

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

June 23, 2020
Online Meeting
9:02 to 10:30 A.M.

MINUTES

The 320th meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M. by the Chair, Ms. Lynda Eisenberg.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2020 BRTB meeting was made by Ms. Eisenberg. A motion was made by Mr. Steve Cohoon to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Gary Blazinsky. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

Mr. Eric Norton, Director of Policy and Programs at the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance, reported that he sent an email to the BRTB empowered representatives regarding the Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan (RTP) and the draft 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

First, Mr. Norton reported that although the official public comment period has concluded, MDOT MTA has said that Commissioners may submit additional comments through the end of June and Mr. Norton encouraged the BRTB members to collaborate with their counterparts on the Commission to submit any final comments.

Mr. Norton also noted that CMTA is encouraged that the RTP offers a vision for improving transit throughout the region. However, the plan will only be successful if local and state governments make it a priority to fund these improvements.

Mr. Norton expressed concern that the largest portion (\$1.3 billion or 30.68%) of the region's transportation spending in the draft 2021-2024 TIP is going to expanding highway capacity. He noted that expanding transit capacity is barely funded at 0.05% (\$2 million), and there is not a single dollar going toward commuter rail capacity. For the RTP to make a difference, Mr. Norton called upon the BRTB to align their spending priorities in ways that support transit.

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda reported that a comment period on the draft 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) & Air Quality Conformity launched June 16 and will run through July 17, 2020. The draft 2021-2024 TIP includes \$4.26 billion in proposed federal, state and local money for 140 highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects during the next four years. New this year, is an [interactive project map](#), where the public can both view projects and offer comments. Those interested in learning more may do so during a virtual public meeting on Thursday, July 9 at 6 p.m. or Tuesday, July 14 at 12:30 p.m. Details about the TIP and how to comment are online.

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda also reported that BMC has partnered with an organization called Love to Ride to help boost engagement, ridership, and business participation beyond a single day Bike to Work Day event. Anyone who lives or works in the Baltimore region has access to Love to Ride Central MD's bicycling encouragement programs from June through September 2020, including the month-long global workplace or group challenge, Cycle September. Learn more or sign up at lovetoride.net/CentralMD.

Lastly, staff are developing a comment period for the Patapsco Regional Greenway: Elkrige to the Guinness segment. Three trail alternatives are under development and the public will be invited to weigh in on the alignments and help to select the final design. The comment period will launch in early July. Contact Sheila Mahoney at smahoney@baltometro.org to join the PRG mailing list.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report for June 2020]

4. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

- The consultant team from WSP/PRR presented recommendations on options for the future of the PAC. Several members expressed strong support for Option A, seeing continued benefit to keeping the PAC with some of the changes outlined. Others leaned strongly toward Option B, which could provide "more change, more energy," especially given the amount of time the PAC has spent discussing "how the PAC is not working." Others pointed out that the solution could include elements of both options as members are interested in continuing to be involved and have their voice heard in the planning process. The PAC looks forward to hearing what the BRTB decides.
- The PAC also began a discussion of the goals and public involvement for the next long-range transportation plan and will continue to discuss at their June 24 meeting.

Ms. Eisenberg asked if a member of the BRTB was scheduled to participate in the PAC meeting the following evening. Since no one else was slated, Ms. Eisenberg agreed to participate.

5. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. David Cookson reported the following from the June TC meeting:

- BMC staff presented an update to the region's Title VI program. The annual report identifies activities in program administration as well as MPO-specific activities to address Title VI. This annual report will be appended to the Title VI plan, which is updated every 4 years.
- The Maryland Transportation Institute (MTI) presented an overview of their development of *An Interactive COVID-19 Impact Analysis Platform for Situational Awareness and Decision Support*. The interactive COVID-19 platform is developed from the anonymized data collected from 150 million+ mobile devices. The team has developed algorithms for 38 metrics on mobility, health, economy and more.
- BMC staff reviewed the schedule for developing the next regional long-range transportation plan. As a first step in that development, BMC staff has reviewed the current regional goals and strategies. A review and discussion ensued for the recommended changes of each goal. Members left with a copy and will prepare to fully discuss in July.
- BMC staff reviewed the completed Public Participation Plan (PPP) for the FY 2021 UPWP and the proposed PPP for the draft TIP and conformity determination. In addition to sharing, a second purpose was to get feedback of the public process to enhance its reach.
- Best practices from around the country and some draft policy considerations were shared. Several examples of new mobility and development review best practices in urban, suburban, small town and rural settings were shared. There was a discussion of trends to help establish context for several policy considerations, who might be responsible for addressing these considerations, and how they could be implemented.
- The Nominating Committee recommended continuing with a second year for the current officers, Howard County serving as Chair and Harford County serving as Vice Chair.

6. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #20-15

Ms. Regina Aris asked members to consider Resolution #20-15 accepting the Title VI Annual Report. The purpose of the Title VI 2019 annual report is to provide an update on implementation of the BRTB Title VI program. The annual report identifies activities in the following areas: Program administration, General requirements, and MPO-specific activities. When approved the annual report will be appended to the Title VI plan. The main plan is updated every four years.

Ms. Aris highlighted a series of meetings with each jurisdiction to gain an understanding of their public involvement and equity practices. BMC staff participated in workshops such as that sponsored by MACo on developing policy through an equity lens, and finally several enhancements to the environmental justice analysis for the LRTP was outlined. Those enhancements included analysis based on EJ and non-EJ TAZs as well as new measures around accessibility and mobility.

Ms. Eisenberg asked for a motion from the committee. Mr. Ramond Robinson moved to accept the Annual Report with Mr. Bruce Gartner seconding the motion. Ms. Eisenberg asked the members if there was further discussion. Then Ms. Eisenberg asked if anyone from the public had anything to ask or add. No one from the public voiced comments. Ms. Eisenberg asked Ms. Deibel to begin a roll call vote, the resolution was unanimously approved.

[PowerPoint: Title VI Annual Report]

7. ELECTION OF BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD OFFICERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Ms. Eisenberg reviewed the report from the Nominating Committee and then asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a request for a motion was made. Ms. Valorie LaCour motioned for Carroll County to be chair and Anne Arundel County to be vice chair. Ms. Sally Nash seconded the motion. Ms. Eisenberg called a vote, which passed unanimously. Ms. Eisenberg thanked the members for the opportunity to serve a second year.

8. PRESENTATION: INTRODUCTION TO THE TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND

Mr. John Duklewski, Executive Director of the Transportation Association of Maryland, and Mr. Will Kenlaw, Montgomery County DOT, provided a photo-based overview of TAM activities in 2019. Mr. Kenlaw serves as the Chair of the TAM Member Services Committee. The organization was primarily comprised of MDOT MTA and LOTS agencies. However, in the last few years other organizations that provide transportation services to their clients or staff have joined. This includes non-profits that serve elderly and disabled individuals, colleges and universities, vendors, as well as employers.

TAM is a statewide organization dedicated to improving mobility for all Maryland citizens through: training & education, legislative advocacy, networking, and as a forum for sharing of transportation solutions. In the area of training the following are provided: wheelchair securement, maintenance, defensive driving, pre-trip inspections, and customer service. In the area of education the following is provided: professional development courses, extensive online resource library, inform members of MDOT MTA and other agency trainings, and keep up-to-date on available grant opportunities. Around legislative advocacy, TAM considers: research current issues, present position to legislators and policy makers, provide regular legislative updates to members, supply state representative contact information, and communicate directly with legislators at our annual legislative reception.

Ms. Eisenberg inquired if TAM is providing driver training around COVID-19 safety measures – and yes that training is being provided. Mr. Robinson wanted to know if TAM explores federal funding issues – TAM does explore funding for areas of interest such as micro-transit and for grant writing.

[PowerPoints: TAM Photo Slideshow and What is TAM?]

9. PRESENTATION: REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED INVEST IN AMERICA ACT

Mr. Todd Lang offered an overview of HR 2 “Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act” or the “INVEST in America Act” prepared by AMPO staff, along with updates on related material. HR 2 is considered is not a bipartisan bill yet has sections that are important for discussion. Overall, it outlines a 5-year bill in 2 parts, the first is Division A: a one-year extension of the FAST Act (2021), and the second larger part is Division B – a four-year surface transportation bill (2022-2025). While identifying a 67 percent increase in funding, it does not identify where the funds to pay for it come from. The bill does address a range of topics impacting MPOs, including several new planning factors.

As authorization continues to be discussed additional information will be shared with the members.

[PowerPoint: Summary of an AMPO Legislative Update]

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Eisenberg inquired if BMC had considered a timeframe for initiating in person meetings of the BRTB. Mr. Lang indicated that would be some time off. Currently, the BMC is checking with the State and member jurisdictions as to plans to reoccupy offices, to be followed some time later with meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Members

Kwame Arhin, FHWA – MD Division
Gary Blazinsky, Harford Transit
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
Bruce Gartner, Howard County Office of Transportation
Valorie LaCour, (for Theo Ngongang) Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Heather Murphy, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Oluseyi Olugbenle (for Kate Sylvester), Maryland Transit Administration
Sally Nash, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning
Alex Rawls, Harford County, Department of Planning
Ramond Robinson, Anne Arundel County, Department of Planning & Zoning
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)

Staff and Guests

Bala Akundi, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Regina Aris, BMC
Tyson Byrne, MDOT
Cindy Burch, BMC
David Cookson, Howard County, OOT
Rebecca Deibel, BMC
John Duklewski, Transportation Association of Maryland (TAM)
Blake Fisher, BMC
Ben Groff, PAC member
Monica Haines-Benkhedda, BMC
Victor Henry, BMC
Don Halligan, BMC
John Hillegrass, Greater Washington Partnership
Dan Janousek, MDOT
Will Kenlaw, Montgomery County DOT
Todd Lang, BMC
Joe McAndrew, Greater Washington Partnership
Eric Norton, PAC Chair
Renee Parker, TAM
Lisa Sirota, MDOT SHA
Sara Tomlinson, BMC
Joann Trach, Mahan Rykiel

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board