

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

March 2, 2021  
9:33 to 10:17 A.M.

### MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 A.M. by Mr. David Cookson.

#### 1. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2, 2021 MINUTES

Mr. Cookson asked for approval of the minutes from the February meeting of the Technical Committee. Mr. Joel Gallihue moved to approve the minutes with Mr. Kwaku Duah seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #21-20

Mr. Keith Kucharek introduced the resolution. In Resolution #21-20, MDOT MTA is requesting to add a new project to the 2021-2024 TIP. MDOT MTA received a \$225,000 Discretionary Grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone (HOPE).

Ms. Lara Bachman presented the details of the project. HOPE is a brand new FTA grant program introduced in 2020 aimed at providing planning funds to projects that will improve transit service and facilities in areas of persistent poverty.

This project, called "Building Blocks: Inclusive Transportation Planning", will use a human-centered design approach that relies on stakeholders' perspective for project direction. Stakeholders' day-to-day experience will help determine where the agency should focus its attention. This FTA Grant will be matched with \$25,000 from MDOT MTA for a total investment of \$250,000. The anticipated schedule includes major milestones at 30%, 85%, and 100% design. MDOT MTA is anticipating completion by April 1, 2023.

The benefits of this project will include open-ended discussions directly with community members at bus stops, substance abuse facilities, and subsidized housing facilities to determine what types of bus stop amenities the community wants. Stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the design process and culminate with the creation of actionable stop enhancements at locations within the community.

Mr. Cookson asked for a motion regarding Resolution #21-20. Mr. Dan Janousek made a motion to send Resolution #21-20 to the BRTB as presented and Mr. Duah seconded the

motion. Mr. Cookson asked for a vote on Resolution #21-20, with unanimous support from the members.

### **3. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #20-21**

Mr. Kucharek introduced the resolution. In Resolution #21-21, MDOT MTA is requesting to add a new project to the 2021-2024 TIP. MDOT MTA received a \$150K Section 5312 Public Transportation Innovations Program Discretionary Grant from FTA which will be used for Light Rail LiDAR Track Surveys.

Ms. Bachman presented the details of the project. MDOT MTA will receive funding to initiate an electronic inventory of its light rail system to monitor, detect, and identify track deficiencies. The \$150,000 federal grant will be matched with \$150,000 from MDOT MTA.

The anticipated schedule includes five tasks (Project Management, Mobile LiDAR survey, updating MDOT MTA data, Optram integration, and development of a final report). Anticipated completion of this grant is December 2021.

The benefits to this award will be that MDOT MTA will be able to utilize real-time conditions data to improve safety throughout the system. MDOT MTA will also establish the data needed to effectively use Optram to manage linear assets and apply available resources to best address asset needs resulting in improved State of Good Repair by combining innovative technologies of LiDAR and Optram. This will also allow for an opportunity to analyze historical trends at precise locations along the guideway and determine the root cause of track-related problems. The utilization of this data will significantly reduce track geometry defects and will provide MDOT MTA with track charts, which will provide accurate data moving forward. This process will yield GIS and CAD mapping products which are more accurate, timely and cost-effective.

Mr. Cookson asked for a motion regarding Resolution #21-21. Ms. Martha Arzu McIntosh made a motion to send Resolution #21-21 to the BRTB as presented and Mr. Janousek seconded the motion. Mr. Cookson asked for a vote on Resolution #21-21, with unanimous support from the members.

### **4. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #21-22**

Mr. Kucharek introduced the resolution. In Resolution #21-22, MDOT MTA is requesting to add a new project to the 2021-2024 TIP. MDOT MTA received a \$608,000 Section 5312 Public Transportation Innovations Program Discretionary Grant from FTA which will be used for development, installation, and data collection on the effectiveness of a Metro Subway Track Intrusion System.

Ms. Bachman presented the details of the project. MDOT MTA will receive a Federal Transit Administration Section 5312 Public Transportation Innovations Program Discretionary Grant to expand the track warning and detection pilot program to five additional stations in the Metro SubwayLink system. The technology will instantly alert train operators when someone is on the tracks.

There are numerous phases within the project schedule including research phases, development phases, demonstration phases and development of a final report. The anticipated completion of this grant is April 2023.

The benefits of this grant will provide real-time notification if there is an individual on the tracks or in the right-of-way when a train is approaching. The operator will first receive an audible and visual "Trespass Warning" message displayed on the cab-mounted Protracker RWP unit. This message will alert the train operator to take immediate action to reduce speed, stop the train, and/or call the Operation Control Center to report the detection alert. This real-time notification will help mitigate injuries and fatalities to individuals who are on the tracks or in the right-of-way when a train is approaching. These multiple alerting methods will add significant redundancy to the intrusion and alert system, eliminating single point of failure that relies only on the operator's observation of trespassers or those who intentionally or accidentally place themselves on the right-of-way.

Mr. Cookson asked for a motion regarding Resolution #21-22. Mr. Gallihue made a motion to send Resolution #21-22 to the BRTB as presented and Mr. Duah seconded the motion. Mr. Cookson asked for a vote on Resolution #21-22, with unanimous support from the members.

## **5. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #20-23**

Mr. Kucharek introduced the resolution. In Resolution #21-23, MDOT MTA is requesting to add a new project to the 2021-2024 TIP. This amendment will add a new Areawide project for MDOT MTA awarded projects through the Transportation Alternatives grant (TA). When MDOT MTA is awarded TA funding, those funds are flexed to Section 5307. This amendment is for three MDOT MTA TA awards.

Ms. Bachman presented the details of the project. This is an ongoing program that includes funds associated with MDOT MTA sponsored projects receiving awards through the TA grant. TA is a set-aside of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program.

The TA awards currently funded under this project include:

- Belair Road Transit Priority Initiative: This project will complete final design for improvements such as bus bulb curb extensions at high ridership bus stops and bus stop accessibility and safety improvements along the 2.4 mile corridor.
- The Garrison Boulevard Transit Priority Initiative. This project will complete final design for improvements along the 3.7-mile segment of Garrison Boulevard from Wabash Avenue to Edmondson Avenue.

- Patapsco Pedestrian and Bicycle Connection: This project creates a safe crossing over Patapsco Avenue from the Light Rail station platform and connect to a planned bicycle and pedestrian facility.

Mr. Cookson asked for a motion regarding Resolution #21-23. Mr. Janousek made a motion to send Resolution #21-23 to the BRTB as presented and Mr. Sam Snead seconded the motion. Mr. Cookson asked for a vote on Resolution #21-23, with unanimous support from the members.

***[PowerPoint: March TIP Amendments from MDOT MTA]***

**6. PRESENTATION: ABOUT PUBLICINPUT.COM - A NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOOL**

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda shared highlights of publicinput.com - a new public engagement software platform BMC has invested in.

Publicinput is made up of 3 primary tools: the engagement hub, the resident database, and the communications cloud. These three tools feature a wealth of resources. The engagement hub includes tools such as virtual meetings and interactive polling, surveys, and project websites. It also includes, as a core function, the ability to collect important Title VI demographic information so we can work to ensure engagement across a diverse and inclusive community of stakeholders. The Communications Cloud replaces a tool such as Mailchimp with customizable newsletters, as well as offering new features such as SMS messaging. Lastly, the resident database is a central hub tracking participants engagement in the system.

One of the features of publicinput is the engagement hub. The public facing engagement hubs are websites - which can stand alone or be embedded into another site - and they provide an interactive space for engaging stakeholders via live meetings, recorded presentations, interactive surveys, and more.

The second core function of the publicinput suite is the Communications Cloud. This tool features the ability to send email, text and social media campaigns with an easy to use drag and drop email builder and integrations of surveys and events. A subscriber hub offers the public an easy way to sign up for mailing lists. One of the other exciting features is the Inter-agency subscriber network. Publicinput allows agencies (all parties need to have a publicinput subscription) working in the same region to share database contacts, allowing for greater collaboration and the ability to grow a regional database of engaged residents across agencies, departments, and projects.

The third core function of publicinput is the resident database. The database is a central hub for collecting contact information and comments from a range of tools. Whether collecting comments via social media, virtual meetings, online surveys, or interactive mapping, all comments and contact information is funneled into a central database. Best of all, staff will gather important demographic information and geographic location of participants so we can ensure we are reaching people equitably throughout the region.

BMC staff are setting up the tool for use in upcoming projects such as the TIP and next long-range transportation plan. Over time, staff will also update our virtual public meetings to utilize this engagement software.

BMC has also obtained pricing for local jurisdictions. Ms. Haines Benkhedda will share via email information about publicinput and pricing for jurisdictional members.

***[PowerPoint: Overview of PublicInput Platform]***

## **7. UPWP ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Todd Lang reviewed key aspects of the proposed budget which totals \$9M for FY 2022. The discussion turned to the focus areas for the coming year. Members reviewed additional tasks for Transportation Impact Studies and the Climate Change Toolkit. Additionally, the Transportation and Land Use Grant program will continue, along with a third segment of the Patapsco Regional Greenway, and RTP Corridors for analysis. Five new tasks were identified with conversation on the partners for the Historic Town Centers task.

The comment period for the FY 2022-2023 UPWP will begin on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Mr. Lang reminded members that today is the deadline to submit TIP proposals to BMC.
- Mr. Don Halligan shared a link to a good primer from the ENO Transportation Center on federal funding. The 90 minute video, slides and reference material can be download at: <https://www.enotrans.org/event/workshop-everything-you-need-to-know-about-surface-transportation-funding-and-policy/>.
- Ms. Regina Aris reminded members that the CIP Steering Committee is meeting this afternoon from 3 to 3:46. The Healthy Communities Steering Committee will meet Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30.
- Mr. Lang shared that the BMC Board of Directors, followed by the BRTB will meet on Friday, April 16.
- Mr. Lang reminded members that the BMC will be offering a 2-part session on Race in America, provided by the Maryland Civil Rights Commission.

The Technical Committee adjourned at 10:17 A.M. with a motion from Mr. Steve Cohoon and a second from Mr. Graham Young.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Cookson asked for a motion to open a Closed Session of the Technical Committee in order to discuss proposed RFPs. Mr. Cohoon made a motion to open the Closed Session and Mr. Young seconded the motion at 10:18 A.M.

Ms. Aris introduced Mr. Bala Akundi to present an RFP. Mr. Akundi began by saying that in hindsight, the focus went directly to signal priority when in fact it should perhaps include a range of techniques.

Mr. Akundi described the transit priority task as one patterned after the work MDOT MTA has initiated with the Transit Priority Toolkit. Nine corridors have been identified that represent high ridership corridors for the LOTS.

Mr. Cookson asked if members were ready to approve this modified task for release. Members indicated support for a description that was broader in scope for the task.

Mr. Cookson asked for a motion to close the Closed Session of the TC. Mr. Gallihue made a motion to close the session after discussion of the proposed RFP. Ms. Arzu McIntosh seconded the motion to close the session. The session ended at 10:26 A.M.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### ***Members***

Alex Brun – Maryland Department of the Environment  
Zach Chissell – Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)  
Ken Choi – Maryland Department of Planning  
Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne’s County Department of Public Works  
David Cookson – Howard County Office of Transportation  
Sam Snead – Baltimore County Department of Public Works  
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  
Stephen Miller – Maryland State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)  
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  
Lara Bachman – MDOT MTA  
Monica Haines Benkhedda - BMC  
Cindy Burch - BMC  
Rebecca Deibel - BMC  
Blake Fisher - BMC  
Don Halligan – BMC  
Victor Henry - BMC  
Zach Kaufman – BMC  
Keith Kucharek - BMC  
Todd Lang - BMC