

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

September 13, 2021

9:30 A.M.

Online Meeting

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Eileen Singleton opened the meeting with introductions. She noted that the chair, Mr. Chris Letnaunchyn, was unable to attend the meeting.

2. COMMENTS ON NOTES FROM JUNE 14, 2021, MEETING

There were no comments on the minutes.

3. OVERVIEW OF BALTIMORE CITY MASS EVACUATION PROJECT

Mr. Eric Oddo provided an overview of the Baltimore City Mass Evacuation Project which is developing the Baltimore City Mass Evacuation Resource Document; the Document will integrate into the City Emergency Operations Plan which is being updated. The project is being funded by the BRTB through the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The performance objectives of the project are:

1. Establish and convene a stakeholder workgroup to assist with gathering information
2. Convene periodic meetings between members of the stakeholder workgroup, as appropriate, to accomplish performance objectives
3. Identify the status of DOT transportation infrastructure to be used for evacuation (personnel, equipment, roads, bridges, tunnels, etc.)
4. Identify supplemental DOT assets
5. Identify evacuation transportation centers (ETC) and reception centers (RC)
6. Identify traffic flow control policies and mechanisms (e.g., evacuation routes, counter flow measures, evacuation phases) and the same for re-entry
7. Identify policies and procedures for the monitoring of evacuation route conditions and repairing damage to roads, bridges, and other structures along evacuation routes (identify the means by which incoming transportation requests will be tracked, recorded, and monitored as they are fulfilled)

8. Identify resources to transport individuals and households that do not have the means to self-evacuate
9. Identify existing evacuation policies, plans, or processes that negatively affect children, women, people of color, low income individuals, people with disabilities or special needs, and the homeless. Research best practices in other municipalities for ways to update them.

One of the focus areas of the project is to make sure there is evacuation planning for vulnerable populations.

There is a core group including staff from Baltimore City DOT, OEM, and Police, as well as BMC and CHHS. In addition, the core group is working to identify stakeholder liaisons from every agency in the City that would have a role in an evacuation, whether directly or indirectly, as well as liaisons from state agencies and other BMC staff. Several meetings have been held so far with stakeholders and more are planned. The full contact list is attached. **Mr. Oddo requests that T&PW Committee members review the list of stakeholders and provide suggestions for additional people/agencies that should be included (eoddo@law.umaryland.edu).**

It was noted during the meeting that our regional evacuation work has focused on moving the least number of people the shortest distance. Mr. Oddo replied that the Baltimore City project will also follow this approach.

Mr. Oddo asked for contacts from the neighboring jurisdictions, which were provided by attendees. Ms. Singleton will send the names and contact information to the CHHS team.

The file with project contacts includes a sheet showing a summary of resources for evacuation. As the project progresses, the CHHS team will work to determine which documents are still relevant and which are outdated.

4. PROPOSED GOALS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE NEXT LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN, *RESILIENCE 2050*

Mr. Zach Kaufman briefed the committee on the status of the next long-range transportation plan, *Resilience 2050: Adapting to the Challenges for Tomorrow*. The plan is scheduled to be approved by the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board in July 2023. The website Resilience2050.com provides an overview of the Plan.

The comment period for the Goals and Strategies is open now through October 12th. A portal through PublicInput.com has been created to share details and gather comments on *Resilience 2050*. The Goals and Strategies are listed there with options for providing comments. This portal will be used to compile public comments throughout the development of the plan and to hold and record public meetings. A timeline is also included on the PublicInput portal.

The Goals form basis of criteria for selecting and scoring projects submitted for the Plan. The Goals are also used to support grant applications for other regional projects. Each of the nine Goals has several associated strategies. There is a brief survey for each goal to gather input and comments.

Comments can be submitted online via the survey, by voicemail, email, Twitter, and fax. After the comment period closes on October 12th, the Goals and Strategies will be reviewed and updated, and the BRTB will vote on them at its meeting on November 30th.

Please review the Goals and Strategies and share the information with others in your jurisdiction and with anyone in the region. You are encouraged to share this with any staff that shares information with the public. This introductory paragraph from the Public Input web page can be shared:

Resilience 2050 Goals and Strategies

The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) has launched the planning process for *Resilience 2050: Adapting to the Challenges of Tomorrow*, the next long-range transportation plan (LRTP) for the Baltimore region.



The Baltimore region and our transportation system face a variety of both short- and long-term challenges. Responding to and overcoming issues such as a global pandemic, climate change, and cyber threats is vitally important. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how quickly challenges can arise that the region must respond to.

In light of these challenges, the BRTB selected the theme of resilience and adapting to the challenges of a changing tomorrow for this plan. The ability of our region to be resilient is necessary for the ongoing and effective performance of our transportation system, our environment, our economy, and our livelihoods.

The BRTB invites you to get involved in the process to develop this plan by taking this survey on the draft Goals and Strategies, open for public comment through October 12 at noon.

5. UPDATE ON CLIMATE CHANGE RESOURCE GUIDE

Ms. Singleton provided a brief update the Climate Change Resource Guide project. Three Steering Committee meetings have been held so far, with the last one scheduled for September 20th. The group will discuss adaptation options, the draft toolkit, and the draft presentation on the Guide.

[Handout: Transportation & Public Works Committee, Notes for Agenda Items 5 – 8]

6. GROUP DISCUSSION (15 min.)

The group discussed current pandemic-related activities.

- Anne Arundel County
 - DPW Highways Staff is hybrid with staff working from home two days and in the office three days.
 - Front line staff are in the office five days a week.
- Baltimore County
 - Staff has gone back to requiring masks in the office.
 - Riders of Towson Circulator, which starts operating October 12 (baltcoloop.com) will wear masks
- Harford County
 - Went back to normal operations after the emergency order was lifted
 - Public can come in for business with appointments

- Howard County
 - Work up to three days from home and wearing masks in the office.

The group also discussed impacts from Hurricane Ida remnants:

- Baltimore County lost power due to a downed transformer.
- Anne Arundel County
 - Completing a hotwash. The county had impacts from Hurricane Ida in the southern part of the county. The EF2 tornado went along MD 214 across the Severn River and through Annapolis. There was significant damage in Edgewater with 11 homes condemned and 60% of road unpassable after the storm. The storm was small enough that the county was able to handle the response with existing resources.
 - There was a comment that there has not been an exercise of a large debris event recently, and that might be helpful.

7. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Disaster Debris Planning Task Force is meeting on September 15th.

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program: Three jurisdictions submitted BRIC proposals to MEMA for consideration for inclusion in the state proposal due to FEMA in late fall. Project summaries:

Baltimore City

- One project focuses on energy, making downtown government buildings and resiliency hubs more resilient including adding more solar panels.
- Living shoreline project in the Middle Branch.

Howard County

- Installing vehicle barriers in Old Ellicott City prior to potential flooding; the project proposes using automated sensors and manual releases.
- Updating the county Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Exploring opportunities to improve water quality, especially focusing on underserved communities.

Annapolis

- Second Street Flood Mitigation Project: Mitigate nuisance flooding by installing pumps to pump flood water and rainwater.
- City Dock Stormwater and Flood Mitigation – Phase 2 Construction Compromise St: Infrastructure retrofit to address flooding on Compromise St.
- Annapolis Stormwater Project: Comprehensive project to (Phase I) develop plan to address sea level rise and stormwater flooding/erosion and (Phase II) implement plan.
- 1 – 136 Dock St: develop, design, and construct flood mitigation and resiliency infrastructure.

Update sections of THIRA/SPR: There was a request to review functional areas for two sections of the THIRA/SPR: Critical Transportation and Critical Infrastructure Systems. The group identified initial gaps for each of these areas. The committee will complete the discussion at the December meeting. The final THIRA/SPR is due to FEMA by December 31. If a row does

not have a gap indicated, the group noted the functional area gap analysis should be done by others.

Comments during discussion on Critical Transportation:

- Establishing access:
 - Several jurisdictions have good skills and training, including equipment rodeos.
- Transportation Safety and Condition Assessments
 - Some jurisdictions use drones for quicker assessment post-event.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Upcoming events:

- Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant biannual exercise planned for September 14, focus on evacuation procedures
- Ocean City events
 - Bikefest September 18 – 19
 - Pop-up Rally September 25 – 26
- 10k Across the Bay planned for October 31
- Planning has started for the Maryland Cycling Classic race to be held Labor Day weekend 2022, in Baltimore City and Baltimore County

2021 Meetings – December 13

ATTENDEES

Members

Alex Baquie, Anne Arundel Co Dept. of Public Works
Kimberly Grove, Baltimore City Dept. of Public Works
Bill Johnson, MDOT State Highway Administration, OOM
Shelley Kellam, MDOT Maryland Transportation Authority
Keith Link, Baltimore Co Dept. of Public Works
Timothy Peck, MDOT State Highway Administration
Mike Sheffer, MDOT State Highway Administration
Kristofer Singleton, Howard Co Dept. of Public Works, Transp & Special Projects
Kristen Skogsberg, Maryland Dept. of Transportation
Samuel Snead, Baltimore Co Dept. of Public Works
Ron Westervelt, MDOT Maryland Transportation Authority
Steve Walsh, Harford Co Dept. of Public Works

Staff and Guests

Megan Bluthardt, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Erin Bolton, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Jeramie Calandro, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Will Etheridge, Baltimore City Dept. of Transportation
Blake Fisher, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Mark Fox, Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management
Chris Hiles, Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management
Chang Won Kang, UMD Center for Health and Homeland Security

Zach Kaufman, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Eric Oddo, UMD Center for Health and Homeland Security
Dennia Palmer, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Eileen Singleton, Baltimore Metropolitan Council