

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 3, 2018
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
5:35 to 7:15 P.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Eric Norton called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME OF NEW PAC MEMBERS

Mr. Norton welcomed these new members to their first meeting of the Public Advisory Committee:

- Mr. Daniel Yi is a high school student from Howard County, doing an independent research class on urban development in Baltimore and the resulting economic and social impacts.
- Ms. Audrey Seller of Accessible Resources for Independence (ARI) is a resident of Harwood in Baltimore City. She serves on the Transportation Committee of the Anne Arundel County Commission on Disability Issues. She is a graduate of CMTA's Transportation 101 course and she has an interest in affordable and accessible transit for people with disabilities, as well as accessible search options for rideshare systems.
- Ms. Karin Olsen is a resident of Baltimore County with a Master's degree in Environmental Policy and Planning and a AICP certification. She works in Howard County as an environmental consultant and has an Interest in increasing transit access and affordability throughout region and freight movement.

Mr. Norton also introduced the 2018 Vice Chairs, Mr. Mark Lotz and Ms. Taffy Gwitira, and invited members to introduce themselves and share their background. The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) provides the PAC staff support, with the primary contact being Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda. Tonight, Mr. Terry Freeland attends as well.

2. BRTB OVERVIEW

Mr. Freeland 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, *Maximize2045*.

Mr. Freeland shared ways the PAC and other members of the public can be involved, emphasizing 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. He 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, Mr. Freeland noted that the PAC has a Google Group for PAC members to share information and collaborate on documents. Ms. Haines Benkhedda asked that each member contact her if they're unable to access this group or needed assistance in connecting.

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

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 on Public Involvement and Policy and Legislation. He noted that the PAC Chairs will appoint the 2018 subcommittee Chairs, but that any volunteers interested in chairing or co-chairing a subcommittee should connect with him.

Mr. Norton noted that in 2017, the PAC established an Ad-Hoc Transportation Equity Subcommittee. In December, the PAC approved a policy statement on equity to guide BRTB plans and programs. This was presented to the BRTB who is reviewing the statement, as well as the request by the PAC that the subcommittee be established as a standing committee of the PAC to be in line with its mission.

In addition, the PAC has established an ad-hoc committee to work with staff on a PAC sponsored Leadership Academy [event plan](#), based on the [USDOT Everyplace Counts Leadership Academy](#). The following members volunteered to serve on an ad hoc event planning committee: Ms. Janet Eveland, Mr. Ben Groff, Ms. Yvette Hicks, Mr. Mark Howard, Ms. Angela Jones, Mr. Norton, and Ms. Jennifer Weeks. Mr. Norton asked that any additional members who would be interested in serving on the Ad Hoc Leadership Academy committee notify him or Ms. Haines Benkhedda.

Lastly, assignments for the subcommittees will be determined shortly, with Mr. Norton remarking that not all members may not be able to serve on their 1st choice for subcommittee as there needs to be a balanced distribution of members across the various committees.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Due to a lack of quorum, the PAC postponed approval of the [December 2017](#) meeting minutes.

6. CARDSTORMING: 2018 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 2018. She then led members in a cardstorming exercise and discussion about the ideas they generated.

Following the exercise, Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda thanked all of the members for generating an excellent list of ideas and expressed excitement in working with each of them throughout the year. Ms. Haines Benkhedda will type up the full list of cardstorming ideas and PAC members will prioritize their primary areas of focus at their February meeting. PAC members with additional ideas should email them to Ms. Haines Benkhedda by January 19.

[Report: 2018 PAC Cardstorming Results]

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Members and staff made the following announcement:

- **BRTB Meetings** – The BRTB meeting with elected and empowered representatives is set for 9 a.m. on Friday, January 26 in Annapolis, MD. The meeting is open to the public and members of the public are welcome to address the BRTB. Please contact Mr. Todd Lang to register to address the BRTB. All attendees must present a government-issued photo ID to access the Maryland State House. Minutes and a list of upcoming events are online at baltometro.org.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Terraine Arnold – Arunah Avenue Association
Michael Davis – Resident, Carroll County
Janet Eveland – Resident, Baltimore City
Yvette Hicks – Resident, Baltimore County
Mark Howard – Resident, Baltimore County
Paul Kowzan III – Broadway Area Business Association
Dick Ladd – Resident, Anne Arundel County
Mark Lotz – Resident, Harford County
Karin Olsen – Resident, Baltimore County
Audrey Sellers – Accessible Resources for Independence (ARI)
Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
April Stup – Partners In Care
Zack Vacovsky – Resident, Baltimore City

Beth Wiseman – Baltimore Co. Association of Senior Citizens Organizations
Daniel Yi – Resident, Howard County

Staff and Guests

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

BRTB PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CARDSTORMING - JANUARY 03, 2018



INTRODUCTION

On January 03, 2018, the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) met to welcome new members and discuss its goals and potential activities for 2018. In order to facilitate this discussion, Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda led the group in a “Cardstorming” exercise and discussion.

To begin, staff gave each person a stack of post-it notes and asked to finish this statement: ***In order to be most effective in 2018, 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

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

In order to be most effective in 2018, the PAC should focus on...

- ★ Equity
- ★ Promoting a strategic vision
- ★ Outcomes
- ★ Issues Advocacy
- ★ Community Engagement
- ★ Increasing Public Awareness
- ★ Creating effective public outreach tools
- ★ PAC (internal)

FULL DOCUMENTATION OF CARDSTORMING

Equity

- Ensure that the BRTB to be focuses on transportation equity - both demographic and geographic
- Equity is the primary outcome of the next regional plan

Promoting a strategic vision

- Focus on alternatives to what may be proposed
- Identify/encourage links between transportation and land-use. Strengthen this link.
- A visionary long-range transportation plan – how can we influence this?
- Integrating transportation planning with PlanMaryland process

Outcomes

- Accountability to follow through with a project.
- Focusing on outcomes that matter to residents
- Tracking the success of Baltimore LINK - how well is it serving Baltimore and its suburbs?
- Focus on more on outcomes of transportation investments like access to jobs, increased economic growth, etc.

Issues advocacy

- Having a city first attitude for transportation planning
- Integrating rural-suburban-urban transportation
- Promoting accessibility (specifically pedestrians)
- Identifying ways to expand access to transportation to people in transit deserts
- Connectivity of public transportation networks"
- \$0 for "traffic safety" "improvements" that are lipstick on a pig
- \$0 in new or expanded roads
- Making the Baltimore region truly relevant again by planning and building *major* transportation projects
- Population proportional voting with a weight on vulnerable populations for the BRTB

Community Engagement

- Get public input on proposed PAC actions.
- Reach out to civic groups in the region to improve engagement in the planning process.
- Go to other locations to have outreach (other counties).
- Meet in one or two locations outside BMC offices and establishing a link with local community to encourage attendance – have a program that attracts people from the community.
- Hold meetings in other jurisdictions

Increasing public awareness

- Help develop more advocates to be involved in transportation planning
- PAC members promoting (BRTB and transportation planning) to their community groups
- Increasing public knowledge of the BRTB

- Educating the public about our purpose.
- Transportation policy education.
- Convincing the public that we can do better as a region a transportation, but it will take enhanced funding.
- Increasing public awareness of large transportation projects
- Focus on advancing policy that will improve productivity in Baltimore and give access to services such as rec centers, job sources, and access outside city
- Urban development and transports deeply connected with each other, efficient transport leads to shorter commute, increased access to jobs, and opportunities in and out of Baltimore.
- Focus on advocating economic benefits of better transport and how it caters to Baltimoreans. More walkable/accessible cities prove to be safer wealthier and more attractive to professionals, businesses, and families, leading to tax revenue to fund policies. (i.e. Red Line advocacy, promoting investment in urban development/revitalization, making communities more walkable, and helping Baltimore improve crime situation along with economic stagnation.

Creating effective public outreach tools

- Making literature exciting and on the level of every person/reader
- Advertising the leadership academy
- Providing public education and training and self and systems advocacy
- Sharing information on how to inform the public to have input on bike lanes, traffic lights, speed humps in their neighborhoods

PAC (internal)

- Reviewing certification recommendations.
- Early review of potential projects and goals
- Road trip! Have a visit to transportation facility like the port, State operation center, or other facility.
- Pizza more often - perhaps salad.
- Have BRTB members come and address us
- Members prepare and read documents
- Focus on action items of BRTB and provide input
- Know major decision points of BRTB's planning process and plan ahead to provide input
- Keep up the excellent lineup of speakers