

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

October 4, 2016
9:35 to 11:00 A.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M. by Mr. Scott Graf. Mr. Ted Yurek had a letter from MDOT authorizing him to vote for MDOT at the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2, 2016 MINUTES

Mr. Graf asked for approval of the minutes from the August meeting of the Technical Committee. Mr. Alex Rawls moved to approve the minutes with Ms. Valorie LaCour seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION OF RESOLUTION #17-10

Ms. Regina Aris introduced Resolution #17-10 to the Technical Committee. In Resolution #17-10, MTA and Baltimore City are requesting to add North Avenue Rising – a TIGER funded project. The project was publicized for public review from September 6, 2016 through October 7, 2016 with a public meeting on October 5 concurrent with the PAC meeting. Two comments were received in support of the projects but with related questions. The Interagency Consultation Group has determined that the project qualifies as exempt.

Mr. Michael Helta from MTA presented on North Avenue Rising. MTA is very excited to win their first TIGER grant for \$10M because it is the most competitive grant program at USDOT. Mr. Helta described the corridor and the institutions and communities that comprise the area. The project includes many components, including: dedicated lanes, roadway repaving, transit signal priority (TSP), enhanced bus stops, streetscaping, bike share docks, metro station improvements, and intersection reconstruction. The dedicated lanes include 7 plus lane miles of bus/bike lanes and 3 miles of bike boulevards. There will be modern traffic controllers at all North Avenue intersections with TSP equipment at 80% of the intersections to extend the green for buses behind schedule. The Penn-North metro station will receive a range of improvements and the intersection will also be upgraded. The total budget is \$27.3 M with the largest component going to streetscaping, then the Penn-North improvements. Work will begin in CY 2018 and completed in CY 2020.

Mr. Graf asked for a motion. Mr. Yurek made a motion to move Resolution #17-10 to the BRTB as presented and Mr. Rawls seconded the motion with unanimous support from the members.

[Handout: TIP Amendment Summary and PowerPoint: TIGER Project Overview]

3. STATE OFFICE OF TOURISM PRESENTATION

Presentation postponed until a later date.

4. PRESENTATION ON THE CURRENT FARE STRUCTURE AT MTA

Mr. Scott Corbin, Office of Fare Collection Systems & Services introduced himself and the Deputy Director, Mr. David Baldwin. Mr. Corbin began by identifying local service fares which are the same for Metro, Light Rail, Local and Express Bus and showing fare types such as one way, day pass etc. Next was a display of commuter bus fares by fare type which is based on zones that equate to distance. The fares for MRAC trains was reviewed and several new changes were noted, such as a 5-day ticket.

The discussion then turned to fare media which includes magnetic strip tickets, tokens, SmartCards, and a “flash” pass for local services. MARC and commuter bus fare media includes paper tickets and a WMATA product called Transit Link Cards or TLC. There was a lot of discussion around the future of fare media and integration with the LOTS. It was noted that SmarTrip and CharmCard can be used on MTA local services and DC area transit service. The final portion of the presentation focused on a fare collection upgrade ongoing at MTA. Previously MTA shared collection with WMATA and are now going out on their own. In mid-September the Board of Estimates gave the notice to proceed on the process which will take 18 months.

There were a number of questions such as: how MTA will split the federal transit benefit between Baltimore and Washington, if using your own credit card for fare purchase what are the security issues, what about how students pay or individuals without credit cards, it was noted that it will be hard to phase out cash purchases, fares should consider the cost of parking so that transit continues to help manage congestion. As a result of the discussion all of the local jurisdictions with transit agencies requested that MTA include them in the deployment of the new systems and the possibility of linked fare collection.

[PowerPoint: MTA Fare Collection]

5. PROGRESS REPORT ON UPWP PROJECTS

• **Update on New Operations Task**

Ms. Eileen Singleton provided an overview of the work plan for the new UPWP operations task, which will involve identification of potential congestion mitigation strategies for corridors that have significant operational issues. This work will include studying a corridor in each jurisdiction, one corridor at a time. The actions for this task will include: 1) identifying a corridor for study, 2) collecting data on system performance, 3) identifying congestion management strategies, 4) implementing selected strategies, and 5) evaluating effectiveness of selected strategies.

Considerations for corridor selection include items such as level of congestion, need for study of corridor, safety concerns in corridor, connection to planned projects, and planned economic development in corridor. The first corridor to be studied is MD 140 in Baltimore County, from I-695 to the Carroll County line. Ms. Singleton provided background characteristics of the corridor, including ADT, congestion, crashes, planned projects, and new development.

Staff has received approval to study the corridor by Baltimore County and SHA. Staff has identified lead contacts in Baltimore County and SHA and work will proceed on this task.

In response to a question about why ADT in the corridor decreased slightly while congestion increased, Ms. Singleton responded that the congestion maps shown during the presentation were for AM and PM peak periods and weekend days, so while overall ADT went down, it may be distributed differently causing increases in congestion. The corridor study will investigate this further.

[PowerPoint: Update on New UPWP Operations Task]

• **Training Opportunities – Member Discussion**

Committee members discussed some ideas for potential training sessions. Three ideas emerged:

1. An overview of traffic simulation software (e.g., VISSIM, Synchro, etc.). Planners often must interpret results from traffic simulation studies but do not necessarily know enough about the topic to do so effectively. A course, designed for planners and policy decision makers, that explains the kinds of software available, when to use which type of software, and how to interpret the results of analyses would be beneficial.
2. An overview of the issues surrounding the introduction of autonomous vehicles into the traffic mix. What do the state and the jurisdictions need to do to ready the infrastructure, and what are the implications of placing autonomous vehicles on the roads?
3. An overview of the NEPA process. How does a project move through the project development process, with an emphasis on the steps involved in the NEPA process?

BMC staff will look into the availability and cost of a course that would give policy makers and planners an overview of traffic simulation software. Also, BMC staff will find some speakers who can give committee members overviews of issues related to autonomous vehicles and the steps involved in moving a project through the NEPA process.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Todd Lang distributed a preliminary schedule for the development of the FY 2018-2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the topics that were discussed as potential focus areas during the development of the FY 2017 UPWP. New focus areas will be discussed at future Technical Committee meetings. A question was asked if there will be funds available for local subarea project in the next UPWP. Mr. Lang indicated that MDOT has not yet confirmed the PL funds available to the MPO but local jurisdictions should start discussing potential subarea submittals for consideration.

[Handout: FY 2018-2019 Schedule and 2017 Focus Areas]

ATTENDANCE

Members

Martha Arzu McIntosh – Anne Arundel County Department of Planning & Zoning
Alex Brun – Maryland Department of the Environment
Ken Choi – Maryland Department of Planning
Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne’s County
David Cookson – Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning
Kwaku Duah – City of Annapolis Department of Transportation
Scott Graf – Carroll County Department of Planning & Zoning
Michael Helta – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)
Emery Hines – Baltimore County Department of Public Works
Valorie LaCour - Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Alex Rawls – Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning
Ted Yurek – State Highway Administration (SHA)

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris - Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Charles Baber – BMC
David Baldwin - MTA
Robert Berger – BMC
Yolanda Camp – MTA
Kathleen Donodeo – Howard County
Blake Fisher - BMC
Terry Freeland – BMC
Don Halligan – BMC
Shawn Kimberly – BMC
Todd Lang – BMC
Eileen Singleton - BMC
Rebecca Smith – BMC