

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

August 27, 2024
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
9:02 to 9:37 A.M.

MINUTES

The 367th meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Tony Russell.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the July BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Russell. A motion was made by Mr. Trey Dickerson to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Sam Snead. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

There was no one who wished to address the BRTB.

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda shared the following highlights of community engagement efforts:

- Bikeable Baltimore Region – Launched this Spring, the BBR project will identify a regional bike network that is safe and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities. A key element of this project is widespread community engagement. In Phase 1, which wrapped up in July, the team held 8 in person meetings throughout the region and 2 virtual meetings.

A story map survey yielded over 160 participants, another 249 comments were received via our project page, and over 110 people have signed up for the project mailing list. Results show that 93% support a regional bike network and 92% support the draft vision.

Six key themes emerged from the feedback: 1) Change Driver Behavior, 2) Safety and Comfort, 3) Protected Bike Lanes, 4) Connectivity, 5) Well-Maintained Paths, and 6) Integration with Public Transit.

Phase 2 launches in November. Sign up for the project mailing list or see the full Phase 1 results, comments, and responses at publicinput.com/bikebaltoregion.

- Patapsco Regional Greenway: Stoney Run Trail – Stay tuned this fall when Phase 3 of this project will launch. The community has already weighed in on what would make a good trail and considered 4 options for where the trail could go. This fall we will share the final path and ask for comments on amenities folks would like to see along this trail. Visit publicinput.com/PRG for more information and to sign up for mail or text alerts.

[PowerPoint: Public Involvement Report for August 2024]

4. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Dan Janousek reported the following from the July Tech Committee meeting:

- The Technical Committee reviewed two proposed action items. The first was to consider the information supporting the mid-period performance report related to projects supported through the CMAQ program. The second item was a requested change of functional classification for a segment of Ten Oaks Road in Howard County. The briefing on both items allowed the members to recommend sending them to the BRTB for consideration.
- The featured presentation was given by MDOT MTA on [BMORE BUS](#). Essentially the effort is to create a short-range transit plan (5-10 years) that will recommend bus improvements based on public priorities and travel data and will inform MTA's Annual Service Planning and will identify improvements that could be possible with additional resources. This effort focuses on the core bus service area plus connections to broader Central Maryland region. MTA is considering at least four improvements: 1) more frequent service, 2) longer hours of operation, 3) new or modified routes to serve new destinations and connections, and 4) new services like limited-stop routes and on-demand transit.

MTA began the study in the spring with a visioning task followed by draft recommendations during the summer. This fall MTA will release the final recommendations in the BMORE BUS Transit Plan. Once complete, the plan will inform the annual updates that MTA makes to bus service each fall.

There has been a robust public engagement effort with media, presentations at organizations and in jurisdictions as well as pop-up events. The public was able to learn the basics of bus service planning and then respond to a survey that ranked priorities.

- Staff shared with the members how to access the new AMPO portal called the MPO Institute. The portal provides online training programs for most staff, BRTB and Technical Committee members. Currently there are two featured courses: MPO 101 and Federal Funding. AMPO will be adding additional content over time. The classes are fairly rigorous with modules that total 11 hours of learning, recommended to take place over a few weeks. If folks are AICP planners you can earn continuous maintenance credits.

BMC is hoping to add locally generated videos, such as how to submit a project to the TIP. This will build out over time.

- The Committee went into closed session to discuss an upcoming RFP related to the Carbon Reduction and PROTECT programs.

5. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #25-7

Ms. Anna Marshall provided an overview of the CMAQ performance measures and program. Resolution #25-7 involves the BRTB mid-performance report for the second performance period, which will be included in the MDOT report and submitted to FHWA by October 1, 2024. There are three performance measures as part of the CMAQ program. They are the PHED measure, Non-SOV Travel measure, and Emission Reduction measure. The report and targets were developed in coordination with MDOT, and performance trends were evaluated prior to target setting.

The PHED 4 year target was adjusted for both the Baltimore and Aberdeen urban areas, after determining that the performance exceeded the 2 year target. Trends were looked at using the RITIS tool. There were no changes to the percent non-SOV targets, because performance showed that the urban areas exceeded the targets. In this case, it is good to exceed the target, meaning that more people are carpooling and reducing single person car trips. Teleworking is included in this count. The final measure is emission reduction. There were 2 new projects for 2024. Projects in our region are provided by MDOT through the FHWA Public Access System. These performance measures assess emissions reduced from CMAQ funded projects in kilograms per day. There were no changes recommended for the 4 year targets, because the region hit their two year targets.

Mr. Alex Rawls recommended approval of the resolution, and Ms. Corren Johnson seconded it. There were no comments from members or the audience. The board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the CMAQ mid-performance report.

[PowerPoint: CMAQ 2nd Performance Period – Mid Performance Report]

6. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #25-8

Mr. Darren Bean, MDOT SHA, indicated that Howard County has requested a change of functional classification for a segment of Ten Oaks Road: Triadelphia Road to Brighton Dam Road to move from a local road to a major collector. The request follows FHWA guidance for 1) system continuity, annual average daily traffic, and 3) highway design. The request would align the current function of the roadway to the associated functional classification.

Once the BRTB gives approval the change will be sent to FHWA for concurrence. After that SHA Data Services Division will update the roadway database to reflect the change.

Mr. Russell asked for a motion and a second. Mr. Rawls offered the motion and Mr. Dickerson made the second. There were no questions from the members or guests. The members approved the requested change to the functional classification.

[PowerPoint: Functional classification change: Ten Oaks Road]

7. PRESENTATION: THE FEDERAL REVIEW TEAM WILL SHARE THE RESULTS OF THE REVIEW OF THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL PROCESS

Ms. Jasmine Champion, FHWA MD Division, Planning Program Manager, presented the findings of the Baltimore MPO TMA Certification Review on behalf of Ms. Valeriya Remezova, FHWA MD Division Administrator and Ms. Theresa Garcia Crews, FTA Region 3 Regional Administrator.

Ms. Champion stated who the review team members were and the steps with timeframe for getting to this presentation. The best news is that there are no corrective actions found by the team. All of the commendations and recommendations were listed for the members and the public to be aware of.

The six commendations include: 1) Collaborating with the Transportation Association of Maryland to provide skills training to LOTS and MTA staff, 2) Developing a region-wide local financial forecast process for local revenues, 3) Efforts to expand public engagement and find more impactful ways for the public participate in planning processes via CORE, 4) Updating BRTB's "guide to transportation planning," rewritten at a 9th grade reading level, 5) Employing a simple-language communication and providing simplified visual guidance articulating the MPO actions and approach, and 6) BRTB's collective efforts gathering local data from jurisdictions, transit providers, and MDOT to develop and set some of its own performance targets.

The seven recommendations include: 1) Update MPO agreements with partner agencies to reflect current practices, boundaries, roles, and responsibilities, 2) MDOT and BRTB continue to work together on the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects, BRTB publish its list for public access, 3) Document BRTB's process for how projects are programmed into the LRTP. Describe how projects are proposed by local agencies through Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) and state agencies through the state Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), 4) Ensure the current TIP including amendments can be easily found online. Post updated version(s) of the TIP, incorporating adopted amendments on the BRTB TIP webpage to improve TIP accessibility for the public, member governments, and staff, 5) Update BRTB bylaws to formalize current public engagement practices, and clarify the operational future of the Transportation CORE and the currently-dormant PAC, 6) Document the BRTB's process for establishing performance measures and targets, and 7) BRTB resolutions that include the adoption of the Statewide targets and the election to develop and adopt regional targets rather than statewide targets should be more centrally accessible on the BRTB website.

In conclusion, the FHWA/FTA jointly certify the BRTB transportation planning process through July 11, 2028. Members appreciated the presentation and the findings. There were no questions or comments by the public.

[PowerPoint: Baltimore MPO TMA Certification Review]

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business. The meeting ended at 9:37 am.

Members

Jasmine Champion, Federal Highway Administration, Maryland Division
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works
Trey Dickerson, Howard County Office of Transportation
Fred Lippert (for Elizabeth Gordon), MDOT Maryland Transit Administration
Corren Johnson, Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Mary Lane, Carroll County Department of Planning
Geoff Anderson, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Alex Rawls, Harford County, Department of Planning
Tony Russell, Baltimore County Department of Public Works & Transportation
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Sam Snead, Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
Daniel Sommerville, FTA Region III

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Darren Bean, MDOT SHA
Cindy Burch, BMC
Angie Daniel, Baltimore County, TPW&T
Veronica O. Davis, guest
Rebecca Deibel, BMC
Nate Evans, MDOT SHA
Ndemazea Fonkem, BMC
Blake Fisher, BMC
Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC
Don Halligan, BMC
Andrea Jackson, BMC
Dan Janousek, MDOT
Zach Kaufman, BMC
Mike Kelly, BMC
Keith Kucharek, BMC
Todd Lang, BMC
Anna Marshall, BMC
Eric Norton, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Jenny Roelke, MDE
Marium Sultan, BMC
David Zawodny, Baltimore Banner

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board