

COOPERATIVE FORECASTING GROUP

February 24, 2016
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300 / Baltimore, Maryland 21230
10:00 A.M. to 11:40 P.M.

MINUTES

The Chairperson, Ms. Margaret Kaii-Ziegler, called the meeting to order at 10:05 A. M. Following her welcome, attendees introduced themselves.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Ms. Kui Zhao moved the approval of the Cooperative Forecasting Group (CFG) minutes of the December 17, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Graf. The minutes were approved.

2. UPDATE – THE STATUS OF ROUND 8B ACTIVITIES

Mr. Shawn Kimberly distributed a series of charts and graphs comparing the 8A population, household and employment forecast with the preliminary 8B figures he received to date. The 8B figures include updates CFG members submitted in January as well as updates made during the previous unendorsed 8B update. While Anne Arundel and Harford did not submit updates; Baltimore City updated employment, Baltimore County and Howard updated population and households and Carroll adjusted household figures. Following his general overview and comparison of the data sets, Mr. Kimberly asked CFG members to confirm their submissions and indicate any concerns they had about the preliminary 8B forecast. Pending their approval, the next step is review and recommendation by the Technical Committee in April or May and its subsequent submission to the BRTB for endorsement.

[Handouts: charts and graphs comparing the 8A population, household and employment forecast with the preliminary 8B forecast]

3. UPDATE – THE ES-202 DATASET & MASTER ESTABLISHMENT FILE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Kimberly distributed a series of charts comparing the 2010 and 2015 second quarter ES-202 Data Set by Jurisdiction and Industry Sector. The charts indicated that 2015 employment was up about 6% over 2010 figures. While employment in Health Care, the largest sector, continues to grow, the

Manufacturing and Information sectors continue to decline. There was some discussion about the components of the NAICS sector (Where is public education, what's in arts entertainment and recreation). As previously discussed, Mr. Kimberly will forward the data in shape files (Excel) to CFG members for review and verification. He asked CFG members to pay special attention to schools, government and large employers and requested that they retain all of the fields and return only the corrected/updated records to him. He noted that the current work schedule targets the completion of the Master Establishment File by the end of this year (2016), acquisition of the BEA data set for 2015 in the fall, pulling together all the data necessary for small area allocation and production of control totals by December 2017 for BRTB endorsement of Round 9 in June 2018. Log-in information for the files was provided at the close of the meeting.

[Handouts: charts comparing the 2010 and 2015 second quarter ES-202 Data Set by Jurisdiction and Industry Sector]

4. OVERVIEW – BMC TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT & BALTIMORELINK

Mr. Todd Lang, BMC Director of Transportation Planning, provided a detailed overview of the Regional Transit Needs Assessment and the BaltimoreLink Plan. The Regional Transit Needs Assessment was conducted by BMC staff at the request of the BMC Board of Directors. It reviewed existing service, transit users' demographics and peer systems; analyzed wayfinding, access, performance, welfare and safety. Recommendations were organized and targeted at modes, core bus service, MARC, Metro, Light Rail, Commuter Bus, New Initiatives, performance measures and county/city specific areas of concern.

The BaltimoreLink Plan was conducted by MDOT with support from MTA at the request of the Governor. The Plan was developed to identify actions to improve access to frequent transit lines, provide more service to more places and make a major investment (\$135 million) to transit infrastructure and operations. The plan was the outcome of an assessment of the existing system, socioeconomic and demographic conditions and user comments and concerns. The preliminary plan calls for an interconnected transit system that links the various modes in a comprehensive (accessible, safe, secure and clean) crosstown system of high frequency routes. Next steps include public input into the plan, hearings, public education and outreach. June 2017 is the target date for full operation of the BaltimoreLink system. He distributed handouts outlining the components of each study.

[Handouts: Regional Transit Needs Assessment, November 2015, BMC; Baltimore Link, Maryland Department of Planning, October 2015]

5. NEXT STEPS FOR THE FORECAST SURVEY

Mr. Richard Campbell reported the progress the CFG subcommittee on comparable forecast methods has made so far. Ms. Zhao distributed a hand out summarizing the committee conference call meetings (January 6 and February 11) and outlining the follow-up questions for the five MPO's selected for more detailed information (MWCOCG, Memphis, Durham-Chapel Hill, Maricopa and Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission).

Mr. Jeff Bronow and Ms. Elina Bravve agreed to assist the subcommittee with the follow-up phone calls. Following the completion of the phone interviews the subcommittee will recommend next steps.

[Handouts: BMC CFG Survey Subcommittee progress report, February 2016]

6. PRESENTATION – ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY HOLDING CAPACITY ANALYSIS

The presentation was rescheduled for the next meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kimberly informed the committee that the BMC conference room will not be available for the April 27th meeting. The BMC is scheduled to host FTA officials for certification hearings at that time. After some discussion and subsequent discussion with Jeff Bronow, it was agreed to hold the next CFG meeting in Howard County.

Next Meeting – April 27, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Members

Elina Bravve - Baltimore City Department of Planning
Jeff Bronow – Howard County Department of Planning
Richard Campbell - Anne Arundel County Department of Planning
Mark Goldstein – Maryland Department of Planning
Scott Graf – Carroll County Department of Planning
Dan Rooney – Harford County Department of Planning
Alfred Sundara – Maryland Department of Planning
Jessica Varsa - Baltimore City Department of Planning
Margaret Kaii-Ziegler - Anne Arundel County Department of Planning
Kui Zhao - Baltimore County Department of Planning

Staff and Guests

Victor Bonaparte - Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Shawn Kimberly - BMC
Todd Lang - BMC
Cedric Southerland - BMC