

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

January 4, 2022
9:31 to 10:47 A.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 A.M. by Mr. Joel Gallihue.

1. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2021 MINUTES

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

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #22-9

Mr. Keith Kucharek introduced the resolution. In Resolution #22-9 Baltimore City and MDOT SHA both requested to amend the FY 2022-2025 TIP.

Mr. Graham Young presented the details of the project. This project was originally shown in the 2016-2019 TIP and included work between Dock Street and Baltimore Street. Work included street reconstruction, ADA upgrades, utility work, traffic signals and a new bridge between Harbor Point and Harbor East. Work is 90% complete. This amendment will improve the design of the original streetscape project by providing better bicycle and pedestrian accessibility. The original striping plan contained 4-through lanes and a center turn lane. The proposed striping plan will contain 2-through lanes and a center turn lane as well as protected bicycle lanes on both sides of the road.

Reducing the number of travel lanes from 5 to 3 follows FHWA's guidance on best practices for road diets while adequately serving existing and future traffic demand. Providing protected bicycle lanes also complies with the City's Bicycle Master Plan of improving multi-modal transportation options throughout the City.

Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds will be used as well as local matching funds. The total estimated cost for the Central Avenue – Phase II project increases from \$51.0 million to \$53.45 million with anticipated completion in October 2022.

MDOT SHA is requesting to add the I-95/I-695 Interchange Bridge Deck Replacement project to the 2022-2025 TIP. This amendment is necessary to provide system preservation for 10 bridge decks within the interchange, including over Sulphur Spring Road. Funding includes

\$1.97 million for Engineering in FY 2022 and 2023 and \$25.0 million for construction in FY 2023 and 2024.

Ms. Lisa Minnick Sirota presented the details of the project. This project will be added to the 2022-2027 Consolidated Transportation Program and must be added to the FY 2022-2025 TIP in order to accommodate the anticipated February 2022 advertisement date.

The project will replace 10 bridge decks with latex modified concrete before they reach a deteriorated state. Also included in this amendment is the upgrade of bridge parapets in order to meet current safety standards.

National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funds as well as matching funds will be used for this project. Total design cost, including the requested \$1.97 million is \$2.2 million. Construction cost is \$25.0 million. MDOT SHA is using toll credits to increase the share of federal funding to 95%. The project will be advertised for construction in February 2022 with anticipated construction completion and all bridges open to traffic in the summer of 2024.

There was a request for a motion regarding Resolution #22-9. Mr. Duah made a motion to send Resolution #22-9 to the BRTB as presented and Mr. Gallihue seconded the motion. A vote was taken on Resolution #22-9, with unanimous support from the members.

[PowerPoint: January TIP Amendments]

3. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #22-10

Ms. Cindy Burch shared an overview of recent crash trends and the proposed targets for the traffic safety performance measures (fatalities, fatality rate per vehicle miles traveled (VMT), serious injuries, serious injury rate per VMT, and non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries). She noted the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on trends in 2020, notably an increase in traffic fatalities while crashes and injuries decreased.

Ms. Burch explained a new target-setting methodology that was employed by the State and adapted for these regional targets. This Resolution follows the statistical approach used in the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and Highway Safety Plan (HSP) reports submitted to FHWA and NHTSA, respectively, in 2021.

Mr. Gallihue commented on recent driving behaviors observed across the region and commended the Look Alive campaign as a valuable source in the region. Mr. Janousek inquired about the August 31, 2021 date noted in the Resolution and Ms. Burch received confirmation from MDOT that it was accurate.

There was a request for a motion regarding Resolution #22-10. Mr. David Cookson made a motion to send Resolution #22-10 to the BRTB as presented and Mr. Brian Ulrich seconded the motion. A vote was taken on Resolution #22-10, with unanimous support from the members.

[PowerPoint: Highway Safety Performance Measures]

4. UPWP ACTIVITIES

- **Resilience 2050 Activity**

Mr. Zach Kaufman presented updates on *Resilience 2050* activity. BMC staff have made progress with the planned series of white papers. White papers on LRTP topics will be released every 4 to 6 weeks through the release of the draft plan in 2023. BMC staff are working on a public input webpage that will be used to promote and release the white papers. Feedback and comments on the papers will be used to improve content in the draft plan. BMC staff have drafted a white paper focused on the project scoring methodology and are working on papers on safety, freight and trucking, and emerging technologies.

BMC staff have also drafted updates to the project submittal form for the LRTP. While much of the content is the same, the form was updated to include new questions reflecting information needs associated with the recently adopted project scoring methodology. There are new questions regarding highway safety, transit safety, environmental conservation, and complete streets features.

Finally, the Executive Committee approved funding in December 2021 for a local funding task intended to help the BRTB to better understand local funding sources for operations and system preservation. Any local funds identified will be reserved for exclusive use by the relevant jurisdiction. The task will be led by Kimley-Horn. The project will begin in late January with distribution of a letter explaining the task to local jurisdictions. Data collection and meetings with local jurisdiction staff in February and March will follow. Funding data from local jurisdictions will be used to create an excel-based funding projection tool and an accompanying technical memorandum by May 2022. Mr. Kaufman agreed to share the project scope with Technical Committee members after the meeting.

[PowerPoint: Resilience 2050 Progress Update]

- **FY 2023 Focus Areas and Schedule**

Mr. Todd Lang reviewed progress to date from the point of BRTB approval of the 2022-2023 UPWP through the AMPO conference and TC member discussions of a variety of ideas to consider for 2023 consultant support. Then Mr. Lang reviewed estimates of funds available in FY 2023, including federal, state, and local dollars. There are several key components to the budget to be considered: 1) BMC staff support, 2) BMC consultants (modeling, traffic counts, etc.), 3) Focus Areas, and 4) Local staff support for Focus Areas. Mr. Lang then reviewed the proposed focus areas and the funding level developed by staff. Finally, Mr. Lang shared the proposed budget tables that will be included in the Addendum.

Two weeks will be provided for members to review the materials and share with their BRTB member. Then Mr. Lang will touch base with each TC member to see if the proposal is accepted. At the February TC meeting members will get a final briefing on the draft Addendum and will be asked for approval to release the document for public review. The draft document will also be sent to the three federal review agencies.

[PowerPoint: FY 2023 UPWP Initial Proposal]

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gallihue mentioned to the TC members that the previous BPAG meeting had a dynamic discussion on active transportation projects. Then, hearing no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 am.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Ken Choi – Maryland Department of Planning
Jade Clayton – Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)
Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne’s 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 Minnick Sirota – Maryland State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)
Lisa Nissley (for Catherine Salarano) – Maryland Department of the Environment
Brian Ulrich – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation (OOT)
Graham Young – Baltimore City Department of Transportation

Staff and Guests

Bala Akundi - Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Regina Aris - BMC
Cindy Burch - BMC
Rebecca Deibel – BMC
Blake Fisher - BMC
Monica Haines Benkhedda - BMC
Don Halligan – BMC
Zach Kaufman - BMC
Keith Kucharek - BMC
Todd Lang – BMC
Charlene Mingus, BMC
Brian Ryder - BMC