

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

August 24, 2021
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
9:00 to 10:07 A.M.

MINUTES

The 334th meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Ramond Robinson.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2021 BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Robinson. A motion was made by Mr. Bruce Gartner to approve the minutes and seconded by Ms. Sally Nash. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

No one from the public chose to speak to the BRTB.

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda reported that the BRTB does not have any comment periods at this time but staff are busy working to prepare for the launch of *Resilience 2050*, our regions next long-range transportation plan. Stay tuned to your email in the coming weeks for information about Resilience 2050 and how to be involved.

Staff are also working to promote a number of regional initiatives:

- August is Ozone Action Month. Ozone is an air pollutant created when it's hot, which is why Clean Air Partners (CAP) focuses on reducing it during the month of August. BMC and CAP invite you to take action this month to keep everyone safe. Visit cleanairpartners.net to learn more about CAP, ozone, and the Air Quality Index!
- Staff also continue to work on designing a new section of the Patapsco Regional Greenway: Sykesville to McKeldin Segment which will add another 8.5 miles to the greenway. A comment period to share the preferred alternative for this segment will launch in September, with a virtual public meeting tentatively set for September 30.

- BMC is gearing Up For Cycle September - Community members from around the Baltimore region are invited to take part in the Cycle September bicycle challenge from Wednesday, September 1 through Thursday, September 30. Community members can register now as individuals or as part of a workplace team at LovetoRide.net/CentralMD.
- Staff continue safety outreach efforts. Have you met [@Signal_Woman](#)? She keeps the Maryland community safe with her tips for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. Signal Woman reminds pedestrians, cyclists and drivers to obey traffic safety laws and implement simple tips to help everyone travel safely around the region.
BMC's Look Alive social media toolkit offers information, downloadable graphics and suggested content that you can add to your organization's social media channels to highlight the Look Alive campaign and introduce your followers to Signal Woman. Contact Bala Akundi at bakundi@baltometro.org for a copy of the toolkit.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report for August 2021]

4. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Joel Gallihue reported the following from the August TC meeting:

- The election of officers for FY 2022 resulted in Harford County for chair and Anne Arundel County for vice chair. On behalf of all members of the Technical Committee, Mr. Duah graciously thanked Mr. Cookson for two years of leadership with the Technical Committee.
- Recommended Action on Resolution #22-4 - MDOT MTA requested amend to shift construction funds in FY 2021 and FY 2022 from Section 5339 to Section 5307. Resolution #22-4 was approved.
- MDOT MTA updated members on the state transit plan. MDOT MTA gave a briefing on the status and schedule of the Maryland Statewide Transit Plan. The purpose of the plan is to develop a 50-year transit vision for Maryland centered on desired experiences and outcomes for riders. The approach to the plan includes stitching together local and regional plans to coordinate transit across the state and to create an action plan with performance metrics. In the Baltimore region, the main themes included a desire for more rail and intercity service options, as well as east-west across city and suburb connections. MDOT MTA will conduct additional public comment, during which the revised Final Plan will be drafted this fall, and Implementation will also include continued public involvement.
- BMC discussed Telecommuting Trends results from the 2018-2019 Maryland Travel Survey (MTS). The results indicate that in the Baltimore region 31% of workers are offered the option of telecommuting by their employers. Telecommuting behavior was also analyzed by 3 variables: Age, Household Income, and Travel Time to Work. Once again, the sample consisted of workers who said that they were eligible to telecommute.
- BMC staff covered the status of all FY 2021 and FY 2022 consultant tasks. Proposed RFPs will continue to be brought to the Technical Committee to keep the work program moving.

The AMPO conference in early October will be an opportunity for the members to glean ideas for additional work in the FY 2023 UPWP.

5. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #22-4

Mr. Keith Kucharek introduced Resolution #22-04. The MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) is requesting to amend the 2021-2024 TIP and 2022-2025 TIP to reflect a change to federal and state funding for the Kirk Bus Facility Replacement Project.

The Interagency Consultation Group has determined that this project is exempt according to the conformity rule, and the Technical Committee recommended sending the resolution to the BRTB as presented.

Ms. Laurie Brown from MDOT MTA presented details of the project. This amendment revises construction funds in FY 2021 and FY 2022 in Sections 5307 and 5339 for the Kirk Bus Facility project. The projects originally funded under this grant application were not eligible to be 100% federalized under Section 5339. Funds in Section 5307 decrease in FY 2021 by \$9.9 million and Section 5339 decreases by \$3.2 million. Section 5307 funds decrease in FY 2022 by \$1.5 million. Section 5339 increases by \$6.04 million. This funding will be used to replace plastic seats and air purifiers.

Mr. Robinson asked if the Section 5307 funds were regular formula funds. Ms. Brown indicated that they were regular apportionments.

Mr. Robinson asked for any comments from the public. No one requested the opportunity to comment. Mr. Robinson requested a vote on Resolution #22-4. Mr. Alex Rawls moved approval of Resolution #22-4 and Ms. D'Andrea Walker seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

[PowerPoint: MDOT MTA Tip Amendment]

6. PRESENTATION: THE LOOP

Ms. D'Andrea Walker, Acting Director of Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation, presented an overview of the Towson Circulator Pilot, now known as the Towson Loop.

Residents in Baltimore County had been consistently asking for improved connections between Towson's core destinations and main attractions. The County completed a feasibility study in 2015 and updated it in 2020. Based on the results of the study, Baltimore County again extensively engaged the public with proposed routes, stops and hours of service.

The circulator would support goals identified in the 5 year Transit Development Plan (TDP), in particular by providing community connector service and more flexible options. It will also promote economic development by creating easier access to existing large institutions and small businesses and encouraging future community development. By complementing

existing MDOT MTA service, the Towson Loop will also strengthen overall transit service and ridership in the area, while supporting the County's environmental and public health goals.

The Towson Loop will consist of two routes that will be free of charge to riders, the Purple Route (North-South) and the Orange Route (East-West). It will operate Monday through Friday from 6 am to midnight and Saturday from 10 am to midnight. There will be 12 buses, each able to accommodate 25 passengers, and riders can expect a bus at their selected stop every 15 to twenty minutes.

After installation of a trailer and other site improvements, the Carney Park-and-Ride Lot at Jomat and Harford Road in Parkville will serve as the Towson Loop Hub. Initially the hub will be used for overnight parking and daily operations only.

Baltimore County is currently hiring and training staff with passenger service to begin later this fall.

[PowerPoint: Circulator Pilot]

7. UPWP UPDATES

Mr. Todd Lang and Ms. Regina Aris shared presenting an update on consultant activities identified in the FY 2021 and FY 2022 UPWPs. Information was provided on the status of each activity. Some tasks are coming to a close, while others are beginning or are gearing up for release of an RFP.

[PowerPoint: UPWP Updates]

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business. The next meeting will be held on September 28, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 A.M.

Members

Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration, MD Division

Jade Clayton (for Kate Sylvester), Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)

Heather Murphy, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

D'Andrea Walker, Baltimore County Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T)

Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works

Bruce Gartner, Howard County Office of Transportation

Theo Ngongang, 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
Ramond Robinson, Anne Arundel County, Department of Transportation
Catherine Salarano (for Tad Aburn), Maryland Department of the Environment
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)

Staff and Guests

Bala Akundi, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Regina Aris, BMC
Laurie Brown, MDOT MTA
Cindy Burch, BMC
Tyson Byrne, MDOT
Rebecca Deibel, BMC
Erica Falk, MDOT MTA
Blake Fisher, BMC
Joel Gallihue, Harford County P&Z
Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC
Don Halligan, BMC
Victor Henry, BMC
Dan Janousek, MDOT
Zach Kaufman, BMC
Keith Kucharek, BMC
Todd Lang, BMC
Sheila Mahoney, BMC
Charlene Mingus, BMC
Eric Norton, CMTA
Eileen Singleton, BMC
Lisa Sirota, MDOT SHA
Sam Snead, Baltimore County DPW&T

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board