

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

June 4, 2024
9:30 to 9:50 A.M.

MINUTES

1. APPROVAL OF MAY 2024 MINUTES

Mr. Dan Janousek asked for approval of the minutes from the May meeting of the Technical Committee. Ms. Clare Stewart moved to approve the minutes with Mr. Sam Kahl seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #24-25

Mr. Keith Kucharek introduced the resolution to amend four MDOT MTA projects in the FY 2024-2027 TIP. The four projects include, Bus and Paratransit Overhaul and Replacement, Metro and Light Rail Rolling Stock Overhauls and Replacements, Small Urban Transit Systems – Capital Assistance, and Ridesharing – Baltimore Region. Ms. Jamie Richardson presented the details of the amendments.

Ms. Richardson indicated that the reason for all of the amendments is due the fact that MTA has pre-award authority. So, they essentially estimate the amount of money they think will be obligated. When a grant is actually obligated, funds must be shifted to that year of obligation.

The Bus and Paratransit project includes purchases of replacement buses, Mobility Vehicle procurements, and bus items including protective barriers, bus electric air cleaner/disinfection system, seats, etc. Maintaining the existing bus and mobility fleets are essential to providing quality, safe, and reliable service to our passengers. This amendment increased the FY 2024 allocation by \$6.4M in 5307, \$42.3M in CMAQ, \$2.7M in 5339, and \$13.6M in state match.

The Metro and Light Rail Rolling Stock project includes mid-life overhaul of light rail vehicles, replacement of the METRO fleet, and other system improvements. The existing Metro fleet is over 30 years old and in need of replacement or overhaul. This amendment increased the FY 2024 allocation by \$11.6M in 5307, \$20.0M in CMAQ, and \$9.5M in state match.

The Small Urban Transit Systems project includes bus replacements, preventative maintenance, small vehicle replacements, and other capital costs for Carroll County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Howard County, and City of Annapolis. These capital improvements are essential for the locally operated transportation systems to meet the local needs. This amendment increased the FY 2024 allocation by \$58,000 in 5307, \$7.5M in 5339, and \$2.1M in match.

The Ridesharing – Baltimore Region project includes support for local rideshare programs in Anne Arundel County, Harford County, Howard County, BMC, and Baltimore City. It also includes the Guaranteed Ride Home program. This program promotes alternatives to single occupant vehicle through mass transit, carpools, and vanpools. This amendment increased the FY 2024 allocation by \$1.4M in CMAQ funds.

Mr. Janousek asked for a motion and a second to recommend sending Resolution #24-25 to BRTB. Mr. Kwaku Duah offered the motion and Mr. Brett Thorne made the second. There were no comments or questions from the public. Technical Committee members had the following questions:

Mr. Kahl asked how the Small Urban Transit Systems funds were determined. There are no funds allocated in this amendment to Harford County. Ms. Richardson indicated she would follow up with the answer. Mr. Kucharek noted that there was a previous Administrative Modification for Small Urban Transit Systems that did include funding for the Harford County.

Mr. Kahl also asked about why the funding years were changing? Ms. Richardson noted that funding for ongoing programs is being obligated to projects for FY 2024 to facilitate better tracking of spending.

Mr. Brooks Phelps asked what the life expectancy of the new or overhauled buses was? Ms. Richardson indicated she was unsure of the life expectancy but would find out and get back to the committee.

The members unanimously approved the resolution.

[PowerPoint: MDOT MTA Amendments to the 2024-2027 TIP]

3. REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ms. Clare Stewart reported for the Nominating Committee that the slate of Officers for FY 2025 is MDOT for chair and Baltimore County for vice chair. This would be a second one-year term. A call for nominations from the floor will precede the vote at the July meeting.

4. STATUS OF THE FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE

Mr. Janousek thanked members for considering an amendment for planning funding for the bridge after the regularly scheduled meeting in May. The resolution went before the BRTB and was approved. Currently MDTA and FHWA are talking about how to move an amendment to the TIP forward. Members should expect that a similar fast moving action will be requested.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting will be in person on July 2, 2024. There was no other business. A motion to close the meeting at 9:50 was made by Mr. Kahl with a second from Mr. Steve Cohoon.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Janousek asked for a motion to open the closed session. Mr. Cohoon made a motion which Ms. Angie Daniel seconded. The Technical Committee began the closed session at 9:52 A.M. to discuss upcoming Requests for Proposals.

- **L RTP Scenario Planning:** Mr. Zach Kaufman provided an overview of the proposed Request for Proposals (RFP) for the LRTP Scenario Planning: Analysis of Long-Term Risks and Opportunities task. Scenario categories are anticipated to include transportation investment and policy decisions, housing and land use, technology, demographic shifts, and environmental impacts. The purpose of this task is to identify strategies and policies that appear to work well across multiple scenarios along with tradeoffs associated with scenarios. The project will also inform the development of the 2027 LRTP. The project will incorporate potential impacts of scenarios on equity emphasis populations in the Baltimore region.

Mr. Kaufman detailed seven tasks that will be included. The budget for the project is \$250,000. Work is anticipated to take approximately 9 months from the consultant notice to proceed.

- **Needs Assessment:** Mr. Kaufman provided an overview of the proposed RFP for the Baltimore Region Transportation Needs Assessment task. The project will gather information on how our region's transportation system (roads, bridges, buses, trains, sidewalks, bikeways) works and doesn't work for people living in the Baltimore region. Identifying the kinds of barriers people face in getting to places and accessing what they need will help the BRTB understand how to plan for a more inclusive and responsive system.

Mr. Kaufman detailed six tasks that will be included. The budget for the project is \$250,000. Work is anticipated to take approximately 9 months from the consultant notice to proceed.

Mr. Kaufman answered one question from the Technical Committee and these two projects were unanimously approved to move forward with the release of an RFP.

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

ATTENDANCE

Members

Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works
Connor Jett (for David Cookson) – Howard County Office of Transportation
Angelica Daniel – Baltimore County Department of Public Works & Transportation
Kwaku Duah – Annapolis Department of Transportation
Albert Guiney Engel – MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)
Brooks Phelps – Maryland Department of Planning
Dan Janousek – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Tavon Hawkins & Ben Allen – MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)

Clare Stewart – Carroll County Department of Planning
Sam Kahl – Harford County Department of Public Works
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)
Charles Baber - BMC
Monica Haines Benkhedda - BMC
Cindy Burch - BMC
Victor Henry - BMC
Zach Kaufman - BMC
Shawn Kimberly - BMC
Keith Kucharek - BMC
Todd Lang – BMC
Alex Lehigh – intern for Carroll County
Anna Marshall - BMC
Matt Miller – Insight Transportation Consulting
Charlene Mingus – BMC
Jordan Mueller – MDOT SHA
Md. Mokhlesur Rahman - BMC
Jamie Richardson – MDOT MTA
Brian Ryder - BMC
Eileen Singleton – BMC
Mariam Sultan – BMC
Ian Thomas - guest