

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

December 18, 2018
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
9:04 to 10:20 A.M.

MINUTES

The 304th meeting was called to order at 9:04 A.M. by the Chair, Ms. Valorie LaCour.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2018 BRTB meeting was made by Ms. LaCour. A motion was made by Mr. Alex Rawls to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Greg Carski. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

Mr. Edward Cohen, a Baltimore City resident and member of MDOT MTA's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), read the following statement approved by the MTA CAC:

"We call upon the State of Maryland to develop a comprehensive, integrated, and fully connected intermodal rail and magnetic induction guideway system plan for all tunnels through the Baltimore region. Studies should be done to compare overall total system costs and benefits. We believe that without such a plan, it will never be possible to provide the citizens of Maryland with the level of service needed. We therefore strongly recommend that any ongoing or future tunnel modification, rail project, or magnetic induction guideway which is to be planned or funded, be part of a comprehensive integrated intermodal regional rail system plan, and that the entire system plan be stringently evaluated for feasibility and functionality."

Mr. Cohen also shared feedback about MTA's BaltimoreLink printed schedules and said that it's impossible to determine how to travel using the printed schedules.

He also shared some comments about a bus he rode in service on the Charm City Circulator. Mr. Cohen said he rode a RMA bus that is non-compliant and illegal. Specifically he said he noted the bus had three high steps, no wheelchair lift, narrow aisles, no bell strip, no enunciator, no announcements were made and it had no rear or side door. He emphasized that the bus is not ADA accessible and firmly stated it should not be in service on the Charm City Circulator.

[Handout: Resolution of the MTA Citizens Advisory Committee]

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda reported there are no public comment periods this month. There are two sponsorship opportunities: 1.) BMC is working with local planners to organize over 40 events throughout the Baltimore region for Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 17, 2019; and 2.) Sponsors are sought for Every Voice Counts Transportation Academy which provides information and tools for emerging transportation leaders and other stakeholders who have limited experience with the transportation decision-making process.

BRTB members are hosting the following public meetings: 1.) Open House on I-695/I-70 (Triple Bridges) Interchange Project on Thursday, December 20 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Academy, and 2.) BikeHoward 2019 Open House is set for Tuesday, January 15 at 7 p.m.

Lastly, Ms. Haines Benkhedda shared that staff are gearing up for the following comment periods and events in 2019:

- BRTB Budget and Work Program (FY 2020-2021 UPWP) from February 12 - March 14
- Every Voice Counts – one events between March 23 – April 13 and one in Fall 2019
- *Maximize2045* and TIP – Comment period runs from May 9 - June 18 and the BRTB will host one meeting in each jurisdiction during this time. If any BRTB members would like to choose a date for the meeting in their jurisdiction, they may contact staff to hold the date and coordinate transit and ADA accessible locations.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report for December]

4. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

- The PAC Membership Subcommittee reviewed new member applications for terms beginning January 2019. Over 20 applications were received for 12 openings. The PAC recommended a slate of 12 applicants to fill open spots and four alternates to serve as non-voting alternates to fill voting seats when openings become available.
- The PAC is working with staff to identify dates and locations for two Every Voice Academies in 2019 south of Baltimore City in Howard or Anne Arundel County and one north of the city in Harford or Baltimore County.
- PAC members reviewed key issues raised in a survey of current and former PAC members and discussed ideas for improvements including better orientation of new members and potential changes to subcommittee meeting times.

5. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Steve Cohoon reported the following from the December TC meeting:

- Resolution #19-15 was introduced in support of application(s) for statewide funding in the Rural and Small Urban categories of the FY 2020-2021 5310 Program. There was one application which was reviewed on four criteria and overall responsiveness to the program. The TC voted to recommend sending Resolution #19-15 to the BRTB for approval.
- The TC discussed safety performance measures required under federal regulations. MPOs are required to set targets 180 days after the state has submitted their HSIP report, which gives this region until February 26, 2019. There are five required targets: 1) Total fatalities, 2) Fatality rate per 100 MVMT, 3) Total serious injuries, 4) Serious injury rate per 100 MVMT, and 5) Total fatalities and serious injuries among non-motorized persons.
- Staff had several short topics: 1) Ideas for consultants and focus areas are due December 18, and 2) BMC is working with the state on crash data and cost estimates for use in the project prioritization process.

6. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #19-15

Mr. Robert Berger introduced this resolution, which is in support of application(s) for statewide funding in the rural and small urban categories of the FY 2020-2021 5310 program. After a brief introduction to the 5310 program, including the four program criteria, Mr. Berger shared BMC staff comments on an application submitted by the Arc of Carroll County, which is seeking capital funds for four (4) replacement vehicles and one (1) vehicle for expansion. The Arc of Carroll County was the only application received in the rural and small urban categories. Staff stated that the information provided by the applicant was responsive to each of the four questions.

Ms. LaCour asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Tyson Byrne motioned to approve and Mr. Rawls seconded the motion. The BRTB voted to approve Resolution #19-15. The application will now advance to the state coordinating committee for human services transportation.

[PowerPoint: Section 5310 Grant Program]

7. MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION MOBILE TRANSIT APP

Mr. Michael Helta, Chief Innovation Officer for the Maryland Department of Transportation - Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) briefed the Board on the partnership between MDOT-MTA and *Transit*, a mobile app that provides real-time transit information, simple trip planning, navigation, and ride-hailing. Mr. Helta informed the group that MDOT MTA desired to better inform bus riders by providing access to real-time data and help them trip plan and save time, be safe and comfortable when accessing bus services.

Mr. Helta discussed the history and evolution of trip planning nationally and at MDOT MTA. He talked about how they combined GTFS-RT (general transit feed specification – real time) data and GPS (Global Positioning System) tracking data from MDOT MTA buses with a “predictive” engine offered by *Transit App* to create a unique service. He described how their partnership

came about, and how MDOT MTA is using it to improve service and on-time performance of their fleet. And in so doing they have discovered other benefits along the way. They hope this technology may fundamentally alter the way people travel, with potentially dramatic impacts on safety, mobility and system performance.

Mr. Helta said “MDOT MTA is planning to ultimately expand this service to its other transit modes and include services such as Lyft, Bird and Lime and any future bike share service. The app already provides the user the opportunity to link to Uber.

Mr. Steve Cohoon from Queen Anne’s County asked if the locally operated transit systems (LOTS) were able to work with MTA’s contractor (Swiftly) to feed their route information into the system. Mr. Helta said that at present the contract is only with MTA and they’d be open to discussions on how that might happen.

[PowerPoint: Trippin’ on MTA with Transit App]

8. BRIEFING ON UPCOMING CENTRAL MARYLAND REGIONAL TRANSIT PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Holly Arnold took this opportunity to brief the BRTB on a key work item for MDOT MTA that was initiated by the Maryland General Assembly. Legislation was approved that directs MDOT MTA to develop a regional transit plan (RTP) for central Maryland by October 1, 2020. As a precursor, Ms. Arnold stated that the agency has been working on asset management for the last six years and they now can document the status of some \$9 Billion in assets.

The RTP will cover a 25-year period and identify how they will meet the transit needs of the core service area covered by fixed-route bus, light rail and subway. MDOT MTA will approach this task by creating a strategic plan for mobility in the core area that considers the LOTS, technology, and private sector providers. Seven focus areas have been identified: state of good repair, funding, new mobility, customer experience, service quality and integration, access, and corridors of opportunity.

Ms. Arnold also described the 11-member Commission its roles and responsibilities. It is expected that letters of invitation to Commission members will go out in January with a meeting in the Spring. Meetings will be open to the public and a website with all meeting materials will be created in January as well.

[PowerPoint: Connecting our Future: A Regional Transit Plan for Central Maryland]

9. BRIEFING ON I-695/I-70 (TRIPLE BRIDGES) INTERCHANGE PROJECT

Ms. Virginia Collier, MDOT SHA, addressed the BRTB on a significant interchange project getting underway. The I-695 at I-70 “triple bridge” interchange is in need of reconstruction/replacement. MDOT SHA is approaching this task as a Design-Build project. Ms. Collier described a number of benefits of Design-Build, such as encouraging innovation

and creativity in design and construction, improving project collaboration, and allocating responsibility and risks to the party best able to address them.

This project is part of the Governor's Traffic Relief Plan for Baltimore announced in December 2017. The project will extend eastward on I-70 toward Baltimore City and a Park-&-Ride facility. A Request for Qualifications will be released in March 2019 followed by a Request for Proposals in Summer of 2019. Ms. Collier also discussed several key issues with this project: mainline I-695 cannot be widened here with the current interchange configuration, maintenance of traffic now and in the future is a consideration, proposed improvements should be within MDOT SHA's current ROW, current funding does not allow for all movements to be maintained, and a broad public involvement strategy.

Regarding public involvement, MDOT SHA is hosting an Open House for the project on December 20, has released an online survey, is sending newsletters to area residents, and tired, for the first time, geofencing to capture commuter feedback.

[PowerPoint: I-695 at I-70 Interchange, Design-Build Project]

10. OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 A.M.

11. ATTENDANCE

Members

Holly Arnold, Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)
Alexandra Brun, (for Tad Aburn) MD Department of the Environment
Tyson Byrne, (for Heather Murphy) Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Greg Carski, Baltimore County Department of Public Works
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works
Chris Eatough, Howard County, Office of Transportation
Valorie LaCour, (for Michelle Pourciau) Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Mary Lane, (for Lynda Eisenberg) Carroll County Department of Planning
Sally Nash, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning
Alex Rawls, Harford County, Department of Planning
Brian Ulrich, (for Ramond Robinson) Anne Arundel County, Department of Planning & Zoning
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)

Staff and Guests

Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration, MD Division
Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Chris Bell, AECOM
Robert Berger, BMC

Cindy Burch, BMC
Sean Campton, MDOT SHA
Ed Cohen, resident Baltimore City
Virginia Collier, State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)
Chris Firehock, Center for Mobility Equity
Terry Freeland, BMC
Monica Haines-Benkhedda, BMC
Don Halligan, BMC
Michael Helta, MDOT MTA
Mike Jaeger, AECOM
Dan Janousek, MDOT
Todd Lang, BMC
Eric Norton, Chair, Public Advisory Committee
Tara Penders, MDOT SHA
Kevin Racine, resident, Harford County
Peter Regan, MDOT SHA
Lisa Sirota, MDOT SHA
Rebecca Smith, BMC
Sara Tomlinson, BMC

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board