



BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMISSION

July 12, 2024

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Jon Laria, Ballard Spahr (Chair)

D’Andrea Walker, Baltimore County Department of Public Works & Transportation (Vice-Chair)

Luis Cardona

Lester Davis, CareFirst

Scot Spencer, Annie E. Casey Foundation

Dr. Celeste Chavis, Morgan State University

Simone Johnson, City of Baltimore

Aaron Tomarchio, TradePoint Atlantic

Toni St. John, Baltimore Collegetown Network

Mike Netzer, CCBC

Markus Moore, City of Annapolis Department of Transportation

Arjan Van Andel, GIRO

Lakey Boyd, Howard County

Tony Bridges, MDOT

Mike McMillan, ATU Local 1300

Clarence (Trey) Dickerson, Howard County



OTHERS PRESENT – Virtual & In Person

Robin Budish	Brian O'Malley
Celeste Chavis	Jimmy Rouse
Dan Prives	Todd Lang
Erich Lange	Eileen Singleton
Loretta Shields	Caleb
Luis Cardona	Courtney Mims
Mike Netzer	Jalen Sanders
Monica	Matthew Mickler
Ndemazea Fonkem	Darron Cooper
Scot Spencer	John Hillegass
Sean Winkler	Alex Walinska
Sunny	Anna Ellis
Tayla Kravitz	Eric Norton
Veronica Battisti	Joe Davis

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by the Chair, Mr. Jon Laria.

WELCOME

Chair Jon Laria welcomed everyone to the 5th meeting of the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission. Welcomed new Commissioner, Clarence (Trey) Dickerson.

The Chair invited Administrator Arnold to address the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission.



1. **MTA ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE**

(MTA Update & MTA System Performance Updates Handouts)

Holly Arnold, Administrator & CEO, of the Maryland Transit Administration updated the BRTC about new developments and updates on previous projects in the agency she leads. Administrator Arnold began by addressing some of the recent tragic incident involving the transit system and emphasizing the company's cooperation with city and MTA police.

The Administrator went on to discuss the challenges and ongoing efforts related to the Red Line project, announcing the establishment of a community advisory team and the launch of the Red Line High School Internship program.

Administrator Arnold also reported on grant awards, high ridership in May, and successful hiring efforts, while outlining the goal of creating a consistent meeting format for improved information and data.

2.) **MDOT CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (CTP) DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

(MDOT CTP Handout)

Assistant Secretary Joe McAndrew of MDOT introduced himself as a presenter and as stand in for Commissioner Bridges.

The Maryland Department of Transportation is presenting the draft Consolidated Transportation Program that outlines transportation investments across all modes. The presentation covers the funding sources, statutory requirements, and timeline for the CTP process. Key discussion points include the impact of recently increased vehicle fees, the desire to improve transparency and accountability in project prioritization, and when the Transportation Commission will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft budget allocations before finalization.

Commissioners, MDOT and MTA representatives discussed the process for MTA to engage with stakeholders in setting budget priorities before the draft Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) is published (September 1st each year). Several Commissioners argued for further transparency and an earlier opportunity to provide input on prioritizing transit needs and on the budget allocation and prioritization for transit in the region. Assistant Secretary Joe McAndrew explained their existing process and plans to present their capital budget needs at the next meeting (September 6th). He discussed how state of good repair priorities are determined across modes within MDOT based on asset management data. MDOT aims to assign funding aligned with state goals through a criteria-based prioritization process for the enhancement program.

Chair Laria highlighted the inequity shown in the presentation graphics of the current funding model, where one transit system receives money first, leaving less for others. Assistant Secretary Joe McAndrew emphasized the need for improved service and reliable operation, while also addressing the state of good repair. He also mentioned the ongoing work to address the backlog in state of good repair and the future updates to the capital needs inventory.



Assistant Secretary Joe McAndrew acknowledged the \$4.5 billion capital needs investment number shown by MTA in March to the Commission is nearly half the current 10 year estimate at around \$9.8 billion. The state's negative financial outlook and recent outlook change by Moody's raised concern about ability to issue debt affordably into the future. The Assistant Secretary discussed the legislature provided \$250 million in additional transportation revenue, offsetting prior one-time funds. Priorities include the RedLine corridor planning and vehicle replacements aided by recent federal grant awards. The MTDOT and MTA are working to increase transparency around its quarterly budget review process and operating cost forecasts aligned with capital investments.

3.) MDOT OFFICE OF REAL ESTATE & DEVELOPMENT
(MDOT ORED Handout)

Mr. David Zaidan, Director of the Office of Real Estate and Economic Development introduced himself to the Commission. He discussed the Transit-Oriented Development strategy for future planning around the system in the region.

The discussion focused on the state's efforts to promote transit-oriented development (TOD) as a key priority for Governor Moore's administration, with a focus on increasing ridership, boosting economic development, and addressing housing and climate challenges. Highlighted the opportunities presented by existing and future transit assets, the need to improve partnerships with development colleagues, and the importance of aligning transit housing and economic development with local land use. The discussion also touched on the evolving post-pandemic strategy in terms of employment dynamics, the potential for increased ridership and tax revenue through improved transportation, and the organization's strategy for advancing development in Maryland.

Discussed the Equitable Inclusivity Enhancement Act's potential impact on TOD designations and what they can do to make these designations mean more. He highlighted partnerships for TOD planning grants and provided updates on recently formed board groups addressing staffing, ridership experience, and project planning/development.

4.) BRTC WORK GROUP PRESENTATION
(BRTC Work Groups Presentation Handout)

Don Halligan outlined the legislative session plan and announced work groups focused on specific areas. Working groups will consist of the following categories; Project & Program Delivery, Staffing, and Rider Experience.

Project & Program Delivery Work Group:

- 1.) Procurement Analysis



- To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the procurement process.
- 2.) Property Management
 - To ensure optimal management of MTA's properties.
- 3.) Streamlining Approvals
 - To expedite the approval process for MTA procurements.
- 4.) Report Development
 - To document findings and provide actionable recommendations.

Staffing Work Group:

- 1.) Salary Structure Impact
 - Examining MTA's salary structure and its impact on recruitment and retention.
- 2.) Benchmarking Models
 - Benchmark peer personnel classification and compensation models to identify best practices.
- 3.) Legislative & Administrative Changes
 - Identify potential legislative and administrative changes that could enhance recruitment.

Rider Experience Work Group:

- 1.) Understanding Current Experience
 - Analyze existing performance
- 2.) Identifying Challenges
 - Identify challenges in current rider experience
- 3.) Developing Strategies
 - Explore cost effective improvements
- 4.) Monitoring & Evaluation
 - Develop metrics to monitor the effectiveness of the implemented strategies

5.) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Dan Prives emphasized engaging with the DMV Moves task force, discussing long-term planning issues, and involving youth in transportation planning and progress with the TradePoint Atlantic project.

6.) OTHER BUSINESS

MTA Field Trips have been rescheduled to July 17, 2024 and July 31, 2024 for Commissioners.

Handouts:

- 1.) Agenda
- 2.) MTA Update
- 3.) MTA System Performance Updates
- 4.) MDOT ORED Presentation
- 5.) MDOT CTP Process Overview
- 6.) BRTC Work Groups Presentation

There being no other business to discuss, Chair Jon Laria asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting Commissioner Walker made a motion to adjourn with Commissioner St. John seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Laria", written in a cursive style.

Jon Laria, Chair

Baltimore Regional Transit Commission