

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS (CMP) COMMITTEE

March 4, 2025
10:15 to 11:00 A.M.

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Eileen Singleton opened the meeting; attendees introduced themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 6, 2024, MINUTES

There were no comments on the minutes; the minutes were approved by the committee.

3. HOWARD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION OPEN HOUSE

Mr. David Cookson and Ms. Allison Calkins presented an overview of the Howard County Transportation Open House that was held on March 4, 2025. Mr. Cookson said that in years past, the priority letter was developed internally by staff. Starting in 2016, the county started soliciting input from the public in public meetings and open houses. Also in 2016, the BikeHoward Master Plan was completed, and this plan required holding an annual open house to inform the public about progress on the plan. Around this time, the county also started holding an annual Active Transportation Open House. At these public events, there would be questions about transportation modes or projects that were not represented, so over time, the Transportation Open House was planned to include representatives from many transportation agencies so a wide range of questions could be answered.

The first Transportation Open House, in January 2024, was very well attended. There were representatives from a range of organizations. In addition to staff from the County transportation and public works offices, some of the other organizations represented include the County Office of Community Sustainability, County Schools, and County Police as well as Montgomery County to represent FLASH bus rapid transit which will be coming to Howard County, RTA of Central Maryland, State Commuter Choice Maryland, Columbia Downtown Partnership, Baltimore Metropolitan Council, and BikeHoCo. The displays included an overview of the county priority letter projects, with a request for feedback from the public.

Each year, the event is moved to a different part of the county, and each location has RTA access. After the event, all of the materials are loaded online. A survey is used to gather

additional feedback from the public.

These processes are leading to changes in how the priority letters are prepared and projects are selected, with the goal of being more transparent. The survey asks people to select their top transportation priorities. Staff contacts elected officials to gather their transportation priorities also.

One of the highest priorities of the public is safety, and particularly kids walking and biking to school. This informed the county project and program priorities. The county has also changed to focus more on corridor mobility rather than individual projects. There is a current focus on the Route 1 corridor, which has numerous safety issues.

The new Chapter 30 process is motivating a change in project selection. For example, the county has developed a comprehensive package of bike/pedestrian improvements that has a cost above the threshold amount for Chapter 30 submission.

The county does not have specific details on attendees for the Open House, but there is a voluntary sign-in sheet and they observed new people attending the event this year.

Ms. Regina Aris commented that BMC staff is often asked how projects are identified in our plans, and they are directed to local jurisdictions. She would like to know if any other jurisdictions have a similar process as Howard County, we would like to direct people to them.

Another benefit of this annual event is that it brings people together from many stakeholder organizations, which enhances interaction, coordination, and awareness across agencies.

[PowerPoint: Howard County's Transportation Open House]

4. SELECTING CMP STRATEGIES IN NEW TIP SOFTWARE

Following up on the discussion at the last meeting about identifying CMP strategies in TIP project submissions, Ms. Ndemazea Fonkem provided an update. The updated TIP project submission software now includes a question about CMP strategies included in projects, similar to the long range transportation plan project submittal form. The CMP strategies will not be shared publically at this time; BMC staff is interested in ideas for how this information could be useful.

As of the meeting, 191 projects had been submitted for the 2026 – 2029 TIP. So far, the most common strategies selected were: Infrastructure Addition, Infrastructure Improvements, and Roadway Changes. There can be up to three CMP strategies selected for each project. Ms. Fonkem noted that Roadway Changes could include projects like resurfacing that does not address congestion.

BMC staff is interested in feedback on how this data can be used and what would help jurisdiction staff.

[PowerPoint: CMP Committee, Notes for Agenda Items]

5. NEW RESOURCES TO IDENTIFY CONGESTION

Ms. Singleton highlighted some resources that might be of interest to the committee:

- Maryland 2025 Annual Attainment Report on Transportation System Performance: some measures correspond with regional CMP performance measures
 - <https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/OPCP/ARReport.pdf>
- ATRI National Truck Bottlenecks: top 100 truck bottlenecks, there are four in our region this year, up from one last year; the geographic areas for these bottlenecks are not as directionally specific as the bottlenecks included in the BMC reports
 - <https://truckingresearch.org/2025/02/top-100-truck-bottlenecks-2025>
- Project ideas from public outreach as part of the 2025 – 2028 TIP
 - <https://bmc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=f7431534f4284e8fb1c9718c708a8d1b>

Mr. Ed Stylec noted that the top bottleneck in 2024 was I-95 N @ Ft. McHenry Tunnel, and the monthly regional bottleneck table shows that this location appears to have been significantly impacted by the Key Bridge Collapse, as it was not in the top 20 in the first two months, and by April, became the number 1 or 2 bottleneck the rest of the year.

The 2024 data and 2024 priority letter projects will be added to the Online CMP Tool in the next couple of months.

[Powerpoint: CMP Committee, Notes for Agenda Items]

6. 2025 PRIORITY LETTERS

Ms. Singleton previously sent regional text to include in local priority letters.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Ideas for topics for future meetings:

- Status of uniform format for priority letters
- Status of federal grant programs
- Presentation on corridor studies

2025 Meetings – June 3, November 4

ATTENDEES

Members

Kwaku Agyemang-Duah – City of Annapolis
Carl Chamberlin – Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA)
Jasmine Champion – Federal Highway Administration, Maryland Division
Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne’s County Department of Public Works
David Cookson – Howard County Office of Transportation
Angelica Daniel – Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation
Albert Guiney Engel – MDOT Maryland Transit Administration
Sarah Gary – MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA)
Tavon Hawkins – MDOT SHA
Dan Janousek – MDOT
Sam Kahl – Harford County Department of Public Works
Shawn Kiernan – MDOT
Heather Lowe – Maryland Transportation Authority
Ryan Mayers – Regional Transportation Agency of Central MD
Brooks Phelps – Maryland Dept. of Planning
Rana Shams – MDOT SHA
Clare Stewart – Carroll County Dept. of Planning and Land Management
Brian Ulrich – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation

Staff

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Tim Briggs - BMC
Allison Calkins – Howard County Office of Transportation
Ndemazea Fonkem – BMC
Monica Haines-Benkhedda – BMC
Victor Henry – BMC
Zach Kaufman – BMC
Mike Kelly – BMC
Keith Kucharek – BMC
Todd Lang – BMC
Anna Marshall – BMC
Md. Moklesur Rahman – BMC
Brian Ryder – BMC
Eileen Singleton – BMC
Ed Stylc – BMC
Marium Sultan – BMC