

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

May 7, 2024
9:32 to 10:27 A.M.

MINUTES

1. APPROVAL OF APRIL 2024 MINUTES

Mr. Dan Janousek asked for approval of the minutes from the April meeting of the Technical Committee. Mr. Sam Kahl moved to approve the minutes with Mr. Brian Ulrich seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #24-23

Mr. Keith Kucharek introduced Resolution #24-23. MDOT MTA requested to add one new project to the FY 2024-2027 TIP; the Penn-Camden Connector. This project will be presented to the Interagency Consultation Group on May 15, 2024. Ms. Jamie Richardson from MDOT MTA presented the project.

Ms. Richardson indicated that the Penn-Camden Connector project received a Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant. Along with the state match, \$11.0 million is included for engineering in 2025. Additional grants will be sought after for additional funding. The total project cost will be \$232.9 million. The \$11.0 million is expected to be obligated in FY 2025.

Constructing the Penn-Camden Connector will provide a connecting track between the Northeast Corridor, that the Penn Line operates on, and the MARC Camden Line. The connection will utilize existing right-of-way north of BWI Airport. Penn Line Trains would be able to access storage and maintenance at the Riverside Yard and MARC would be able to more efficiently bring its locomotives to Riverside and reduce the need for storage at Amtrak's Penn Station.

The CRISI grant was awarded in the fall of 2023 with a project kickoff in spring of 2024. Thirty percent design is expected to be complete in the fall of 2025.

Mr. Janousek asked for a motion and a second to recommend sending Resolution #24-23 to the BRTB. Mr. David Cookson offered the motion and Ms. Deborah Price made the second. There were no comments or questions from the public. The members unanimously approved the resolution.

[PowerPoint: TIP Amendment for the Penn-Camden Connector]

3. APPOINTMENT OF A NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR TC OFFICERS

Mr. Janousek asked Carroll County and Harford County to develop a slate of Officers for FY 2025. Carroll County was not present, however Harford County accepted the invitation to develop a slate of Officers. The slate will be presented in June with elections in July.

4. PRESENTATION: 2023 BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY

This presentation has been postponed since the presenter is unable to participate at this time.

5. UPWP UPDATES

- **Review of current and upcoming public comment periods** – Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda share the following public engagement highlights:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are conducting the federal certification review of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB). This is to ensure the MPO is carrying out the metropolitan planning process in adherence with federal statutes and regulations. This process, which occurs every four years, has so far gathered survey responses and comments from 38 people. A public meeting was held on May 1 with the comment period open through May 7 at publicinput.com/BRTBcertification.

For the PRG Stoney Run (Phase 2) project, community input is being sought on four options for where the trail will go. The design process began in January, and a community meeting will be held on May 22 in Linthicum, with feedback accepted until June 5.

Bike to Work Week is scheduled for May 13-19, with registration available at biketoworkmd.com.

Launching in May, the BBR project seeks to engage a widespread audience around the region to help develop a comprehensive, safe and accessible bicycle network for the region. There will be 10 community meetings as well as handlebar interviews to reach folks. Stay tuned to publicinput.com/BikeBaltoRegion for details.

The 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Air Quality Assessment, also launching in mid-May, includes \$4.5 billion for various transportation projects.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report for May 2024]

- **Discussion of training opportunities** – Mr. Todd Lang shared the Transportation Planning Institute that AMPO is standing up. Representatives on the BRTB and the Tech Committee, as well as BMC staff, will be able to participate in on-demand classes once the platform is launched in a few months. There is a plan to periodically add new content to the platform to keep current. Ms. Regina Aris distributed class lists offered by the National Highway Institute

and the National Transit Institute. Both have a mix of in person, virtual instructor led, and on demand classes. There is a description of the content and if the class is offered free.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The chair requested a motion to close the business meeting at 9:55 A.M. Mr. Sam Kahl motioned and Ms. Price seconded.

7. CLOSED SESSION FOR RFP DISCUSSION (30 MIN)

Mr. Janousek asked for a motion to open the closed session. Ms. Price made a motion which Mr. Kahl seconded. The Technical Committee began the closed session at 9:57 A.M. to discuss upcoming Requests for Proposals.

- **PRG: Cherry Hill:** Ms. Charlene Mingus provided an overview of the proposed Patapsco Regional Greenway: Cherry Hill segment Request for Proposals (RFP). The Cherry Hill segment is approximately 1.7 miles long and extends from a connection at the Patapsco Light Rail Station to the Middle Branch trail. This segment of the Greenway is entirely within Baltimore City.

Ms. Mingus discussed eight tasks that will be included. The budget for this project is \$300,000. Work is anticipated to take approximately one year from the consultant notice to proceed. Final design and funding will likely come from Baltimore City and federal grants.

There were no questions from the Technical Committee and this project was unanimously approved to move forward with the RFP.

- **Safety Messaging & Outreach Campaign:** Ms. Cindy Burch provided an overview and schedule for this FY 2025 UPWP task. In 2023, the Baltimore Orioles approached BMC to partner on the Look Alive campaign with Signal Woman, because they found it intriguing and important. An agreement was made to show the campaign on the LED Bullpen Signs for 30 half innings and host two on-site activations of the Look Alive virtual reality project. BMC has received feedback on the LED signs and made a small adjustment to the coloring. The on-site activations are scheduled in September for two games over the weekend of the 20th and 21st. That will lead in to October as Pedestrian Safety Month and align with media attention on the regional and state levels.

Ms. Burch explained that this UPWP task will build and expand upon that partnership to include other safety messaging and find more regional partners. The safety messaging project will utilize the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) communications calendar to align safety messages for stronger impact (distracted driving in May, impaired driving around holidays, etc). The project will run throughout FY 2025 and the budget is for \$100,000.

There were no questions from the Technical Committee and this project was unanimously approved to move forward with the RFP.

- **LRTP Scenario Planning:** Mr. Zach Kaufman provided an update on the upcoming UPWP task “LRTP Scenario Planning: Analysis of Long-Term Risks and Opportunities.” The purpose of this task is to prepare for uncertainty in the context of multiple possible futures. The exercise will explore, analyze and communicate the potential impacts of uncertain future conditions related to transportation investments, policy decisions, socioeconomic changes, housing, technology and environmental impacts. The project will also incorporate potential impacts of those futures on equity and vulnerable populations in the Baltimore region. The project is anticipated to include both quantitative and qualitative analysis of various scenarios. Results should identify strategies and policies that appear to work well across multiple scenarios along with tradeoffs associated with scenarios. An RFP is in development and will be presented to the Technical Committee soon, likely in June. There were no questions from the Technical Committee and this project was unanimously approved to move forward with the RFP.

At the conclusion of the three proposals to be released in the next 30-60 days, Mr. Janousek asked for a motion to end the closed session. Ms. Price made a motion which Mr. Kahl seconded. The Technical Committee ended the closed session at 10:27 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

David Cookson – Howard County Office of Transportation
Albert Guiney Engel – MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)
Tina James – Maryland Department of Planning
Dan Janousek – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Sam Kahl – Harford County Department of Public Works
Deborah Price (for Angelica Daniel) – Baltimore County Dept of Public Works & Transportation
Catherine Salarano – Maryland Department of the Environment
Brett Thorne (for Stu Sirota) – Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Brian Ulrich – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation (OOT)

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris - Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Monica Haines Benkhedda - BMC
Cindy Burch - BMC
John C - guest
Rebecca Deibel - BMC
Zach Kaufman - BMC
Keith Kucharek - BMC
Todd Lang – BMC
Anna Marshall - BMC
Charlene Mingus – BMC
Md. Mokhlesur Rahman - BMC
Jamie Richardson – MDOT MTA
Brian Ryder - BMC