

## **PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, January 6, 2016  
Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
5:35 to 7:32 P.M.

### **MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 P.M. by the Chair, Mr. Greg Shafer.

#### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW PAC MEMBERS**

Mr. Greg Shafer, PAC Chair, welcomed the new members to their first meeting of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC). Mr. Shafer also introduced the 2016 Vice Chairs: Ms. Angela Jones and Mr. Eric Norton. The Policy and Legislation Subcommittee Chair is Mr. Darin Hughes. Confirmation of the Public Involvement Subcommittee Chair is underway.

Mr. Shafer noted that the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) staffs the PAC, with the primary contact being Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda. Tonight, Mr. Todd Lang, Director of Transportation Planning, attends as well.

Mr. Shafer invited members to introduce themselves and share a bit of their background.

#### **2. OVERVIEW OF THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

Mr. Lang provided members with an overview of the BRTB and its responsibilities as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), as well as the typical work products it produces. Ms. Haines Benkhedda shared ways the PAC and other members of the public can be involved. She also noted that the PAC has a Google Group for PAC members to share information and collaborate on documents. She asked that each member contact her if they are unable to access this group. Lastly, she highlighted the various social media accounts that staff oversee for BMC/BRTB and asked that members connect with these accounts and share information with their own networks.

**[Presentation: [About the BRTB](#)]**

#### **3. PAC AND OVERVIEW OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

Mr. Shafer provided an overview of the PAC's mission and responsibilities as an advisory committee to the BRTB, as well as the subcommittee structure and decision-making process. He noted that a key role of the PAC is to serve as a conduit between the BRTB and the public (including coworkers,

community organizations, neighbors, etc.). He encouraged members to take a strong and active role in the committee by being proactive and to leverage member contacts to gather input from other members of the public and share this perspective with other members and in feedback to the PAC.

Mr. Shafer emphasized the importance of members communicating via Google Group, as well as staying connected to BMC/BRTB through social media in order to be aware of news and upcoming action items. He also encouraged new members to visit [baltometro.org](http://baltometro.org) to become more familiar with the BRTB or to access recent BRTB/PAC minutes, presentations, etc.

**[Presentation: [About the PAC](#)]**

#### **4. PAC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2016**

Members broke into small groups to discuss ideas for PAC involvement in 2016 on three key areas:

1. Federal Recertification (Spring 2016)
2. Transportation Equity / Environmental Justice
3. Outstanding Issues from *Maximize 2040*
  - a. Increasing Bike/Ped Mode Share
  - b. Increasing Transit Ridership

Following the small group discussions, Mr. Shafer reported that he would type up the notes from the groups and email to the full group for further refinement and discussion. Members also asked for additional information about the certification process and transportation equity / environmental justice. Staff agreed to schedule speakers on these topics for future meetings.

**[Handout: [Discussion of Goals for 2016](#)]**

#### **5. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS**

The subcommittees did not meet in January. Mr. Shafer asked members to prepare for review/discussion of TIP amendments or other BRTB action items. Information about these items is included with the monthly email about PAC meetings and on the news/press releases page at [baltometro.org](http://baltometro.org).

#### **6. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Members approved the [December 2015](#) PAC minutes with one correction.

#### **7. REPORT ON RECENT AND UPCOMING BRTB MEETINGS**

The [December 22 BRTB meeting](#) included the approval of an amendment to the BRTB bylaws to include Queen Anne's County as a non-voting member. The BRTB also received presentations on MTA's BaltimoreLINK transit proposal and [Fixing America's Surface Transportation \(FAST\) Act](#), the new five-year Federal Surface Transportation Act. Minutes and a calendar of upcoming BRTB meetings/events are online at [baltometro.org](http://baltometro.org).

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### ***Members***

Terraine Arnold – Arunah Avenue Association  
Lindsey Bishop – Resident, Baltimore City  
Christopher Costello – Transportation Association of Maryland  
Candace Croston – Vehicles for Change  
Michael Davis – Resident, Carroll County  
Matthew Dolamore – Resident, Baltimore City  
Kevin Engler – Partners In Care  
David Fitzpatrick - Resident, Baltimore City  
Benjamin Gilardi – Resident, Baltimore City  
Tafadzwa Gwitira – Resident, Baltimore County  
Dylan Hayden – Resident, Baltimore County  
Mark Howard – Resident, Baltimore County  
Darin Hughes – Resident, Baltimore City  
Angela Jones – Resident, Baltimore County  
Paul Kowzan III – Broadway Area Business Association  
Dick Ladd – Resident, Anne Arundel County  
Doug McCoach – Resident, Baltimore City  
Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance  
Rita Ossiander – Resident, Baltimore County  
James Reaves – Resident, Baltimore City  
Gregory Shafer – Resident, Howard County

*Proxy designated by: Mark Lotz*

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

Obie Chinemere – Baltimore City Council, District 11  
Chelsea Goldsmith – Resident, Baltimore City  
Monica B. Haines Benkhedda – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Todd Lang – BMC

## BRTB Public Advisory Committee – Discussion of Goals for 2016

<b>Federal Recertification</b>	
	<i>Group 1 - Ben Gilardi, Group Leader</i>
	Plan in place 3 months before, so we can implement plan
	Copy of the last recertification paper, so we know what was discussed in the past
	Outreach, so people know what is coming up
	Letter to editors of papers. What we do and what is coming
	Notify home owner associations
	<i>Group 2 - Doug McCoach, Group Leader</i>
	Housekeeping
	<i>Group 3 - Mark Howard, Group Leader</i>
	Modify language pressing elected official to show up for BRTB meetings 2-3x/year
	What can PAC do?
<b>Environmental Justice</b>	
	<i>Group 1 - Ben Gilardi, Group Leader</i>
	Speaker to the group on the topic
	Multi-faceted
	<i>Group 2 - Doug McCoach, Group Leader</i>
	Linking transit to residents and employment
	Funding to support the last mile of commute
	"Partners in Care"
	"Vehicles for Change"
	Position this topic as resiliency - social, economic, environmental
	Identifying projects
	Make sure public is involved -new depots      -bus hubs
	Air quality - clearer picture of modeling and modes
	Evaluate impact of electric vehicles
<b>Outstanding Issues from Maximize 2040</b>	
	<i>Group 2 - Doug McCoach, Group Leader</i>
	Design standards for bike share to suit communities
	Employment issue
	Funding for Baltimore Circulator to make it
	Metrobus system upgrade plan (Baltimore LINK) -What is our position?      -How do we anticipate/plan for the future? -How are changes managed?      -Who loses service? -What are benefits (economic/social)?
	Communicate plans to the region
	<i>Group 3 - Mark Howard, Group Leader</i>
	What are incentives to increase transit ridership?
	Baltimore LINK -Suburban to suburban in 2016      - User experience      - Transfer points
	Leverage - research?
	<i>Group 4 - Greg Shafer, Group Leader</i>
	Ensure appropriate infrastructure is in place in order to increase bike/ped mode share.
	Increase in transit ridership is dependent on safe, clean and reliable service.
	Stoplight synchronization is critical to success of BaltimoreLINK