

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

January 7, 2020
9:34 to 11:00 A.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 A.M. by Mr. David Cookson.

1. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 3, 2019 MINUTES

Mr. Cookson asked for approval of the minutes from the December meeting of the Technical Committee. Mr. Steve Cohoon moved to approve the minutes with Mr. Dan Janousek seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #20-10

Ms. Cindy Burch presented a brief review of recent crash data trends in the region, including graphical representations, and discussed updating the Transportation Performance Measures for Safety (TPM1). She reminded the committee of the federal requirement that MPOs set safety targets within 180 days of the state submitting targets to FHWA (August 30). This will be the third time the BRTB is setting targets. The BRTB has chosen to set regional targets in the past based on the state methodology, instead of adopting the state targets as presented.

Staff recommended Resolution #20-10, which applies the state target-setting methodology, *Toward Zero Deaths* with a 50% reduction from 2008 to 2030, to regional crash data. This aligns with Resolutions #18-08 and #19-16. The Resolution sets the 2016-2020 Targets of: 181 fatalities, 1,227 serious injuries, 0.69 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), 4.70 serious injuries per 100 million VMT, and 223 non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.

[PowerPoint: Safety Performance Target Setting]

3. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #20-11

Ms. Lisa Sirota, regional planner at MDOT SHA, summarized the proposed TIP amendment. MDOT SHA is requesting to increase funding for the construction phase for the MD 151/MD 151B Bridge Replacement project. The project replaces three bridges near Tradeport Atlantic

in southeast Baltimore County. Two of the bridges are rated in poor condition while one is in fair condition.

MDOT SHA is requesting to increase funding for the construction phase from \$20 million to \$30 million. The increase in construction funds is necessary to accommodate increased truckloads, additional fill is needed to avoid significant settlement, and the treatment and disposal of hazardous soils at the site. In addition, the ramp bridge on MD 151B has transitioned from a deck replacement to a full replacement. A full replacement is necessary to raise the profile of the bridge for increased vehicle clearance and truck volumes. The project is scheduled to advertise upon BRTB and federal approval of this TIP amendment, with a notice to proceed for construction anticipated in Spring 2020. The project is expected to be completed in 2023.

During discussion by members, Ms. Sirota clarified that the federal fund source for the project remains the same. The additional \$10 million in construction funds does not affect funding for any other MDOT SHA projects.

Mr. Cookson asked for a motion from the Technical Committee. Mr. Joel Gallihue made a motion to send Resolution #20-11 to the BRTB as presented and Mr. Kwaku Duah seconded the motion with unanimous support from the members.

[Presentation: 2020-2023 TIP Amendments - January 2020]

4. PRESENTATION: MASTER AGREEMENT

Mr. Don Halligan presented an overview of the "Planning Agreement On Performance Based Metropolitan Transportation Planning Responsibilities for the Baltimore Region" that BMC staff and MDOT have been working to update the existing agreement. The last time the current "Metropolitan Planning Agreement" had been amended was in 2014 to add MDOT MTA as a voting member. More recently there have been other subsequent changes, notably:

- The addition of Queen Anne's County to the BRTB, to warrant changes to the Master Agreement;
- 23 CFR 450.306 establishes a performance-driven approach to transportation decision-making to be carried out in the metropolitan transportation planning process, and
- FHWA and FTA are asking that the region update the Agreement to reflect current processes, requirements and conditions.

Mr. Halligan reminded the Committee that U.S. DOT updated their rules and regulations in 2016, (originally from 1983) that require MPOs, States, and "Providers of Public Transportation", as a condition to the receipt of Federal capital or operating assistance (specifically, 23 CFR 450.314) to:

"...cooperatively determine the mutual responsibilities necessary to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process in a "Metropolitan Planning Agreement"... and directs the same to "...periodically review and update these agreements."

Mr. Halligan briefly walked through the twelve sections of the Agreement. There was discussion about the scope of the changes, it was stated that the Agreement updates much of the current Agreement to reflect new federal requirements and new membership of the BRTB. He asked that the Committee review the Agreement and forward any questions they may have to him. He also stated that the BRTB will be asked to approve a resolution directing the Chair to sign the updated Agreement in February.

[Handout: Draft Master Agreement]

5. FY 2020 UPWP ACTIVITIES

- Ms. Eileen Singleton presented an update on the Congestion Management Process consultant project. The project started in August and will coordinate closely with the region's performance-based planning and programming activities. There are five tasks as part of the project.

Task 3 is a foundational task that included three deliverables: 1) Review of existing plans, studies, and data sources, 2) Summaries of interviews with regional CMP stakeholders, which included interviews with representatives from law enforcement, Baltimore City, MDOT SHA, MDOT MDTA, MDOT MTA, freight, and BRTB Public Advisory Committee, and 3) Summary of CMP good practices from other MPOs, including Philadelphia, Washington DC, Pittsburgh, Wilmington, and Hampton Roads.

Task 4 includes the development of the CMP and follows the U.S. DOT eight-step process for preparing a CMP. Work on the first four steps has been completed or is in progress and work on the remaining four steps will begin soon. The deliverable for the final four steps will be a process to complete each step (collect data and monitor system performance, analyze areas of congestion, identify and apply strategies that implement regional objectives, and evaluate effectiveness of the CMP strategies).

The CMP Steering Committee will meet over the course of the project to provide input on each step. Ms. Singleton said that the intent is to have the CMP Steering Committee continue to meet after the consultant project has been completed to follow the CMP process developed in the project.

[PowerPoint: Update on FY 2020 CMP Consultant Project]

- Mr. Ed Stylc provided updates on current congestion management activities. The presentation made mention of the Quarterly Congestion Reports which BMC has been producing since 2011. Then Mr. Stylc discussed 2 new products – The Traffic Count Dashboard and Online Interactive CMP tool. Mr. Stylc encouraged the members to experiment with the dashboard as it is already online. Committee members asked about the inclusion of turning movement counts. Mr. Stylc said that those are being discussed with MDOT SHA to possibly include in the future.

Early screenshots of a new congestion monitoring tool were then presented. The tool will allow the user to analyze the top 25 bottlenecks in the region along with TIP and Long- Range Plan

project locations and average speeds. Mr. Stylc said that the initial release will include data from 2018 and that 2019 data will follow in the upcoming months allowing for yearly comparisons moving forward. Mr. Stylc promised the Committee that staff will provide a full demonstration of the tool in upcoming months.

The presentation concluded with a look at BMC's Holiday Travel Tips which are published online for Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day and Thanksgiving Week. Mr. Stylc showed comparisons of speed and travel time from 2018 and 2019 from Thanksgiving week. Analysis in this case was restricted to the I-95 corridor north of the split with I-895 up to MD 24. Results showed 2019 to be the easier commute, both in speed and travel time results, during the peak afternoon period. Mr. Cohoon commented his appreciation for the animated maps that are included and asked if BMC could provide those for the local jurisdictions. Mr. Stylc said that was possible by request.

[PowerPoint: Update on Congestion Management Activities at BMC]

- Mr. Todd Lang discussed the project ideas that had been developed by the TC over the last 6 months. There was some discussion about the topics so that the TC members would be prepared for the BRTB/TC Retreat on Friday. Ms. Regina Aris distributed a PAC Resolution that identified criteria they believe should be considered for UPWP projects as well as ideas to consider for a number of specific project ideas.

[Handout: PAC Resolution #2019-03 – Comments on FY 2021 UPWP Project Ideas]

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Zach Kaufman announced that the call for projects for the 2021-2024 TIP started on Monday, January 6, with updated project information due to BMC by Friday, February 28.
- Mr. Charles Baber extended an invitation to attend a presentation from Replica on Tuesday, 1/10/2020. Replica, recently spun off from Sidewalk Labs, operates in the Local-Based Services (LBS) Cell-Phone space providing products similar to Streetlight and INRIX. Local-Based Services vendors provide transportation planners access to Big Data in order to understand mobility and travel patterns.
- Mr. Halligan reminded local members that the 2nd Quarter UPWP Invoices are past due.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Alex Brun – Maryland Department of the Environment
Ken Choi – Maryland Department of Planning
Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works
Angelica Daniel – Baltimore County Department of Public Works
David Cookson – Howard County Office of Transportation
Kwaku Duah – Annapolis Department of Transportation

Joel Gallihue – Harford County Department of planning
Dan Janousek – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Mary Lane – Carroll County Department of Planning
Lisa Sirota – State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)
Brian Ulrich (for Martha Arzu McIntosh) – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
Graham Young – Baltimore City Department of Transportation

Staff and Guests

Bala Akundi, Baltimore metropolitan Council (BMC)
Regina Aris – BMC
Cindy Burch - BMC
Terry Freeland - BMC
Don Halligan – BMC
Victor Henry - BMC
Zach Kaufman – BMC
Jamie Kendrick, Sabra & Associates
Todd Lang, BMC
Sheila Mahoney, BMC
Eileen Singleton – BMC
Ed Stylc, BMC