

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 1, 2017
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
5:42 to 7:30 P.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:42 P.M. by PAC Chair, Mr. Eric Norton.

Mr. Chris Witt introduced himself as the new Regional Planner in the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of Planning & Capital Programming. As he will be working as a liaison to the BRTB, he wanted to attend and learn more about the PAC.

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda introduced Ms. Aryn Dagirmanjian of the [Regional Information Center \(RIC\)](#), a library operated as a partnership between the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and the Enoch Pratt Free Library. The RIC collection includes regional and urban planning materials with a focus on local demographic information, economic development, transportation planning, land use and environmental issues. Ms. Dagirmanjian is making improvements to the RIC to add guest speakers, working space for visitors, etc. PAC members that would like a tour of the RIC and its resources or need assistance with data or research may contact the RIC at 410-732-9570 or ric@baltometro.org.

1. PRESENTATION: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, EQUITY AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Ms. Tracee Strum-Gilliam, AICP thanked the PAC for this opportunity to share additional information about environmental justice and equity. She began her presentation by reviewing definitions of environmental justice, Title VI, and equity.

She noted that Title VI includes protections for those traditionally underserved and as such are included in documents such as Public Participation Plans and Limited English Proficiency Plans to ensure involvement.

Ms. Strum-Gilliam also noted the difference between equality and equity. Equality is treating everyone the same or providing the same resources, however equity understands that equality only works if everyone starts from the same place. Therefore, equity is a process that address differing levels of abilities and access.

Title VI and the principles of environmental justice exist to ensure full and fair access, as well as to ensure that both benefits and burdens are proportionately distributed. For example, in transportation planning and funding, it is important to balance importance of projects with the allocation of funding

around region and among various populations. She cited as an example, the [benefits and burdens analysis of the Maximize2040](#) preferred alternative.

Ms. Strum-Gilliam also share best practices for engaging traditionally underserved individuals and communities, including:

- **Change up the public meeting model** - Conduct outreach at non-traditional times and provide childcare. In addition, though many public meetings have lower than hoped for turnout, county and city council meetings are typically packed. Get a table at these meetings or get on the agenda to speak about the work you are doing.
- **Advertise via mobile** – More and more people are accessing information on the go, including African Americans and people of Hispanic/Latino descent who most often access the internet by phone instead of a home computer.
- **Build relationships** - It is important to build ongoing relationships with organizations and people, particularly the “door keepers” or non-traditional leaders in communities. Having these relationships in place makes it easier to get the word out and to collect comments on since a foundation of understanding is already there. Personal invitations are much more likely to achieve success. Regularly updating database of contacts is essential as well to ensure you are staying in touch with existing contacts while adding new people and organizations.
- **Train neighborhood ambassadors** to work with others in their community to share information and collect comments. This can also be a good project-based learning opportunity for local students to lead and learn.
- **Transparency and openness** are two key principles of public engagement because it builds trust so that want to participate.
- **Make the abstract personal** – When asked “Why should I care?” about a long-term plan or major project, Ms. Strum-Gilliam has found ways to help people make the connection to their day to day concerns. For example, sharing the disproportionate rates of asthma among African-American children allows the conversation to turn to a familiar experience that many minorities and limited-income individual can relate to more easily. From there, the connection to transportation can be made (i.e. “transportation is one of the contributing factors to asthma and the BRTB is deciding how to invest in regions future transportation...”). Ms. Strum-Gilliam also shared how projects like the Baltimore Red Line, though now cancelled, went well beyond the “bricks and mortar” by also incorporating improvements around proposed stations that both increased access as well as quality of life).

[Presentation: Environmental Justice, Equity and Transportation Planning]

2. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES & CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

The PAC subcommittee chairs provided this month’s reports as part of agenda item #3.

3. DISCUSSION: PAC COMMENTS ON FY2018-2019 BUDGET AND WORK PLAN

PAC members discussed comments they generated on the BRTB's Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget and Work Plan, otherwise known as a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), as well as recommendations on new tasks or studies. After review and discussion, the PAC approved PAC Resolution #2017-01.

Out of this discussion, PAC members requested presentation on congestion management and modeling. Staff agreed to coordinate presentations on these topics at future PAC meetings.

Members also suggested that any scenario planning efforts look at land use, technology, and access to jobs in relation to transportation investments. Two examples given were MTA using Opportunity Maps to look at changing access to job centers due to proposed BaltimoreLink route changes and the Sacramento MPO's Blueprint plan.

[PAC Resolution #2017-01: PAC COMMENTS ON FY 2018 – 2019 UPWP]

4. MAXIMIZE2045 UPDATE

Staff will provide PAC members with an update on *Maximize2045: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan*, the next Long-Range Transportation Plan for the Baltimore region and next steps in the process. Staff shared PAC comments on the goals for *Maximize2045* with the Technical Committee and BRTB. The BRTB incorporated several recommendations into the final goals, which the BRTB approved on February 28. The BRTB will consider updates to performance measures and targets this summer.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The PAC postponed approval of the [February 2017 meeting minutes](#) to its next meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Staff and PAC members made the following announcements:

- [February 2017 BRTB Meeting](#) – The February 28 BRTB meeting included approval of Resolution #17-15 endorsing funding for several projects under Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program of the Federal Transit Administration; Resolution #17-17 to amend the 2017-2020 TIP for several MTA projects; and Resolution #17-18 to approve updated *Maximize2045* goals. The BRTB also received presentations about the Maryland Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSM&O) Strategic Implementation Plan and a briefing on the Tradepoint Atlantic (TPA) redevelopment project. Minutes and a list of BRTB meetings are online at baltometro.org.
- Mr. Norton announced that the **Central Maryland Transportation Alliance is launching Citizens Academy**. People interested in applying to participate can contact him for more details.

- **What's on Tap** – The next [What's on Tap regional forum](#) is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21st from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Diamondback Brewing Co. in McHenry Row. This joint event with Bikemore features a series of film shorts and discussion of complete streets.
- **Bike to Work Day** – The Baltimore Metropolitan Council is coordinating the 20th Bike to Work Day in the region with over 30 events around the region on Friday, May 19. Sponsors and additional events are welcome. Visit [Bike2WorkCentralMD.com](#) for more information!

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Terraine Arnold – Arunah Avenue Association

Lindsey Bishop – Resident, Baltimore City

Attended by phone

Michael Bishop – Resident, Baltimore City

Christopher Costello – Transportation Association of Maryland

William Cowan – South Baltimore Neighborhood Association

Michael Davis – Resident, Carroll County

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

Angela Jones – Resident, Baltimore County

Paul Kowzan III – Broadway Area Business Association

Dick Ladd – Resident, Anne Arundel County

Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance

Rita Ossiander – Resident, Baltimore County

Greg Shafer – Resident, Howard County

Proxy designated by: Mark Howard

Zack Vacovsky – Resident, Baltimore City

Paul Verchinski – Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA)

Jennifer Weeks – Resident, Baltimore County

Beth Wiseman – Baltimore County Association of Senior Citizens Organizations

Staff and Guests

Aryn Dagirmanjian – Enoch Pratt Free Library Regional Information Center

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

Don Halligan – BMC

Chris Witt – Maryland Department of Transportation