

## **PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, March 2, 2016  
Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
5:45 to 7:33 P.M.

### **MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 P.M. by the Chair, Mr. Greg Shafer.

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

Subcommittee Chairs presented the following subcommittee reports and action items:

- **Policy and Legislation** – Mr. Darin Hughes reported the subcommittee met to review amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for several MTA projects (including funding updates related to BaltimoreLINK, Kirk Bus Facility Replacement, Bus New Main Shop off of Washington Blvd., and a funding update for the region's Ridesharing program). Mr. Hughes provided an overview of the projects and questions raised by the PAC. He then presented PAC Resolution #2016-02 offering support of the amendments as presented, but with a request that additional information on the following topics be presented to the PAC:
  - MTA bus and paratransit fleet mix, to include number and types of vehicles, as well as projected retirement of hybrid buses;
  - Operation of the paratransit program and details of MTA commitment to improving its efficiency;
  - Details concerning the MTA's decision to procure 182 clean-diesel buses versus non-fossil fuel vehicles, particularly in light of the Baltimore region's pursuit of exceeding clean air standards; and
  - Are buses in the fleet meeting lifecycle expectations and requirements?

The PAC voted unanimously to approve PAC Resolution #2016-02.

#### ***[PAC Resolution #2016-02 in support of March 2016 TIP Amendments for MTA Projects]***

Next, Mr. Hughes reported that the [BRTB's updated Budget and Work Program for FY 2016-2017](#) is being voted on at the end of April and the PAC has an opportunity to comment. The addendum proposes updates the funding tables for FY 2017 and identifies several new tasks. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Shafer asked all members to review the proposed changes online and provide comments on a Google Doc (link will be sent to members). Initial comments were requested by March 18. A draft resolution will be voted on by the PAC at their April 6<sup>th</sup>

meeting or, via email if comments are received in time to be delivered to the Technical Committee at their meeting on April 5.

- **Public Involvement** – Ms. Beth Wiseman reported that the subcommittee met before the meeting and discussed the [upcoming Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\) and Federal Transit Administration \(FTA\) Federal Certification Review of the BRTB](#), scheduled for April 26-27, 2016. The subcommittee's discussion focused on the public involvement questions the federal review team will ask and the related recommendations from the 2012 Certification report. The subcommittee will continue to review these items and finalize their comments at the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ms. Regina Aris reported that the public meeting for certification was scheduled for April 26. Members noted this is Primary Day in Maryland and thus a scheduling conflict for the public. Staff will continue to follow-up with the federal team to see if the meeting can be moved to the day before or after primary day.

Ms. Wiseman also reported that staff is putting together a survey using the key public involvement questions to collect feedback for FHWA/FTA on the BRTB's planning process. This will be posted online. Lastly, she noted that subcommittee members worked on letters to the editor and announcements to share in local newspapers, community blogs, or at local meetings. Ms. Wiseman asked that all PAC members assist with outreach such as this for certification.

## **2. DISCUSSION: FEDERAL CERTIFICATION OF THE BRTB**

Mr. Shafer began a discussion about the upcoming federal certification of the regional planning process. He shared a draft document that outlines the various review elements, objectives, and key public involvement questions that FHWA and FTA consider. It also outlines the various recommendations from the 2012 certification report and includes space for PAC feedback or comments. Mr. Shafer emphasized that this is a valuable opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions to the BRTB, FHWA, and FTA on the regional planning process since the certification review only occurs every four years.

Members asked for more time to review these items. Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda will post the document to the PAC's Google Group so all members can provide comments. Mr. Shafer asked that members be prepared to finalize all comments at their April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **3. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OVERVIEW**

Ms. Haines Benkhedda provided PAC members with an overview of Environmental Justice and transportation equity. Ms. Haines Benkhedda began by providing federal statutes such as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, protecting individuals from discrimination or exclusion on the basis of race, color, and national origin. Thirty years later, in 1994, Executive Order 12998 was issued, directing every Federal agency (and those receiving federal funds) to make environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing the effects of all programs, policies, and activities on "minority populations and low-income populations."

She went on to explain that though environmental justice is clearly linked to civil rights, many early efforts focused on the unequal distribution of environmental burdens such as siting hazardous waste facilities or contaminated water and soil. As such, the term transportation equity is also used at times and was included in the name of the 1998 federal surface transportation funding bill and legislation: Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

Ms. Haines Benkhedda went on to share some statistics related to transportation and environmental justice and equity, emphasizing the importance of considering and addressing the effect on people's lives. For example, low- and moderate income households are reported to spend approximately 42% of their total income on transportation.

Next, Ms. Haines Benkhedda shared some of the ways the BRTB addresses Title VI and environmental justice, including its vulnerable populations index (VPI) tool. She also shared some highlights and best practices she learned about at a recent EJ Peer Exchange. Lastly, Ms. Haines Benkhedda offered some ways in which the PAC could use an equity lens to look at transportation investments and policies, as well as some resources for more information.

**[Presentation: [Environmental Justice + Transportation Equity 101](#)]**

## **5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

The PAC deferred approval of the [February 2016 minutes](#) until April.

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

The BRTB meeting on February 23rd included 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](http://baltometro.org).

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Haines Benkhedda reported that the BRTB opens a comment period on Friday, March 4 for an amendment to *Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan* and the *Amended 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* for State Highway Administration's (SHA) MD 32: MD 108 to Linden Church Road project. Staff will send out a press release and post details on the BMC website. Comments are welcome through Friday, April 8, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### ***Members***

Terraine Arnold – Arunah Avenue Association  
Michael Bishop – Resident, Baltimore City  
Christopher Boardman – Resident, Harford County  
Michael Davis – Resident, Carroll County  
Kevin Engler – Partners In Care  
David Fitzpatrick - Resident, Baltimore City  
Benjamin Gilardi – Resident, Baltimore City  
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  
Rita Ossiander – Resident, Baltimore County  
James Reaves – Resident, Baltimore City  
Derrick Sexton – Resident, Baltimore City  
Greg Shafer – Resident, Howard County  
Beth Wiseman – Baltimore County Association of Senior Citizens Organizations

*Proxy designated by: Eric Norton*

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

Regina Aris –Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Monica B. Haines Benkhedda – BMC  
Jim Leanos – Resident, Anne Arundel County

## BRTB PAC Resolution #2016-02

**A RESOLUTION REGARDING  
AMENDMENTS TO THE  
BALTIMORE REGION FY 2016-2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)  
BY THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)  
OF THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD (BRTB)**

**WHEREAS**, the BRTB, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore region responsible for transportation planning and policy making for the Baltimore region; and

**WHEREAS**, the PAC serves as an advisory body to the BRTB, charged with providing independent, region oriented citizen advice to the BRTB on issues related to the development of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Plan (BRTP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and amendments that affect the region's conformity with federal air quality requirements, the public involvement process, regionally significant land use issues, and other regional transportation-related issues, as appropriate, promotes public awareness and participation in the regional transportation planning process and promotes equity in the regional transportation planning process; and

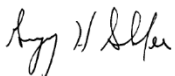
**WHEREAS**, the PAC has discussed the following FY 2016 – 2019 TIP Amendments:

- MTA Core Bus and Paratransit Vehicle Replacement (TIP ID # 40-1601-05)
- Bus and Rail System Preservation and Improvement Project (TIP ID # 40-0015-64)
- Kirk Bus Facility Replacement – Phase 1 and 2 (TIP ID # 40-1203-65)
- Bus New Main Shop (TIP ID # 40-1401-66)
- Ridesharing – Baltimore Region (TIP ID # 40-9901-01)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the PAC supports these amendments as presented, but requests additional information on the following topics to be presented to the PAC:

- MTA bus and paratransit fleet mix, to include number and types of vehicles, as well as projected retirement of hybrid buses
- Operation of the paratransit program and details of MTA commitment to improving its efficiency
- Details concerning the MTA's decision to procure 182 clean-diesel buses versus progressive, non-fossil fuel vehicles, particularly in light of the Baltimore Region's pursuit of exceeding clean air standards
- Are buses in the fleet meeting lifecycle expectations and requirements?

Submitted by;



Gregory H. Shafer  
Chairman, BRTB Public Advisory Committee