

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

September 28, 2021
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
9:04 to 10:47 A.M.

MINUTES

The 335th meeting was called to order at 9:04 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Ramond Robinson.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2021 BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Robinson. A motion was made by Mr. Theo Ngongang to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Bruce Gartner. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

No one from the public wished to share comments at this time.

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda shared that in August, staff launched the planning process for *Resilience 2050: Adapting to the Challenges of Tomorrow* with a conversation around resilience. To start the conversation we created a short video to spur discussion. This video is on BMC's YouTube channel at youtu.be/w9l8c88MtMw.

BMC also created an interactive engagement hub at publicinput.com/resilience2050. The first tab asks the questions, "What is Resilience?" and "What does it mean for our region's transportation system to be resilient and ready for the challenges of 2050? We asked participants to share their thoughts using our ideas board. A few highlights of the comments to date are below.

- Resilience is about having a variety of safe and reliable transportation options. The participant encourages the BRTB to reduce dependence on motor vehicles and increase access to safe walking, biking, micro-mobility, and transit options.
- Resilience is reducing risk and developing the ability to bounce back better. This participant references MEMA hazard analysis to consider when developing Resilience 2050.

- The next participant is concerned about flooding and recommends implementation of a much higher percentage of permeable paved surfaces.
- Another person raises the issue of access to jobs by transit in the surrounding jurisdictions.
- For another participant, resilience is about recovering, but also planning ahead to mitigate disasters in the future. They emphasize the need to make sure the system works for everyone, not just those in cars and cite climate change as a need to significantly reduce VMT.

Ms. Haines Benkhedda shared that this is just the start of the conversation and we hope you'll add your ideas to the ideas board at publicinput.com/resilience2050.

In addition to the conversation around what resilience is, staff also released the draft goals and strategies for public comment through October 12. Comments are being accepted by voicemail, email, twitter, and via an interactive survey we put together at publicinput.com/resilience2050goals. On this website, staff have laid out each goal and corresponding strategies on tabs. Each tab includes a place where participants can rank the importance of the goal to them and provide comments on how we can improve the goal and strategies. Also on this site, we've created a [video overview of the goals](#) and how people can share comments. Ms. Haines Benkhedda thanked Ms. D'Andrea Walker for providing the opening and closing remarks for this recording.

A record of comments to date can be viewed online at publicinput.com/Report/cuut3xteeop. To date we've had 11 participants share over 45 comments.

Ms. Haines Benkhedda went on to share that staff are working hard to encourage people to share their thoughts on the draft goals and strategies and ask for help. Do you have an e-newsletter, Facebook page, or website where you can share information about *Resilience 2050*? We have put together some sample social media posts and language you can use for sharing information about *Resilience 2050* and our current comment period on the goals and strategies. Ms. Haines Benkhedda will be sending a copy of the *Resilience 2050* outreach toolkit to all board members. We are also looking for lists of community associations in your area that might want to participate. Ms. Haines Benkhedda thanked the members in advance for their support in helping us spread the word about *Resilience 2050*.

Next, we have a comment period on the proposed alignments for a new section of the Patapsco Regional Greenway in Carroll County. Details will be shared at a public meeting on Thursday, September 30 at 6:00 p.m. Register or get more details about these alignments at publicinput.com/prgsykesville.

This month BMC has been promoting cycling through the Love to Ride Cycle September Challenge. There's still time to participate. Visit LovetoRide.net/CentralMD to register.

Lastly, Harford County has released its Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for comment through Saturday, October 30. The draft plan is available to review via an interactive website.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report for September 2021 and What is Resilience]

4. REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

Ms. Regina Aris reported the following from the September ICG meeting:

- The ICG began with a review of the roles of the members based on the MOU in place.
- There was a review of the three recommendations around air quality in the Certification Report and the status of actions underway to address them.
- The bulk of the meeting focused on the current post-processor, MOVES2014a and the newly released MOVES3 model. Due to the work necessary to be ready to use the MOVES3 model, it was determined that the next TIP cycle would use MOVES2014a and then the following cycle, along with the adoption of Resilience 2050, would use the new emissions model.
- BMC presented information on the comment period for the Goals and Strategies associated with Resilience 2050.

5. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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

- BMC staff introduced Resolution #22-5 and explained the background and purpose of this action is to amend the FY 2022 UPWP to carry over funding for tasks that were not yet completed in FY 2021. Staff walked through each of the BMC led consultant tasks and the provided the Committee members an update on each task. He also described each of the regional activities that locals are working on and the status of their carryover amounts. He asked each of the Technical Committee members who have carryover items to brief the Committee on their status, which they did. The TC recommended moving the resolution to the BRTB.
- BMC staff presented information about the proposed pilot project for the regional bicycle and pedestrian count program. BMC staff have been collaborating with partners to develop a regional bicycle and pedestrian count program efforts have included: conducting a review of the state of practice including existing and emerging count technology; defining the reasons for conducting counts; outlining the process to develop a count program; and discussing the short duration count types available for the regional counts. BPAG members have provided input on repeating and project specific count locations, regional goals, and prioritization criteria for selecting count locations. BMC staff will continue to work with BPAG members and other partners to refine the regional count program proposal. Staff presented the proposed pilot project for fall 2021 bicycle and pedestrian counts. The pilot project would include weeklong counts conducted at eight locations throughout the region in October with one count location per member jurisdiction. The pilot project will allow BMC staff and BPAG to: explore any challenges with implementation, technology, and data; coordinate with jurisdictions on data analysis and documentation of needed resources; and provide lessons learned to guide recommendations for a regional program. BMC staff is developing a five to ten year program proposal which will be shaped by lessons learned from the pilot program and input from BPAG members and partners. The program proposal will include a list of count locations, achievable

program goals based on various funding scenarios, a data management and sharing plan, and exploration of the resources required for data analysis and use.

- In August staff launched the planning process for *Resilience 2050: Adapting to the Challenges of Tomorrow* with a conversation around resilience. To start the conversation BMC created a short video in hopes of spurring discussion. The recently launched public-facing websites for *Resilience 2050*, the next long-range transportation plan (LRTP). These include resilience2050.com and publicinput.com/Resilience2050. Each of these websites includes a summary of *Resilience 2050* and the key steps in the LRTP planning process. There is a comment period for the draft goals and strategies for *Resilience 2050*, using a survey created for the comment period as a guide. The goals form the basis of the criteria that the BRTB uses to evaluate and score potential projects for inclusion in the long-range transportation plan. They are also utilized in other grant programs such as the Transportation Alternatives program. Each of the nine goals include a number of supporting strategies or policy approaches that will help the region to implement the associated goal. A resolution regarding the draft goals and strategies will be presented to the Technical Committee and BRTB in November. The presentation focused on recommended updates to the technical scoring criteria for *Resilience 2050*. The recommended updates shift the amount of points devoted to the existing goals, particularly for transit projects. BMC staff recommend adding scoring criteria for transit projects where it had previously been absent in the areas of complete streets accessibility, safety, and security. Staff are also recommending reducing the points allocated to economic prosperity from 10 to 5 so that the point allocation for safety can be increased to 10 to reflect its importance as a regional goal. The recommended updates also clarify definitions and the allocation of points where they had previously been unclear. BMC staff also sought to make the scoring process less subjective by suggesting more quantitative methods focusing on how each project contributes to creating a complete transportation system. Finally, BMC staff recommend updating the scoring criteria to integrate impacts to Environmental Justice populations.

6. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #22-5

Mr. Don Halligan introduced Resolution #22-5 and explained the background and purpose of this action is to amend the FY 2022 UPWP to carry over funding for tasks that were not yet completed in FY 2021. He reminded the Committee members of the three categories of carryover funding, BMC led consultant tasks, support for local staff on regional activities, and local subarea tasks. He stated that for consultant or subarea tasks that were not completed, the remaining funds need to be moved into the FY 2022 UPWP in order for reimbursement to occur.

Mr. Halligan walked through each of the BMC led consultant tasks and then provided the Committee members an update on each task. He also described each of the regional activities that locals are working on and the status of their carryover amounts. He discussed the status of each locally led task underway by the local members as described by Technical Committee members, each who have carryover items and briefed the Technical Committee.

Mr. Halligan asked the Board to consider approval of Resolution #22-5 that reconciles the funding for FY 2021 tasks not yet completed and carryover the total amounts as presented for these tasks into the FY 2022 budget.

Mr. Gartner from Howard County moved approval, Ms. D'Andrea Walker from Baltimore County seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval to move Resolution #22-5.

[PowerPoint: FY 2021 Carryover]

7. PRESENTATION: 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS DATA

Mr. Shawn Kimberly, BMC, presented on the county-level level population data included as part of the Census Bureau's release of the 2020 Census redistricting data file (also known as PL 94-171). He first provided an overview of the purpose of the file and background information on the Census Bureau's delayed release schedule, resulting from the pandemic. He then shared a slide providing a summary table of population change between 2010 and 2020 decennial censuses for the region and jurisdictions, noting that: there was population growth in the region of 134,021 (+4.9%); Anne Arundel County experienced the greatest numeric growth (+50,605); Howard County had the greatest rate of growth (+15.8%); Baltimore City was the only jurisdiction in the region to have population loss (-35,253, -5.7%); and Anne Arundel County surpassed Baltimore City in terms of total population, becoming the second largest jurisdiction in the Baltimore region.

Mr. Kimberly then presented a series of three slides for the region, as well as for each of the seven component jurisdictions, providing some historical and comparative context for the 2020 decennial census population figures. The slides included charts for: total population over time (at each decennial census from 1970 through 2020); numeric growth between censuses over the 50-year time-period; and annualized growth rates between decennial censuses – including comparisons to the region, state, and nation. He also included at the end of the presentation a table showing population, numeric growth, and percentage increase between 2010 and 2020 for the 30 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the United States.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Kimberly summarized with a few of broad observations about population growth trends in the region: population continued to rise in the region (and in most jurisdictions) through 2020 – albeit at slower rates since 1990; the region's population continues to increase, while its central city is losing population – indicating continued suburbanization; the two fastest growing jurisdictions in the region (Anne Arundel County and Howard County) border the Washington DC region; and from 2010 to 2020 the Baltimore region has experienced lower growth (both numeric and percentage) than many other comparably sized regions in the United States.

Mr. Kimberly responded to questions from Mr. Robinson about possible reasons for the slowing of the region's population growth rate over time. He mentioned that population growth can occur only through natural increase (births – deaths) and migration. He added that at the regional scale, births have been declining as deaths have been rising, – resulting in still positive, yet declining population gains from natural increase. The region's population growth

due to the migration component has been on a downward trend since 2012, and has become negative in the latter half of the decade. International migration has remained positive, but has been declining since 2015. Domestic migration has been negative at the regional level since 2013, and has been persistent through 2020 (according to the Census Bureau's vintage 2020 Population Estimates Program data).

[PowerPoint: Preliminary Analysis of 2020 Census Data]

8. BRIEFING: REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT EVALUATION

Ms. Regina Aris began with a review of the three key tasks assigned to the consultant team. In parallel with that work and from information gleaned from other MPOs, BMC entered into a three year contract with PublicInput.com to deploy an engagement platform with varied abilities throughout to be available for the length of the upcoming long-range transportation plan.

Based on the consultants' work, Ms. Aris shared the key concerns expressed by current and former members of the PAC as well as research gleaned from other MPOs related to citizen engagement. The recommendation included two possible options, 1) retool the PAC, or 2) replace the PAC with new forms of engagement. After reviewing all of the feedback from PAC members and the consultant recommendations, BMC staff received approval from the Executive Committee to explore the option of building a virtual panel in order to engage a wider audience from around the region. Until that has a chance to show its merits, the PAC remains a dormant committee. If the larger, virtual panel works well, that may be the main vehicle for input moving forward. If it does not work out, the BRTB should consider another type of public engagement or a revised format for the PAC.

Three members of the PAC attended the meeting with 2 members supporting the virtual panel. The third member appreciated consideration of his Transportation 101 alumni as possible members of the larger panel. A few BRTB members were supportive of the idea and others asked for information about the panel concept. It was agreed that BMC would continue working and come back to the members at the November meeting.

[PowerPoint: Update on Evaluation of Public Involvement]

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business. Mr. Robinson reminded members that the next meeting will be on Friday, October 29, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 A.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Members

Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works (DPW)
Bruce Gartner, Howard County Office of Transportation (OOT)
Lynda Eisenberg, Carroll County Department of Planning
Heather Murphy, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Sally Nash, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning
Theo Ngongang, Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT)
Alex Rawls, Harford County, Department of Planning & Zoning (DP&Z)
Ramond Robinson, Anne Arundel County, Office of Transportation (OOT)
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
D'Andrea Walker, Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T)
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)

Staff and Guests

Bala Akundi, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Regina Aris, BMC
Cindy Burch, BMC
Tyson Byrne, MDOT
Michael Davis, PAC member
Joel Gallihue, Harford County DP&Z
Monica Haines-Benkhedda, BMC
Don Halligan, BMC
Victor Henry, BMC
Zach Kaufman, BMC
Shawn Kimberly, BMC
Keith Kucharek, BMC
Todd Lang, BMC
Sheila Mahoney, BMC
Charlene Mingus, BMC
Eric Norton, PAC member
Lisa Sirota, MDOT SHA
Rebecca Deibel, BMC
Paul Verchinski, PAC member

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board