

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

October 1, 2024
9:31 to 10:26 A.M.

MINUTES

1. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2024 MINUTES

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

2. PRESENTATION: EXPLORING PUBLIC ATTITUDES ON HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Dan Pontious presented the findings and recommendations of public opinion research on housing choices and transportation in the Baltimore region. Mike Morris from PRR (lead consultant) summarized the purpose and approach to the qualitative study and highlighted the key findings: 1) most participants saw housing costs as a concern; 2) many participants recognized limited supply as a driver of cost. The study identified overwhelming support for rehabbing vacant homes in Baltimore City as an opportunity as well as increasing transit-oriented development efforts. Support for housing in high-opportunity, high-jobs areas was substantial, but more mixed. Affordability of new, high-end development was a prime concern for participants. School overcrowding was also a concern, but most respondents thought it shouldn't restrict new homes. Traffic and crime were also raised, but by a smaller set of respondents, and only in limited contexts.

Mr. Pontious highlighted the policy recommendations derived from the opinion research. The study identified the use of relatable examples of housing and shared information about housing issues as ways to build understanding and support for policy change. Overall, it found that the "supply and demand" narrative frame is a powerful one to use in order to help build public support for policies that will bring about additional habitable housing.

Members discussed several issues around housing affordability, the role of corporate investors, and high prices in the housing market. Mr. Pontious emphasized housing supply as the limiting factor and highlighted the power of local jurisdictions to increase supply through zoning and other related policies.

[PowerPoint: Exploring Public Attitudes on Housing & Transportation]

3. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #25-9

Ms. Ndemazea Fonkem introduced Howard County's request to add a traffic signal and crosswalk improvement project to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Howard County is requesting \$1.28M of federal funding for construction of improvements at five intersections that connect residential to commercial areas. Connor Jett presented the project scope and schedule and the need for the project to be included in the TIP to receive NEPA approval.

Mr. Janousek asked for a motion and a second. Mr. Duah offered the motion and Mr. Brian Ulrich made the second. The members approved the requested change to the functional classification.

[PowerPoint: TIP Amendment for HSIP Funding]

4. UPWP UPDATES

Mr. Todd Lang began the discussion of the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), or simply Planning Budget. Mr. Lang summarized the UPWP schedule and highlighted potential topics, including developing benchmarks for bicycle/pedestrian success, adapting to the new MDOT prioritization process, and training for project management and complete streets. Continued funding was suggested for: Transportation/Land Use Connection Grants, LOTS technical support, and the Transportation Planning Institute.

[PowerPoint: FY 2026 UPWP Topics]

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Regina Aris introduced Mr. Tim Briggs, the new Transit Planner at BMC. It was also noted that the next Technical Committee meeting on Tuesday November 5, 2024 falls on a state holiday (election day), so BMC staff will regroup and coordinate the meeting details with members.

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)
Clare Stewart – Carroll County Department of Planning
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
Marshall Bell - PRR
Erin Bolton - BMC
Tim Briggs - BMC
Cindy Burch - BMC
Rebecca Deibel - BMC
Ndemazea Fonkem - BMC
Subin George – Howard County Department of Public Works
Tracee Strum-Gilliam - PRR
Victor Henry - BMC
Eric Jacobson - guest
Zach Kaufman - BMC
Adrianna Koudounas - WSP
Keith Kucharek - BMC
Todd Lang – BMC
Anna Marshall - BMC
Charlene Mingus – BMC
Mike Morris - PRR
Dan Pontious - BMC
Md. Mokhlesur Rahman - BMC
Eileen Singleton – BMC
Marium Sultan – BMC