

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

June 2, 2020
9:39 to 11:33 A.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:39 A.M. by Mr. David Cookson in a GoToMeeting format.

1. APPROVAL OF MAY 5, 2020 MINUTES

Mr. Cookson asked for approval of the minutes from the May meeting of the Technical Committee. Mr. Dan Janousek moved to approve the minutes with Ms. Mary Lane seconding the motion. Due to the online nature of the meeting, a Roll Call vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #20-15

Ms. Regina Aris presented the resolution which relates to the region's Title VI program. Ms. Aris gave an overview of the program, including the annual report required by federal regulations. This annual report identifies activities in program administration as well as MPO-specific activities to address Title VI. This annual report will be appended to the Title VI plan, which is updated every 4 years. Ms. Aris shared examples of activities completed by a range of staff throughout the year to support the intent and performance of the Title VI program.

Mr. Cookson asked for a motion for Resolution #20-15. Ms. Martha Arzu McIntosh motioned to approve the resolution, and Mr. Kwaku Duah seconded the motion. Ms. Deibel assisted with the roll call vote which concluded with unanimous approval.

[PowerPoint: Title VI Annual Report

3. PRESENTATION: COVID-19 IMPACT ANALYSIS PLATFORM

Dr. Sepehr Ghader presented the Maryland Transportation Institute's (MTI) development of *An Interactive COVID-19 Impact Analysis Platform for Situational Awareness and Decision Support*. Maryland Transportation Institute, CATT lab, is a leader in transportation and mobility data serving greater than 12,000 government and corporate users in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The interactive COVID-19 platform is developed from the anonymized data collected from 150 million+ mobile devices. MTI researchers have developed algorithms to derive data from processing, imputation and weighting in creating the public platform, which

has received national media coverage. The developed algorithms creates 38 metrics on mobility, health, economy and more.

MTI researchers partnering with local, state and federal agencies have applied the COVID-19 platform in supporting reopening decision support, traffic and travel behavior monitoring, miles traveled and revenue analysis, input for epidemic modeling, hotspot monitoring for points of interest, external trip and imported cases, economic and job impact tracking, and monitoring economic recovery progress.

Dr. Ghader's presentation showed platform case examples. Point of visit trends for daily visits to educational institutions and banks between February and May were displayed with education visits declining in March as a result of the shutdown. Hot spot maps of Baltimore County, including out-of-county trip end hotspots, trip destinations, and trip origins, were shown. Out-of-county trip destinations were concentrated in the urbanized areas, and trip origins concentrated in Baltimore City, the Ellicott City area of Howard County, and northern Anne Arundel County.

MTI researchers are refining mobile device algorithms to identify travel mode (air, rail, bus, driving, walk, bike and other) and to identify origin-and-destination travel patterns. Researchers also are investigating daily/weekly county economic and job sector impacts, including job loss/gain analysis, as well as mobility data, travel model, and epidemic model integration for public health policy scenario analysis, reopening scenario analysis, optimization, and decision support.

Discussion followed on how the data could be applied to other jurisdictions and to other topics (e.g., trips to food distribution centers).

[PowerPoint: MTI Briefing on UMD Mobility Data and COVID Platform

4. FY 2020 UPWP ACTIVITIES

- **Discussion of Goals & Strategies**

Mr. Terry Freeland reminded the members of the schedule for developing the next regional long-range transportation plan. As a first step in that development, BMC staff has reviewed the current regional goals and strategies.

Mr. Freeland explained that a team of two to three BMC staff members had reviewed each of the nine goals and had come up with a series of recommendations either to keep the language as is, to revise it, or to add new strategies where advisable. He went through the recommended changes for each of the goals. At the conclusion of the presentation, he told the members he would send a copy of the presentation to them for their review and to be prepared to discuss at the July meeting any additional changes they thought should be made.

[PowerPoint: Regional Transportation Goals]

- **Review of UPWP Public Participation Plan and Preview of TIP Public Participation Plan**

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda provided a review of some recent and upcoming public participation efforts. Ms. Haines Benkhedda began by providing an overview of the Public Participation Plan for the FY 2021 UPWP. For this planning effort, no paid advertisements were created, however staff created a multi-page communications plan to encourage people to learn about the UPWP and share their comments. In addition to a series of text messages for Twitter, staff developed a series of images to quickly share information in a visually appealing way with constituents.

During the 30-day comment period, a virtual public meeting was held to share information and answer questions, and two comments were received.

Evaluation is a key part of the public involvement process. Ms. Haines Benkhedda reported she has developed a brief survey that evaluates key metrics such as the use of plain language, sufficient time to comment, meaningful opportunities for engagement, and if the BRTB adequately responded to submitted comments. Feedback collected is reviewed for each comment period, as well as a cumulatively for all comment periods since the survey tool was launched earlier this year.

Next, Ms. Haines Benkhedda reviewed the Public Participation Plan for the Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality Conformity Determination.

The comment period is scheduled for June 16 through July 17, 2020. The goals for this comment period are to inform the public and encourage feedback; share highlights of projects; and promote interactive TIP map featuring a new comment tool.

During this time, staff are planning two virtual public meetings – one at lunch time and another in the early evening. Normally, the TIP public meeting would feature a Transportation Fair and staff explored options to host a virtual transportation fair. Given the current public health emergency, it was decided to postpone the transportation fair until 2021 and host streamlined virtual gatherings this year.

In addition to the two public meetings, staff are making a concerted effort during this comment period to engage the many interested parties who are a part of the BRTB subcommittees. Staff will present highlights of the comment period at a series of BRTB committee meetings. Staff are also looking to partner with BRTB members to promote the TIP and Air Quality comment period at local planning boards and other avenues to reach interested parties throughout the region.

In terms of advertising, staff have set a budget of \$1,900 to advertise the TIP and Air Quality Conformity Determination in three area online media outlets. Ms. Haines Benkhedda went on to share some highlights of the TIP interactive map and online comment features.

Mr. Janousek asked that the BRTB include links to the following planning resources: [MDOT Priority Letter Map](#) and [MDOT GIS Open Data Portal](#). Ms. Arzu McIntosh asked for a highlights presentation that could be shared with local constituents. Ms. Haines Benkhedda agreed to

share summary information and resources for sharing the information with local planning partners.

[PowerPoint: Public Involvement for the UPWP and TIP/Air Quality]

- **Development Review of New Mobility**

Ms. Elizabeth Gordon from Kittelson & Associates presented some of the best practices from around the country and some draft policy considerations as part of this UPWP task. She outlined a variety of new mobility and development review best practices in urban, suburban, small town and rural settings to address the variety in the region. Ms. Gordon discussed the status and trends to help establish context for several policy considerations, who might be responsible for addressing these considerations, and how they could be implemented. Mr. Cookson thanked her for her work and the observations.

[PowerPoint: New Mobility Best Practices]

5. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Janousek shared the outcome of the Nominating Committee with the TC members. The Committee recommends continuing with a second year for the current officers, Howard County serving as Chair and Harford County serving as Vice Chair. Mr. Cookson thanked the Committee for their work and stated that the election will be held next month with nominations still possible from the floor.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A guest of the TC, Mr. James Carter, was asked to share some information about himself. Mr. Carter recently finished his junior year at East Carolina University and is presently an intern at FHWA MD Division. He secured the internship through the Summer Transportation Institute for Diverse Groups (STIDG) and is experiencing a range of tasks within the transportation planning field.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Alex Brun – Maryland Department of the Environment
Ken Choi – Maryland Department of Planning
Zach Chissell – Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)
Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne’s County Department of Public Works
David Cookson – Howard County Office of Transportation
Angelica Daniel – Baltimore County Department of Public Works
Kwaku Duah – Annapolis Department of Transportation
Dan Janousek – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Mary Lane – Carroll County Department of Planning
Martha Arzu McIntosh – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
Stephen Miller – State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)
Graham Young – Baltimore City Department of Transportation

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris - Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Charles Baber - BMC
Cindy Burch - BMC
James Carter – FHWA – MD Division Intern
Rebecca Deibel - BMC
Blake Fisher - BMC
Terry Freeland – BMC
Sepehr Ghader – Maryland Transportation Institute, UMD
Elizabeth Gordon - Kittelson & Associates
Monica Haines Benkhedda - BMC
Don Halligan – BMC
Todd Lang – BMC
Veronica McBeth – Kittelson & Associates
Eric Norton – PAC Chair
Yolanda Takesian - Kittelson & Associates