

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 6, 2017
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
5:44 to 7:16 P.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Eric Norton called the meeting to order at 5:44 p.m.p

1. PRESENTATION: HANOVER STREET MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR STUDY

Ms. Gladys Hurwitz of the Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT) presented highlights of the Hanover Street Corridor Study. The purpose of the study is to develop a plan to upgrade and enhance the Hanover Street corridor and Vietnam Veterans Memorial bridge that will also: 1) Provide the surrounding communities with safe and reliable access to key quality of life resources; 2) Maintain a critical link between existing and planned bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; 3) Improve access for local and regional motorists; 4) Maintain freight access to and from the Port of Baltimore; and 5) Promote better connectivity between local bus and light rail services.

Public involvement efforts include an Interagency Advisory Group (IAG); Community Advisory Panel (CAP); and a series of public involvement meetings, which will continue throughout the process. A review of data, existing conditions, and an economic market analysis is also underway. Existing conditions show a number of pedestrian safety concerns including a lack of ADA facilities and accessibility to bus stops and sidewalks adjacent to trucks and high-speed traffic. In addition, there are no bicycle facilities and the bridge deck and pavement conditions are poor.

Ms. Hurwitz shared potential bridge design options. The next phase will: 1) Evaluate and revise designs based upon traffic demand and how each will improve safety, 2) Connectivity, and accessibility; 3) Develop an aesthetic plan for the corridor; 4) Determine costs and impacts of various concepts; and 5) Continue a public outreach program. More details are online at: transportation.baltimorecity.gov/tiger/hanover-st.

[Presentation: [Hanover Street Multi-Modal Corridor Study](#)]

2. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES & CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

- **Public Involvement** – Ms. Beth Wiseman reported that the Subcommittee met before the meeting to continue development of an event plan for a PAC sponsored Leadership Academy. The PAC would utilize the model outlined in the [USDOT Everyplace Counts Leadership Academy](#),

which several PAC members attended during 2016. The goal of a PAC Leadership Academy is to increase the range of people who are aware of the BRTB and involved in transportation advocacy. Members updated the proposal in light of feedback from staff. Members offered suggestions. Staff agreed to review the updated proposal and continue planning with the PAC.

- **Policy and Legislation** – Mr. Mark Lotz reported the group met and reviewed two items:
 1. **A 2018-2021 TIP Amendment for I-695 at Cromwell Bridge Road, drainage improvement project**, is open for comment through September 25, 2017. The project will restore the stream channel, repair SHA drainage outfalls and outfall channels, construct stormwater management facilities to provide water quality treatment, and relocate the Baltimore County sewer line. The PAC approved PAC Resolution #2017-04 in support of the amendment.

[PAC Resolution #2017-04: I-695 at Cromwell Bridge Road, drainage improvement project]

2. **Boston Street Multimodal Corridor Study** – PAC members discussed the Final Draft of the Boston Street Multimodal Corridor Study, open for comment through September 17, 2017 by the Baltimore City Department of Transportation. Mr. Will Cowan reported that the study came about following the cancellation of the Baltimore Red Line and was funded through the BRTB's Unified Planning Work Program. He expressed concern that the study fails to incorporate many of the recommendations made in other studies over the last decade, which included a comprehensive approach to complete streets, a dedicated transit lane, improved transit, and a dedicated bike facility.

Mr. Lotz reported that subcommittee members had concerns that the study does not offer a range of multi-modal solutions essential to this busy regional corridor. Ms. Jennifer Weeks suggested that since the BRTB does not have a formal role in approving this study, that individuals submit comments to Baltimore City DOT and the PAC focus on how the study relates to the BRTB's plans, programs, and policies.

The subcommittee agreed to compile additional comments via email and complete a vote on a resolution by September 20.

- **Equity** – Mr. Norton reported that the committee met on August 21 at Impact Hub to continue review and preparation of a draft policy statement on equity to guide BRTB plans and programs. The group will meet this month to finalize a draft to present at the October meeting. This meeting will follow a different format, with Ms. Adar Ayira of Associated Black Charities (invited) facilitating a discussion of equity and transportation. Additional details will be sent to members this month.

3. MAXIMIZE2045 UPDATE

Ms. Regina Aris reported that the process to develop *Maximize2045: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan*, the next long-range transportation plan for the Baltimore region continues. The next step is to develop performance measures and targets. Ms. Aris reviewed all of the performance measures now required by federal legislation and indicated that the BRTB will be identifying targets for these measures. In addition, staff received the federal and state financial forecast for

Maximize2045 from MDOT. The forecast for expansion is about \$3 billion less than the previous plan. Staff will present information to the Technical Committee for their review and discussion. Ms. Aris also noted that staff welcome ideas for a public participation process for *Maximize2045*.

Mr. Norton indicated that it is important to have a new subcommittee or expand the Policy Subcommittee to contribute to the discussion and target setting process for performance measures.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The PAC approved the [June 2017](#) meeting minutes.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Staff and PAC members made the following announcements:

- Mr. Norton discussed the July meeting of the BRTB. While disappointed that the BRTB did not move forward with the PAC recommendation for weighted voting, he described a robust discussion involving nearly every member of the BRTB. The discussion included the benefits and drawbacks of weighted voting. In the end, members decided to retain the current process.
- BRTB Meetings – The September 26 BRTB meeting features [proposals for funding under the Transportation Alternatives program](#), as well as approval of the proposed TIP amendment. Minutes and a list of upcoming events are online at baltometro.org.
- Meetings on MDOT’s Draft FY 2018-2023 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) –MDOT released the State's draft six-year CTP, a capital investment program for transportation. MDOT will hold “Tour” meetings around the state. A copy of the draft CTP and a list of the Tour dates are online at www.ctp.maryland.gov.
- BaltimoreLINK – Ms. Wiseman reported that she serves on the MTA Citizens Advisory Committee for Accessible Transportation (CACAT) and if any PAC members have feedback on the new BaltimoreLINK service to let her know so she can pass the feedback along.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Megan Belich – Resident, Baltimore City
Celeste Chavis – Morgan State University
Chris Costello – Transportation Association of Maryland
William Cowan – South Baltimore Neighborhood Association
Janet Eveland – Resident, Baltimore City
Benjamin Gilardi – Resident, Baltimore City
Ben Groff – Resident, Baltimore City

Yvette Hicks – Resident, Baltimore County
Mark Howard – Resident, Baltimore County
Angela Jones – Resident, Baltimore County
Paul Kowzan – Broadway Area Business Association
Dick Ladd – Resident, Anne Arundel County
Mark Lotz – Resident, Harford County
Rita Ossiander – Resident, Baltimore County
Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
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

Proxy designated by: Jed Weeks

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Monica B. Haines Benkhedda – BMC
Gladys Hurwitz – Baltimore City Department of Transportation