

## **COOPERATIVE FORECASTING GROUP**

June 26, 2019

Maryland Department of Transportation

7201 Corporate Center Drive, TSO Boardroom – Fourth Floor,

Hanover MD 21076

10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

### **MINUTES**

Ms. Kui Zhao, Chair of the Cooperative Forecasting Group (CFG), called the meeting to order at 10:14 A.M.

#### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Following a round of introductions, Ms. Zhao asked for approval of the minutes from the April meeting of the CFG. Mr. Dan Rooney moved to approve the minutes with Ms. Jamie Williams seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **2. ROUND 9A – STATUS UPDATE**

Mr. Shawn Kimberly stated that this item is an opportunity for any member to ask any questions or make any comments about Round 9A, which is due for submission to BMC by participating jurisdictions by November 30, 2019. Ms. Williams noted that while Baltimore City had initially planned to participate in Round 9A, they are now uncertain if updates will be submitted. Ms. Zhao said that at the time of the April CFG meeting, updates to only employment were anticipated. Now Ms. Zhao expects there to be minor updates to population, households, and employment. Mr. Kimberly reminded the group that Round 9A provides a good opportunity for local jurisdictions to review TAZ level employment estimates and forecasts, to account for changes in small area allocation between Round 8B and Round 9 that may not have been addressed. Mr. Kimberly suggested that exploring the development of consistent horizon-year employment forecasting methods across jurisdictions would serve as a useful discussion topic for a future CFG meeting.

#### **3. BALTIMORE REGION BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY, 2018**

Mr. Blake Fisher, BMC, presented a summary of the region's residential building permit activity for calendar year 2018. He provided a series of charts and tables detailing single-family and multi-family permitted residential unit activity for the region and jurisdictions, summarizing growth from 2009 through 2018.

Blake noted that there have been differences observed between building permit data reported by BMC via its Building Permit Data System (BPDS), and that that is reported by the Census Bureau through their Building Permits Survey data products. He explained that BMC submits building permit data to the Census Bureau on behalf of the jurisdictions that participate in the BPDS. The Census Bureau requests that permit data be submitted to them by the fourth day of the month. This is timeline presents a challenge, as BMC receives building permit data from most jurisdictions on a weekly basis, the week following issuance. BMC is attempting to better understand the development process of the Census Bureau's permit data and has scheduled a call with staff from their Residential Construction Branch to discuss this matter further.

***[PowerPoint: Baltimore Region Building Permit Activity - 2018]***

#### **4. THE 2018 ANNUAL GROWTH REPORT – BALTIMORE COUNTY**

Ms. Zhao stated that the Annual Growth Report is a requirement of the Land Use Article in the Annotated Code of Maryland, and is to be submitted to the Maryland Department of Planning by July 1, 2019 per the requirements of the Maryland General Assembly. The report summarizes residential and non-residential development in calendar year 2018, and analyzes whether the new development is consistent with the county's growth policies outlined in the county's Master Plan.

In 2018, 33 plans with residential components were approved in the county with a total of 1,719 units (1,667 units plus 52 independent living units in Broadmead). Ms. Zhao provided a chart detailing the distribution of residential units by type (51 percent of permitted units were multi-family), and a map detailing the spatial location of the approved residential development plans. Of the total units in approved plans, 97 percent were located inside of Priority Funding Areas (PFA).

There was a total of 31 approved non-residential plans in 2018, accounting for nearly 2.0 million square feet of retail, industrial, institutional, and mixed-use space. A chart detailing the distribution of non-residential units by type (51 percent of permitted space was retail), and a map detailing the spatial location of the approved non-residential development plans were provided. Of the total square feet of non-residential space permitted, 96 percent was located inside of PFAs.

Ms. Zhao also provided statistics on the issuance of residential and non-residential occupancy permits in 2018. New occupancy permits were issued for 1,817 residential units (188 for multi-family units), 94 percent of which were located inside PFAs. Occupancy permits for 3.8 million

square feet of non-residential space were issued (2.2 million square feet was industrial), with nearly all located within PFAs (99.6 percent).

Ms. Zhao discussed legislative amendments, highlighting a zoning map correction as well as a bill requiring the Director of Recreation and Parks to consult with the Director of Environmental Protection and Sustainability, with respect to resource protection before utilizing county park properties. She also mentioned the renewals and applications for Maryland Sustainable Communities in Baltimore County, as well as amendments to the Water Supply and Sewerage Master Plan.

While addressing Adequate Public Facilities, Ms. Zhao explained that \$1.3 billion in funding for new construction, additions, and air conditioning has been allocated through the county's Schools for Our Future Program, with a focus on relieving overcrowding and the modernization of schools. A series of tables were provided detailing the allocation of the funds by school and project type. In addition, there were 26 new road construction or extension projects in 2018, resulting in additional 4.65 miles (all within PFA boundaries). Furthermore, the Department of Public Works reported that there were no deficiencies for water facilities, and one for sewerage facilities (located in the Parkville Area).

The county has extensive preservation efforts and has initiated policies and launched programs to protect agricultural and natural resources. In 2018, the county added 926 acres to preservation easements, reaching nearly 66,000 total acres preserved (82.5 percent of the Master Plan goal of 80,000 acres). Ms. Zhao shared a map illustrating the locations of the preserved land in the county.

Ms. Zhao concluded by stating that the analysis presented in the Annual Growth Report shows that the new development and preservation efforts in 2018 were in compliance with the county's Master Plan goals, and were aligned with the land use goals of the state and neighboring jurisdictions. Ms. Zhao responded to questions from the group relating to preservation efforts and the county's code for Adequate Public Facilities.

***[PowerPoint: 2018 Annual Report on Growth Baltimore County]***

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Zhao noted that BMC staff had been visiting local jurisdictions to present the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan: Maximize 2045, and that she had learned about the data used to generate the plan while attending the presentation in Howard County.

The last business for the meeting was to recognize the outstanding contribution, commitment, and efforts of long-time CFG member from Harford County, Mr. Rooney. Dan is retiring, and has served as a member of the CFG for 29 years, from 1990 – 2019. Ms. Zhao spoke of Dan's time with the group and thanked him for sharing his insights over the years. Mr. Kimberly presented to Dan a plaque from the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board in recognition of his service to the CFG and the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 A.M.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### ***Members***

Krishna Akundi, Maryland Department of Planning  
Chelsea Broach, Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning  
Rick Fisher, Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning  
Dan Rooney, Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning  
Al Sundara, Maryland Department of Planning (Call-in)  
James Wilkerson, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning  
Jamie Williams, Baltimore City Department of Planning  
Kui Zhao, Baltimore County Department of Planning

### ***Staff and Guests***

Kwasi Donkor, Fehr and Peers  
Blake Fisher, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Dan Janousek, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Shawn Kimberly, BMC