

## **PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, January 22, 2020  
Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
5:36 to 7:12 P.M.

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. WELCOME**

Mr. Eric Norton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:36 P.M.

#### **2. CONFIRMATION OF 2020 PAC OFFICERS**

Due to the lack of a quorum in December, Mr. Norton sent an email with options for leadership in 2020. Members voted to continue the current leadership through July.

#### **3. DISCUSSION OF TRANSPORTATION-RELATED LEGISLATION IN THE 2020 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Members offered information from their work or personal knowledge on upcoming legislation:

- Mr. Paul Verchinski noted the Maryland Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (EVIC) is pursuing new legislation to address challenges in locating EV charging stations in parking areas of HOAs and condominiums. Mr. Verchinski identified some of the EVIC goals to greatly expand the number of electric vehicles in the state in order to reduce emissions. There is also a bill that will make changes to the state building code.
- Mr. Mark Lotz noted HB 205 which calls for state funding of \$25 million to complete NEPA for the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit project.
- Mr. Norton mentioned a bill, the Transit Safety & Investment Act to benefit MDOT MTA. This will support documented asset management needs per FTA's State of Good Repair requirements. He also mentioned a bill that would tax Uber and Lyft rides with the funds going into the Transportation Trust Fund.
- Mr. Jed Weeks mentioned legislation that would close a loophole in the Safe Passage law to address safe passing distance of bicyclists. There will also be a vulnerable road users bill to penalize drivers that hit people walking, bicycling, etc.

#### **4. PRESENTATION: PROGRESS ON THE FY 2021 UPWP ADDENDUM**

Ms. Regina Aris, BMC, provided an overview of the process for development of work programs generally, and this year specifically. A table with key budget lines for FY 2020 and now FY 2021 was displayed. In this second year of the two-year work program the core programs are not included, however they were identified as a reminder of that ongoing work.

Next there was a discussion of new tasks, some of which were reviewed and commented on by the PAC in December and some were brand new to the PAC. The new consultant tasks fall into the following categories: 1 for congestion management, 4 for transit, 1 for bike, 1 for pedestrian, 1 for infrastructure and climate impacts, 1 for health, and 1 for CIP development. Staff will take on several new focus areas: how to improve traffic flow, fully utilize INRIX data, methods to advance reaching performance measure targets, a program for transportation and land use grants, and educational information for the public on who to contact for roadway issues. Members responded favorably to tasks identified for the upcoming year.

Finally, the schedule was reviewed. Of note the Draft UPWP will be available on February 11 with a virtual public meeting on February 12 at noon.

***[PowerPoint: FY 2021 UPWP Development, Handout: Transit Signal Priority Summary Matrix]***

#### **5. PROJECT UPDATES**

- **Evaluation of BRTB Public Involvement Activities** – Ms. Aris announced that the firm of WSP and the lead DBE of PRR was selected to work on the public involvement evaluation. The project lead at WSP is Ms. Pamela Labeaux and at PRR it is Ms. Tracee Strum Gilliam. The team will be meeting with the PAC two times in the coming months and would like to talk with the PAC leadership in advance of the meetings to go over materials.
- **Report on recent and upcoming BRTB meetings** – Ms. Aris quickly previewed the two resolutions to be discussed at the January BRTB meeting. She shared two PowerPoints that covered the proposed annual safety targets as well as a requested TIP amendment for MDOT SHA for bridge repair and replacement on MD 151 near TradePoint Atlantic in southeast Baltimore County.
- **Update on MDOT MTA's Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan** – Ms. Taffy Gwitira invited PAC members to a meeting of Transit Choices on January 30 at Impact Hub on North Avenue at 8 a.m. Ms. Holly Arnold from MDOT MTA will be presenting. There will be no further meetings of the RTP Commission until the draft plan is released in late April.

#### **6. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER AND DECEMBER 2019 MINUTES**

Mr. Norton directed members to the minutes of the October and December meeting and asked for a motion to approve. Mr. David Drasin made a motion which Mr. Paul Kowzan seconded. Mr. Weeks abstained from voting. All others present supported the motion to approve.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

- **Upcoming PAC meetings:** Mr. Norton identified the date of the upcoming meetings due to the changes made in the schedule. The dates are February 26, March 25, and April 22. During a discussion by the PAC leadership, it was suggested that every other PAC date be used as work sessions for subcommittees. This would likely increase participation since many members found it difficult finding time for additional meetings on a monthly basis. Mr. Norton also asked if it would be possible to have Mr. Brian Shepter, BMC, present his legislative tracking of transportation bills for the Policy & Legislative Subcommittee in February.
- Mr. Norton also requested that a standing item be added to the PAC agenda to address upcoming action items before the BRTB.

The following announcements were made:

- Ms. Aris congratulated Ms. Janet Eveland on her community's successful efforts to win a grant to provide a bicycle connection through their area from BWI into Baltimore City.
- Howard County will be hosting a *BikeHoward* Open House on Wednesday, January 29. A flyer was distributed to encourage attendance.
- A flyer was distributed announcing the Maryland Highway Safety Office's opening of their annual grant cycle. Local governments and non profits are eligible to apply. Mr. Verchinski commented that there is no program in Maryland that evaluated on-road driving practices of older adults.
- A transit rally and caucus event will be held on February 12 in Annapolis – more to be emailed to members.
- It was shared that Mr. Daniel Yi has received a letter of commitment from West Point. Members congratulated Mr. Yi on this significant achievement.

## ATTENDANCE

### **Members**

Michael Davis – Resident, Carroll County  
David Drasin – Howard County Multimodal Transportation Advisory Board  
Tafadzwa Gwitira – Resident, Baltimore City  
Paul Kowzan – Resident, Baltimore City  
Mark Lotz – Resident, Harford County  
Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance  
Sharon Smith – Partners In Care  
Paul Verchinski – Howard County Citizens Association  
Jed Weeks – Bikemore  
Daniel Yi - Resident, Howard County

### **Staff and Guests**

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)