

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 11, 2017
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
5:35 to 7:35 P.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 P.M. by PAC Chair, Mr. Eric Norton.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME OF NEW PAC MEMBERS

Mr. Norton welcomed these new members to their first meeting of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC): Mr. William Cowan, Ms. Tiffany Davis, Ms. Janet Eveland, Mr. Benjamin Groff, Ms. Yvette Hicks, Mr. Charles Lawrence, Mr. Zack Vacovsky, Mr. Paul Verchinski, and Mr. Jedediah Weeks.

He also introduced the 2016 Vice Chairs: Ms. Angela Jones and Mr. Kevin Engler. The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) provides the PAC staff support, with the primary contact being Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda. Tonight, Mr. Todd Lang, Director of Transportation Planning, attends as well. Mr. Norton invited members to introduce themselves and share 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, such as the upcoming development of the FY 2018-2019 Work Plan and Budget, the short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and next Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Ms. Haines Benkhedda shared ways the PAC and other members of the public can be involved. Ms. Haines Benkhedda emphasized the importance of PAC members staying connected to BMC/BRTB social media channels and e-newsletters in order to be aware of news and upcoming action items. She also asked that members share information with their own networks about opportunities for public involvement with BRTB and BRTB member agencies such as MTA, SHA, or local planning efforts.

New members were also encouraged to visit baltometro.org to watch a video guide to metropolitan transportation planning and to or to access recent BRTB/PAC minutes, presentations, and calendar of upcoming events. Lastly, Ms. Haines Benkhedda 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 or needed assistance in connecting.

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

[Handouts: Draft timeline of major milestones in the development of the next plan; Draft list of regional goals and strategies for the next plan]

3. ABOUT THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Norton 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. It was noted that a key role of the PAC is to serve as a conduit between the BRTB and the public (including constituents, coworkers, area community organizations, neighbors, etc.).

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

4. OVERVIEW OF PAC SUBCOMMITTEES & CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Norton provided members with an overview of the standing PAC subcommittees. He noted that the subcommittee Chairs will be appointed, but that any volunteers interested in chairing or co-chairing a subcommittee should connect with him.

Mr. Norton informed new PAC members that a proposal for a new Ad-Hoc Transportation Equity Subcommittee was presented to the members in 2016. The proposal was distributed to new members and Mr. Norton asked that all members be prepared to vote at the February meeting as to whether or not they believed the PAC should move forward with the development of an Ad-Hoc Equity subcommittee.

Assignments for the subcommittees will be determined shortly, with Mr. Norton remarking that not all members are able to serve on their 1st choice for subcommittee as many more individuals have selected the Policy subcommittee as their first choice. Mr. Norton will email all members to ask for volunteers willing to serve on the Public Involvement subcommittee this year. Any members who would be interested in serving on the Ad Hoc Equity committee were also asked to notify him.

[Handout: Proposal for Ad Hoc Equity Subcommittee]

5. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2016 MINUTES

The PAC voted to approve the [December 2016 meeting minutes](#).

Mr. Greg Shafer asked about BRTB response to PAC concerns in December about short timeframe to provide input into the December 21st BRTB retreat. Mr. Lang agreed to follow-up with the BRTB members about the PAC's comments.

6. CARDSTORMING: 2017 PAC GOALS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Ms. Haines Benkhedda asked the members to think about their ideas and expectations about the PAC goals and potential activities the group could work on in 2017. She then led members in a discussion about the ideas they generated.

[Report: 2017 PAC Cardstorming Results]

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Lang reported that the January BRTB meeting is a joint meeting with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council board. This meeting with elected officials and appointed representatives is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Maryland Port Administration Cruise Terminal. The meeting is open to the public. However, all attendees must [register in advance](#) and present a government-issued photo ID at the Cruise Terminal gate on the morning of the meeting. Minutes and a list of recent and upcoming BRTB meetings are online at baltometro.org.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Terraine Arnold – Arunah Avenue Association
Lindsey Bishop – Resident, Baltimore City
Michael Bishop – Resident, Baltimore City
Christopher Boardman – Resident, Harford County
William Cowan – South Baltimore Neighborhood Association
Michael Davis – Resident, Carroll County
Tiffany Davis – Resident, Baltimore City
Kevin Engler – Partners In Care
Janet Eveland – Resident, Baltimore City
Benjamin Gilardi – Resident, Baltimore City
Benjamin Groff – Resident, Baltimore City
Tafadzwa Gwitira – Resident, Baltimore County
Yvette Hicks – Resident, Baltimore County
Mark Howard – Resident, Baltimore County
Dick Ladd – Resident, Anne Arundel County
Charles Lawrence – Resident, Baltimore County
Mark Lotz – Resident, Harford County
Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Rita Ossiander – Resident, Baltimore County
Derrick Sexton – Resident, Baltimore City
Greg Shafer – Resident, Howard County
Zack Vacovsky – Resident, Baltimore City
Paul Verchinski – Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA)
Jedediah Weeks – Bikemore

Staff and Guests

Monica B. Haines Benkhedda – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Todd Lang – BMC

2019 LRTP – Milestones

(Version 1 – December 6, 2016)

Dec 2016 to Jan 2017 – Title and Brand

- *Maximize2045: A Performance-Based Plan*. Shows continuity relative to federal performance-based focus; similar purpose and approach.
- BRTB buy-in

Jan to March 2017 – Goals and Strategies

- Current goals and strategies cover requirements, policies, and aspirations, with a few additions:
 - New FAST Act planning factor: tourism
 - Address new vehicle technologies / ride sharing
- TC review – anything else?
- How best to engage the public
- BRTB approval

Feb to July 2017 – Performance Measures and Targets

- Coordination with state
- Advisory group input
- TC review
- How best to engage the public
- BRTB approval

Sept 2017 to Jan 2018 – Financial Forecast

- Coordination with state
- TC review
- BRTB approval

Feb to July 2018 – Population and Employment Forecasts

- Coordination with Cooperative Forecasting Group
- TC review
- BRTB approval

Jan to Oct 2018 – Major Programs and Projects: Asset Management Programs, Major Rehab, Expansion

- Public project ideas?
- Project submittals from jurisdictions and modal agencies
- BMC staff scoring
- TC review
- BRTB approval

Nov to Dec 2018 – Modeling / Testing of Preferred Alternative

- Coordination with ICG on air quality conformity modeling
- Travel demand modeling
- Environmental Justice analysis and mapping
- Coordination with resource agencies on effects relative to natural / cultural resources

Jan to May 2019 – Draft Plan

- BMC staff preparation
- Public review and comment
- BRTB response to comments

June to July 2019 – Final Plan

- BMC staff preparation
- BRTB response to comments
- Federal acceptance and approval

Suggested new strategies from BMC staff and Queen Anne's County (all changes shown in red). These new strategies are intended to strengthen planning related to system redundancy and evacuation routes, to incorporate a new planning factor related to tourism that was added in the FAST Act, and to acknowledge the need to consider emerging vehicle technologies and shared mobility options in project planning and programming.

GOAL: Improve System Security – Provide a secure traveling environment for everyone; improve the region's ability to respond to natural and man-made disasters.

- Increase redundancy in the overall system. Where this is not possible, look for alternatives to add capacity (including adding capacity through operational improvements) to existing corridors or facilities.
- Review evacuation routes and identify points of limited capacity. Consider alternatives that would improve traffic movement through these points of limited capacity in emergency situations (e.g., improving traffic operations, identifying alternative routes, expanding existing roadways).

GOAL: Promote Prosperity and Economic Opportunity – Support the revitalization of communities, the development of activity centers, and the movement of people, goods, and services.

- Invest in new and improved transportation assets and facilities that promote tourism and the movement of tourists within and through the region. This includes (1) improving roadway, transit, pedestrian, and bicycle access to regional and local tourist attractions, (2) analyzing peak travel volumes and times in key tourism corridors, and (3) improving and promoting information systems (e.g., signage, bus service information, smartphone applications) that visitors can use to reach destinations easily and safely.

GOAL: Promote Informed Decision Making– Ensure that adopted transportation policies and performance measures guide the regional decision making process and improve and promote decision-making tools for travelers.

- Coordinate transportation investment with state planning policies and local plans regarding tourism, growth, and development (e.g., PlanMaryland).
- Continue to plan for and consider the effects of emerging technologies and increasing vehicle/infrastructure connectivity when moving projects through the project development process. For example, consider the long-term effects of, and infrastructure needs related to, connected and automated vehicle use on traveler safety, roadway congestion, and land use when planning for new and improved transportation facilities. Make project scopes more flexible as needed to accommodate the potential effects of such emerging technologies.
- Continue to plan for and consider the effects of alternative means of travel (e.g., ride hailing services, micro-transit services, ridesharing, etc.) on traveler safety and security, roadway congestion, and land use.
- Continue to improve information systems (e.g., signage, bus service information, smartphone applications) that all travelers can use to reach destinations easily and safely.

Mission and activities for PAC Ad Hoc Transportation Equity Subcommittee

The Ad-Hoc Transportation Equity Subcommittee will consist of at least five voting members and will function as subcommittee to review regionally significant land use and transportation issues, plans and programs, including the Unified Work Plan, the Long Range Transportation Plan, and the Public Participation Plan.

This committee will focus on reviewing regional transportation plans and programs through the lens of equity and environmental justice so as to advocate for the development and implementation of policies and plans that address the crucial role of transportation in providing access to opportunity, schools and health care for minority, vulnerable and low-income populations. Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Support the capacity of the PAC to apply the lens of equity and environmental justice to public participation efforts and transportation investments, policies and plans through relationship-building with transportation equity groups and coordination of presentation and speakers.
- Examine the impact on minority, vulnerable and low-income populations of proposed and current policies, projects, and programs in terms of increased transportation options, reduced isolation, improved affordability and increased access.
- Review measurable outcomes and if those outcomes represent transportation equity for minority, vulnerable and low-income populations.

Discussion questions

- What more do you need to know about transportation equity?
- What would be some of strengths of an Equity Subcommittee?
- What would be some of the challenges of such a Subcommittee?
- What resources/buy-in would be needed?
- What kinds of goals or activities would you suggest if you agree with this idea?

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CARDSTORMING - JANUARY 11, 2017



INTRODUCTION

On January 11, 2017, the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) met to welcome new members and discuss its goals and potential activities for 2017. In order to facilitate this discussion, Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda led the group in a “Cardstorming” exercise and discussion.

To begin, each person was given a stack of post-it notes and asked to finish this statement: ***In order to be most effective, in 2017, the PAC should focus on...***

All members then wrote down all of their thoughts and ideas. Following this, all of the post-it notes were put on the wall. Through the discussion process ideas were sorted, clustered, and categorized.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The full results of this exercise and discussion are attached; however, the group categorized their ideas into several key areas. These are as follows:

In order to be most effective, in 2017, the PAC should focus on...

- ★ Do more on Equity
- ★ Advocate for better data availability and communications
- ★ Do more and better outreach
- ★ Advocate for decision-makers to listen
- ★ Offer support for better outreach
- ★ Learn more from each other and outside organizations/people
- ★ Talk about priorities
- ★ Clean House

FULL DOCUMENTATION OF CARDSTORMING

Do more on Equity

- Equity and inclusion in transportation decision-making
- Talking about funding inequity w/r/t transport vs. automobile public investments
- Equal representation
- Raise the awareness + importance of equity issues
- Ad Hoc Committee

Advocate for better data availability and communications

- Increase public awareness and involvement of BRTB and TIP projects
- Share information/results via tool like citi stat
- Stop talking about motor vehicle level of service
- Talk about the positive and/or negative effects of TIP projects (i.e. how they affect pedestrians, motorists, bicyclists, residents, etc)
- Find ways to educate the public on the true and total impacts of transportation infrastructure
- Environmental and economic impacts of proposed projects
- Understanding specific areas within the city
- Study patterns of mass transit use
- Transportation to employment
- Comparative environmental impacts of projects (e.g. carbon emissions per mile per person)
- Educate the public on the true life cycle costs of transportation networks

Do more and better outreach

- Conduct public engagement meetings offsite (not at BMC all the time)
- Better engage and empower residents to participate in transportation planning
- Increase participation and outreach
- Increase involvement with local organizations and community groups to give feedback
- Public engagement
- Talk to more people on the “outside”
- Conduct tangible outreach - Be seen and heard by the broader public throughout the region
- Expanding public involvement
- Hosting a Leadership Academy + using USDOT Toolkit locally
- Developing creative ways to enhance PAC’s outreach regarding TIP projects to public
- How to mobilize the traveling public to be more involved in the planning process?

Advocate for decision-makers to listen

- Encourage agencies to LISTEN to public comments
- Better align planning documents to public input that was received.

Offer support for better outreach

- Collaborating more with MTA, SHA, County/City DOT to promote public input on projects
- Encourage agencies to improve public outreach
- Transit data loaded into Google maps
- Better info regarding small improvements
- Learning more about other MPO's, their outreach efforts, and how they engage elected officials and address equity

Learn more from each other and outside organizations/people

- Non-traditional forms of transportation
- Pop-up transit routes
- How connected and automated vehicles will affect both drivers and the infrastructure
- Research the impacts of autonomous vehicles
- Providing more information to members of public on website (more details on the TIP amendments for example)
- Have proposed projects presented to us by planners in interactive discussions
- Hearing from MTA about how BaltimoreLink is serving the public / how it can be improved
- Baltimore Stink aka Baltimore Link
- Understanding holistic transportation needs of region
- Providing overview of current conditions – some folks may be more knowledgeable of certain areas
- Equity - more trainings on how to apply equity to transportation
- Educating PAC members on project planning process
- How technology is being used to manage travel in highly congested corridors

Talk about priorities

- Relationship of land use planning and transportation planning
- Advocate for the most efficient and effective investments
- Demographic changes - more older adults and mobility
- Maintain a balance between transit, highway, and non-motorized solutions
- Population growth's impact on proposed new projects
- Transit and people without cars having access
- Encourage paratransit options and increased investment in paratransit
- Develop potential funding sources / donors / **losers** for MAGLEV!
- Gaining a consensus as a group on the handful of top transportation priorities in the Baltimore Metropolitan area
- For the top transportation priorities, map out strategies for getting them defined as projects, funded, and started in the process.
- Transportation and land use connection + whether long-range transportation plan fits how we expect to grow as a region.
- Development uninhibited by transportation considerations

- Regional equity - does transportation system support equitable growth?
- Prioritizing TIP 2017-2020 projects
- Equitable access and loss of use
- Transportation priorities
- Think about transportation in 20 years
- Performance measures - do regional, state, and local goals line up
- How to coordinate projects/issues that happen at the margins of the region (e.g. between Baltimore and Washington regions)
- Ensure that there is a more equal share of projects for all modes of transit
- East-West connections through city (cars/transit/bikes)
- Affordable transportation in the region
- Alternatives to cars
- Ensuring that current plans are in line with new national goals
- Identifying the best strategies for addressing the most congested areas in the metro area

Clean House

- Avoid redundancy at board meetings
- Question/Comment - Per PAC member per meeting to encourage others to participate
- Eat more pizza (Second!!!)
- Get out of the weeds
- 1 question limit or 2 minute per item to keep time on point
- Shorten meetings to 1.5 hours, especially if one is required to attend an hour long committee meeting beforehand
- Focus on being ahead of any dates requiring PAC review/suggestions/approval (ex: TIP comments)

Miscellaneous / Uncategorized

- Express opinions on concepts and direction prior to actual project start
- What to do to tap into transportation infrastructure \$\$
- Should gas tax be adjusted for effective rate to 85/90 cents? How to deal with electric cars?
- Ensure that projects do not contribute to air pollution
- How to utilize reversible toll roads / SOV lanes?
- Options for reforming the structure of the BRTB

