanimously.

***[PowerPoint: Robinson Mill Road Bridge TIP Amendment]***

**9. STATUS REPORT ON REINVEST MARYLAND 2.0**

Mr. Michael Bayer, MDP, presented on Reinvest Maryland 2.0 known as - A Guide to Accelerating Infill, Redevelopment and Community Revitalization. Reinvest Maryland represents an opportunity for all levels of government to work together, strengthen collaborative efforts to support revitalization and reinvestment, and to engage stakeholders of all types in the effort to rebuild communities and improve quality of life.

A product of the effort is a unique website that provides a "toolkit" designed to encourage and ensure local communities to consider redevelopment projects in partnership with the private sector that are supported by public programs and resources. The new website is ESRI-based and is meant to be a living document as opposed to a static report. The website contains many examples of case studies from around the state and also lists grant opportunities.

For in depth information, Mr. Bayer encouraged members to attend an upcoming conference or reach out to his office.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Murphy distributed copies of the draft 2040 Maryland Transportation Plan. The plan has been 1 ½ years in the making and is now out for public comment through November 15. Additionally, MDOT has released 2040 Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan 2019 Update. This document is required to be provided to the Maryland General Assembly (the third Wednesday in January) at the same time as the Maryland Transportation Plan.

***[Handout: Draft 2040 Maryland Transportation Plan, Flyer for draft 2040 Maryland Transportation Plan]***

Mr. Lang requested members to review proposed dates for BRTB meetings in 2019. Additionally, it was confirmed that the next two meetings will take place on November 27 and December 18, 2019.

***[Handout: Proposed 2019 BRTB Meeting Dates]***

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 A.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

***Members***

Laurie Brown, (for Holly Arnold) Maryland Transit Administration  
Alexandra Brun, (for Tad Aburn) Maryland Department of the Environment  
Greg Carski, Baltimore County Department of Public Works  
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works  
Lynda Eisenberg, 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 & Zoning  
Ramond Robinson, Anne Arundel County, Department of Planning & Zoning  
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)

***Staff and Guests***

Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration, Maryland Division  
Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Charles Baber, BMC  
Michael Bayer, MDP  
Cynthia Burch, BMC  
Tyson Byrne, MDOT  
Blake Fisher, BMC  
Monica Haines-Benkhedda, BMC  
Don Halligan, BMC  
Victor Henry, BMC  
Dan Janousek, MDOT  
Samuel Jordan, Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (President)  
Zach Kaufman, BMC  
Mike Kelly, BMC  
Todd Lang, BMC  
Eric Norton, Chair, Public Advisory Committee  
Kevin Racine, Resident of Harford County

Robert Reuter, Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition  
Eileen Singleton, BMC  
Carlos Smith, Harford County Department of Public Works  
Rebecca Smith, BMC  
Graham Young, Baltimore City DOT

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary  
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board