

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 1, 2018
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
5:30 to 7:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Eric Norton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. PRESENTATION: I-95 EXPRESS TOLL LANES AND I-95 ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS STUDY AT PORT COVINGTON

Mr. Michael Rothenheber, Vice President at JMT Consulting, presented the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) updated plans for Section 200 of the I-95 Express Toll Lanes. He discussed the projects purpose and need, scope and cost increases, notably that its overall cost is now estimated at \$1.1 billion for a two-lane expansion of the toll lanes north to Bel Air with a flyover at I-95 and MD 24, bridge reconstructions to accommodate the widening, a Park-and-Ride improvement at I-95 and MD 152 and noise walls. Ms. Janet Eveland asked about the source of the funds and if the recent announcement by the Governor that MDTA would lower their tolls would impact revenue needed for construction of the project. Mr. Rothenheber indicated that MDTA has committed the money from within the toll revenues expected. Mr. Derrick Sexton asked about the improvements to the Park-and-Ride lot. Mr. Rothenheber stated that the improvements will include an accommodation for MTA buses that does not exist currently. Mr. Paul Verchinski asked if there will be accommodations for electric vehicles and Mr. Arthur Petersen asked if the lot is including solar collection. Mr. Rothenheber indicated that both EV and solar canopies are being examined and may likely be included.

Mr. Russ Walto, Project Manager at MDTA, presented the I-95 Access Improvements at Port Covington project. He discussed the projects purpose and need, scope, preferred alternative and estimated costs (current estimate \$450-\$495 million). The project planning phase is expected to be completed this fall and the developer and MDTA are currently looking for sources to fund other phases. Ms. Eveland asked how much coordination is occurring between the Hanover Street Bridge project the city is undertaking and this project. Mr. Walto indicated that considerable discussions and coordination have occurred as the projects intersect and traffic will be shared between the two facilities. Several members questioned fund sources for the project and Mr. Dan Janousek from MDOT clarified that both projects are to be amended into the long-range transportation plan and the TIP, and that while no federal aid is expected for the I-95 projects, federal approvals are needed.

The BRTB welcomes comments through Friday, August 31, on updates to *Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan* and the *2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* for these projects. The BRTB is scheduled to vote on the amendments on Tuesday, September 25 at 9 a.m. Details of the amendments and comment period are online at www.baltometro.org.

[Presentations – Section 200 of I-95 Express Toll Lanes; I-95 Access Improvements at Port Covington]

2. PRESENTATION: VULNERABLE POPULATIONS INDEX

Ms. Mara Kaminowitz provided details of changes to the Vulnerable Populations Index (VPI) mapping tool and shared highlights of how staff utilized the PACs previous feedback in this update. Several members asked what sort of analysis was undertaken, what scale and methodology was employed. Ms. Kaminowitz discussed the data, scale of the analysis and the data limitations and informed the group that a report is expected to become available in the fall with details to follow.

[Presentation – Vulnerable Populations Index (VPI) Update]

3. SUBCOMMITTEES REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

- **Transportation Equity** – Mr. Norton informed the Committee that he and Ms. Tafadzwa Gwitira met with several BRTB members and BMC staff to discuss the PAC's proposed equity framework. He stated that BMC staff will meet individually with each BRTB member jurisdiction to identify their current public involvement activities and if they have any concerns about equity and public engagement. Staff will work with the PAC Equity Subcommittee to identify questions that may be helpful to ask and offer feedback after staff meet with local planning and outreach staff.
- **Public Involvement** – Mr. Paul Kowzan reported that the subcommittee did not meet in July, however they are looking at dates in August or in early September to meet and discuss a proposal for additional Every Voice Transportation Academies.
- **Policy and Legislation** – Mr. Norton reported that there was no meeting of the subcommittee this month. He will follow up with the subcommittee Chair to identify a date for the next meeting.
- **Membership** – Mr. Norton and Mr. Todd Lang, BMC, met to discuss ways in which the PAC can increase member attendance. Mr. Norton also spoke with the PAC chairs who recommend a survey of current and past members about what is "good, bad and a waste of time" and how to recruit, especially in those jurisdictions where participation is low.

4. UPDATE TO PAC BYLAWS

The PAC considered comments on a proposed update to the bylaws to reflect the mission of the PAC, including the promotion of equity and to make the Ad Hoc Equity Subcommittee a

standing subcommittee of the PAC, as recommended by the PAC in December 2017. A red-lined copy was available for all to discuss. Mr. Arthur Petersen had also offered written comments made available to the group. Ms. Eveland and Ms. Jen Weeks both felt the language used in the draft did not (and should) reflect current definitions in State Statute and Federal Law. Ms. Audrey Sellers had specific concerns relative to disabled and senior populations. Mr. Norton stated he would address these in a new draft and circulate it to the members.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The PAC approved the June 2018 minutes.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Highlights of the July 24 BRTB meeting included approval of the *FY 2019-2022 TIP* and associated Air Quality Conformity Determination for the *FY 2019-2022 TIP* and Amended *Maximize2040*, the self-certification process, and applications seeking funding under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program for Transportation Alternatives (TA) Projects. BRTB minutes and a list of upcoming events are online at baltometro.org.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Chris Costello – Transportation Association of Maryland
Michael Davis – Resident, Carroll County *Proxy Designated by: Michael Bishop*
Janet Eveland – Resident, Baltimore City
Benjamin Groff – Resident, Baltimore City
Mark Howard – Resident, Baltimore County
Paul Kowzan III – Broadway Area Business Association
Mark Lotz – Resident, Harford County
Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Karen Olsen – Resident, Baltimore County
Rita Ossiander – Resident, Baltimore County
Arthur Petersen, Resident, Baltimore City
Audrey Sellers – Accessible Resources for Independence, Inc.
Derrick Sexton – Resident, Baltimore City
Sharon Smith – Partners in Care
Zack Vacovsky – Resident, Baltimore City
Paul Verchinski - Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA)
Jed Weeks – Bikemore
Jennifer Weeks – Resident, Baltimore County

Staff and Guests

Cynthia Burch – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

Don Halligan – BMC
Dan Janousek – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Mara Kaminowitz – BMC
Mike Rothenheber - JMT
Russ Walto – Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA)