

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 3, 2016
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
5:37 to 7:19 P.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 P.M. by the Vice Chair, Mr. Eric Norton.

1. CENTRAL MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE TRANSPORTATION REPORT CARD

Mr. Norton, Director of Policy & Programs at the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance (CMTA) presented an overview of CMTA's Transportation Report Card. The report card, released in November 2015, looks at the transportation system from the user's perspective and grades the region on a number of measures.

Mr. Norton explained that CMTA explored the question of what it means to have a great transportation system and find a way to measure the system against these indicators. The resulting report card states "A great transportation system grows the economy, gives people choices and keeps our environment healthy" and gives central Maryland a grade of D for 2015. He outlined the various indicators used in the report card and explained that the region was rated against similar peer regions. He noted that the public can use the report card to assess if transportation projects and policies are moving the region in the direction of a great transportation system. He also noted that it can potentially be used to evaluate new transportation proposals such as BaltimoreLINK.

An interactive version and a PDF copy of the report card are available online at cmtalliance.org/reportcard.

2. FEDERAL CERTIFICATION OF THE BRTB

Mr. Don Halligan, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the metropolitan transportation planning process and upcoming federal certification review of the BRTB.

As part of a federal certification process, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) meets with members of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Baltimore Region – the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) – and staff of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) as well as the public.

The certification review occurs every four years to ensure that all federal mandates and regulations are being met; the planning process addresses major issues facing the region; all planning partners

are appropriately coordinating in the regional planning process; to identify noteworthy practices and opportunities; and to assess continued progress from prior reviews. During the certification review, representatives from FHWA and FTA host a public meeting. Key public involvement questions the review team seeks to address are:

- Are residents provided the opportunity to participate in the process?
- Is information about transportation issues made available early enough to solicit input?
- Is there adequate notice of planning activities?
- Is there adequate time to comment?
- Is there reasonable access to technical data and information?
- Are comments appropriately considered by the MPO?
- Any noteworthy positive aspects to cite or suggestions for improvements?

The certification review is scheduled for April 26-27, with a public meeting at BMC on April 26 at 6:30 p.m. Public comments will also be accepted during the Public Comment Opportunity at the BRTB meeting on April 26 at 9 a.m.

Members asked for a list of recommendations from the 2012 certification. These are available in section 2b of the 2012 report at baltometro.org/about-the-brtb/2012-federal-mpo-certification.

[Presentation: [About the Federal Certification Process](#)]

3. FOLLOW-UP ON 2016 PAC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Mr. Norton shared a final list of PAC goals and strategies for 2016. The primary goals are to:

- Be active participants in the recertification of the BRTB as the MPO for the Baltimore region
- Learn more about environmental justice and evaluate BRTB's success in meeting its objectives in this area
- Be an active part of the development of the BaltimoreLINK project
- Continue to push BRTB to update *Maximize2040* to include the new regional transit plan and help develop means to increase the bike ridership share of transportation modes

Ms. Lindsey Bishop suggested that a strategy be added to the environmental justice goal – one that is an action the PAC can take or work on once members become more familiarized with environmental justice and transportation. Mr. Norton agreed to share this thought with the PAC Chair, Mr. Greg Shafer.

[Handout: [PAC Goals for 2016](#)]

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS

Subcommittee Chairs presented the following subcommittee reports and action items:

- **Public Involvement** – Ms. Beth Wiseman reported that the subcommittee met before the meeting and discussed ideas for obtaining public engagement and feedback for the upcoming federal certification. The subcommittee feels it is important that the PAC members reach out to others in their community, organization, or network and share their personal experience with the BRTB. As such, several members were planning on drafting some letters to the editors to share in their local newspapers, community blogs, or at local meetings. Ms. Wiseman asked that all PAC members assist with outreach such as this for certification.
- **Policy and Legislation** – Mr. Darin Hughes reported the subcommittee met to review amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for six Baltimore City projects (Colgate Creek Bridge Replacement, Keith and Holabird Avenues Improvements, Broening Highway Complete Streets, Charm City Bikeshare, Waterview Avenue/Annapolis Road Bridge Replacements, and Edison Highway Bridge project). Mr. Hughes provided an overview of the projects. He then reported that the subcommittee recommends support for these projects. The PAC voted unanimously to approve PAC Resolution #2016-01 in support of these TIP amendments.

[PAC Resolution #2016-01 in support of February 2016 TIP Amendments for Baltimore City Projects]

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

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

6. REPORT ON RECENT AND UPCOMING BRTB MEETINGS

The January 23 BRTB meeting was cancelled. The February 23 BRTB meeting will include consideration of several TIP amendments for Baltimore City and a presentation on the Kent Island Transportation Study. Minutes and a calendar of upcoming events are online at baltometro.org.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Lindsey Bishop – Resident, Baltimore City
Michael Bishop – Resident, Baltimore City
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
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
Mark Lotz – Resident, Harford County
Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Derrick Sexton – Resident, Baltimore City
Beth Wiseman – Baltimore County Association of Senior Citizens Organizations

Proxy designated by: R. Ossiander

Proxy designated by: B. Gilardi

Staff and Guests

Monica B. Haines Benkhedda –Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Don Halligan – BMC

PAC GOALS + STRATEGIES FOR 2016

1. *Be active participants in the recertification of the BRTB as the MPO for the Baltimore region*

- a. Have a presentation on the recertification of BRTB
- b. Encourage more participation by elected official
- c. Develop a plan for participating in the recertification
- d. Successfully implement the plan for participating

2. *Learn more about environmental justice and evaluate BRTB's success in meeting its objectives in this area*

- a. Have a presentation on environmental justice
- b. Evaluate how BRTB measures environmental justice
- c. Compare BRTB approach to environmental justice to other jurisdiction's approach

3. *Be an active part of the development of the BaltimoreLINK project*

- a. Actively participate in public involvement opportunities
- b. Evaluate progress on the development of the project monthly
- c. Monitor progress toward increasing transit ridership with safe, clean and reliable service
- d. Evaluate how transit service is affected by the implementation of the BaltimoreLINK, especially for underrepresented populations

4. *Continue to push BRTB to update the LRTP to include the new regional transit plan and help develop means to increase the bike ridership share of transportation modes*

- e. Work with BRTB to develop a plan for making a revision to the LRTP
- f. Encourage BRTB to follow-through with the LRTP update
- g. Evaluate design standards for bike share programs
- h. Evaluate how all transportation modes could be adopted to better serve the bike riders