

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 9, 2019
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
5:43 to 7:23 P.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Eric Norton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:43 P.M.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW PAC MEMBERS

Mr. Norton welcomed the new members to their first meeting of the Public Advisory Committee. All members introduced themselves and briefly shared their interest in the PAC.

2. ABOUT THE PAC

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda thanked everyone for coming out to the first meeting of 2019 and shared her excitement about the diverse mix of members in the 2019 PAC. Ms. Haines Benkhedda reminded members that the PAC membership is limited to 30 voting members and that attendance is critical. Therefore, members missing three consecutive, regularly scheduled meetings will be removed so that another volunteer may fill the vacancy. Ms. Haines Benkhedda also noted that the PAC recognizes that factors such as transportation challenges, illness, scheduling conflicts, and other issues can impact the physical presence of a member at a PAC meeting. Therefore, Committee members may participate virtually in up to half of regularly scheduled PAC meetings. In order to maintain a quorum, virtual participation in Committee meetings is limited to up to 1/3 of the current Committee membership. Ms. Haines Benkhedda also encouraged members to stay in touch with her regarding any questions or feedback about their service on the PAC.

3. DISCUSSION: 2019 PAC GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

PAC members split into subcommittees to discuss subcommittee meeting schedules, upcoming activities, and work plan for 2019.

4. PAC SUBCOMMITTEES & CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

Subcommittee chairs shared the results of their discussions on upcoming activities for 2019:

- **Policy and Legislation** – Ms. Jennifer Weeks reported that the subcommittee discussed the challenges of providing comments on plans and projects which are primarily planned by the modal agencies and only come to the BRTB later in the process and are typically

focused on funding decisions, not project details. They also discussed ways in which the PAC could be more impactful and shift the conversation to more of a regional focus. Ideas included identifying outcomes for BRTB plans and programs, developing a series of policy papers, and being involved in the development of the [Central Maryland Transit Plan](#). Regular subcommittee meeting times will be decided via Doodle poll.

- **Public Involvement** – Mr. Norton reported that the subcommittee discussed plans for the Every Voice Counts Transportation Academy being planned for late March or early April 2019. The subcommittee would like to assist by focusing on recruiting a diverse group of participants and bring new people into the conversation.

The subcommittee will meet on January 24 at 5:30 p.m. in Columbia to discuss plans for Every Voice Counts. Subcommittee chair, Mr. Paul Kowzan will reach out to committee members to confirm the location and how to participate virtually. Regular subcommittee meeting dates/times will be decided in the coming months.

- **Transportation Equity** – Ms. Yvette Hicks reported that the subcommittee discussion also focused on Every Voice Counts. Mr. Norton asked if the subcommittee would be interested in participating in a joint meeting with Public Involvement Subcommittee on January 24. Members agreed. Mr. Norton also asked that the subcommittee make note to double back on the equity framework proposed to the BRTB and identify next steps. Ms. Hicks agreed to do so. She also noted that regular meeting dates and times will be determined. The group would like to meet primarily by phone or GoToMeeting, but agreed that face-to-face meetings are important and will do so depending on action items.

In addition to these subcommittee items, the following were suggested:

- Staff schedule a presentation for PAC members on equity, Title VI, and environmental justice. Mr. Norton also noted that this may be of value for BRTB members.
- The PAC may wish to schedule one of their meetings in conjunction with public meetings on Maximize2045 and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) meetings in May and June. Subcommittees will be asked to assist in promoting these meetings and the comment period as well.
- The BRTB members are interested in attending PAC meetings or hosting one in their jurisdiction. A list of meeting dates/times/locations would be appreciated so staff can work with the BRTB to schedule.
- Members recommended that the PAC meetings be available via GoToMeeting for the public to attend as one way to increase public access.

5. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES

The PAC approved the December 2018 minutes.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- The December BRTB meeting featured presentations by MDOT MTA about their partnership with Transit, a cloud-based mobile app; a briefing by MDOT MTA about the

Chapter 352, Acts of 2018 (House Bill 372), the Maryland Metro/Transit Funding Act, that mandates the development of a Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan; and MDOT SHA will brief the BRTB on the I-695/I-70 (Triple Bridges) Interchange project.

The BRTB will vote on the following resolutions on January 22: BRTB Resolution #19-16 in support of updated performance targets related to highway safety; and BRTB Resolution #19-17 in support of 17 applications for funding under the Baltimore and Bel Air Urbanized Areas of the FY 2020-2021 5310 Program.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Yinka Bode-George – Resident, Baltimore City
Susan Carlin – City Center Residents Association
Celeste Chavis – Morgan State University
David Drasin – Member, Howard County Multimodal Transportation Advisory Board
Janet Eveland – Resident – Baltimore City
Benjamin Groff – Resident – Baltimore City
Tafadzwa Gwitira – Resident – Baltimore City
Yvette Hicks – Resident – Baltimore County
Nicole Katsikides – Resident – Baltimore County
Bruce Kinzinger – Bike Harford
Bari Klein – Healthy Harford
Mark Lotz – Resident – Harford County
Ian Moller-Knudsen – Howard County Sierra Club
Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Karin Olsen – Resident – Baltimore County
Matt Peterson – Resident – Baltimore County
Taneeka Richardson – Resident – Howard County
Audrey Sellers – Accessible Resources for Independence, Inc.
Sharon Smith – Partners in Care
Michael Thompson – Turner Station Conservation Teams
Paul Verchinski – Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA)
Jennifer L. Weeks – Resident – Baltimore County
Jedediah Weeks – Bikemore
Cynthia Wyatt – Resident – Anne Arundel County
Daniel Yi – Resident – Howard County

Proxy Designated by: P. Kowzan, M. Davis

Staff and Guests

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