



**BALTIMORE
METROPOLITAN
COUNCIL**

BUILDING A BETTER REGION TOGETHER

Transportation Needs Assessment

Review of Existing Surveys & Research

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Agenda

- **Project Overview**
 - Schedule & Approach
- **Draft Findings**
 - Needs and Priorities by Goal Area
- **Next Steps**
- **Discussion**

Project Overview

Schedule & Approach

Schedule



Review Existing
Surveys &
Research

January



Analyze
Existing
Conditions

February



Facilitate
Focus Groups
& Survey

March/April



Analyze Results,
Metrics, &
Policy

June



Present
Findings

July

Review of Existing Surveys & Research

1

Review existing research (reports and previously conducted surveys) from state, regional, and local entities to inform the development of a draft list of regional transportation needs and priorities, aligned with the goals of *Resilience 2050*.

2

Identify **needs** (issues, challenges, or gaps in performance related to *Resilience 2050* goals) and **priorities**. This analysis will focus on perspectives of **transportation system users**, highlighting what is important to the public, especially in Equity Emphasis Areas.

3

The documented needs and priorities will inform the existing conditions analysis (StoryMap), survey design, and focus groups.

Resilience 2050 Goal Areas



**Improve
Accessibility**



**Increase
Mobility**



**Improve
System Safety**



**Improve & Maintain
Existing Infrastructure**



**Implement Environmentally
Responsible Transportation
Solutions**



**Improve
System Security**



**Promote Prosperity &
Economic Opportunity**

Documents Reviewed

<i>State</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide Household Travel Survey (2020)* • MDOT State Disabilities Survey Data (2020-2023) • MDOT MTA Statewide Transit Plan Survey (2020)* • MDOT Maryland Commuter Survey (2023)* • MDOT Attainment Report (2024) • MTA Capital Needs Inventory (2022) • State of the Economy Report (2023) • Strategic Highway Safety Plan (2020) • MDOT Annual Mobility Report (2023) • MDOT TSMO Master Plan (2020)

<i>Regional</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bikeable Baltimore Region (2024) • Post-Pandemic Trends (2024)* • Exploring Public Attitudes (2024) • Transit Needs Assessment (2015) • Regional Public Opinion Survey (2024)* • Priority Climate Action Plan (2024) • Long-Range Transportation Scenario Planning (2024) • Public Transportation Choice Study (2017)* • EV Community Charging (2024) • Bus Stop Assessment for LOTS (2022) • Climate Change Resource Guide (2023) • Equity Scan & Recommendations (2023)

<i>Local & Other</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Status of People with Disabilities in Howard County (2019) • JHU Baltimore Area Survey (2023, 2024)* • Community Health Needs Assessments • GMU Public Perceptions of Climate Change (2016)* • Strategic Highway Safety Plans • JHU Transit Equity & Environmental Health (2021) • JHU Baltimore Region Transit Equity Analysis (2024) • GBC All In: A 2023 Economic Opportunity Plan (2024) • Accessibility Observatory (2022)



Bolded studies entailed significant community engagement.

****Scientific survey.***

Interview Highlights

MDOT MTA Staff

Interviewees:

- **Albert Guiney Engel**, Assistance Manager, Baltimore Project Development
- **Brittany Rolf**, Transit Planner, Jacobs

Takeaways:

- Need to engage Metro SubwayLink and Light RailLink riders (ongoing BMORE Bus Study)
- Need to engage student riders (ongoing Youth Transit Council)
- Query MDOT's customer feedback database (InfoCom) and leverage Transit App survey results
- Draw the connection between state of good repair and reliability
- Other stakeholders to engage: Office of Immigrant Affairs, Office of Pupil Transportation (Baltimore City), Office of Homeless Services

BMC Staff

Interviewees:

- **Charles Baber**, Principal Transportation Engineer
- **Charlene Mingus**, Active Transportation Planner

Takeaways:

- Bikeable Baltimore Region study can inform regional transportation needs
- Other documents to review: Public Transportation Choice Study (2017)
- Impact of long-term demographic changes on travel patterns
- Connection between traffic calming and safety
- Other stakeholders to engage: MDOT Secretary's Office

Draft Findings

Needs & Priorities

High-Level Needs & Priorities

- Per **BMC's Post-Pandemic Trends** report, users' top transportation goal is reducing congestion. Other top goals are increasing safety for active transportation, a safe and secure transportation system, addressing climate change, and improving public transit.
- Fewer than half of respondents to **BMC's Regional Public Opinion Survey** were satisfied with the quality of roads and bridges, public transportation, or traffic in the region.
- According to the **JHU Baltimore Area Survey**, the share of Baltimore City and County residents experiencing transportation issues slightly decreased from 2023 to 2024 (by 1-5 percentage points), but it was 10 percentage points higher in the Red Line corridor than outside of it.
- To improve community-level physical and mental health, safer streets are highlighted as a top transportation objective (PCAP).
- In general, there is a lack of information on transportation system users' needs or priorities for mobility, motorized safety, system security, and transit infrastructure.



Improve Accessibility

Needs

- The quality of public transit in the Baltimore region (e.g., coverage, frequency, and reliability) is viewed poorly.
- Top unmet transportation needs for people with disabilities concerned fixed route buses, paratransit services, and cost. Separately, a lack of transportation access is identified as a significant barrier to healthcare services.
- Baltimore-area residents of color are twice as likely as white residents to report transportation issues. Low-income residents are much more likely to report transportation issues.
- The top barriers to biking are a lack of comfortable bike lanes or paths and feeling unsafe biking in traffic.

Priorities

- The most important travel factors in the region are ease of travel followed by travel time.
- Increased safety and greater frequency are the two most determinant factors for public transit use.
- Top desired transit destinations include other long-distance modes, recreation, and employment
- Improving first/last mile options in suburban areas, with human service organizations, and to large employers (especially for people with disabilities).
- For a successful regional bike network, users prioritize safety and protection, connectivity and continuity, and accessibility for all users.
- 82% of Black respondents but only 42% of white respondents said making public transportation more accessible/affordable was a priority at the state level.



Increase Mobility

Needs

- Satisfaction with the level of traffic differs across the region, but most survey respondents believe that traffic is worsening, particularly in exurban parts of the region (BMC Regional Public Opinion Survey).
- Approximately half of people surveyed view traffic congestion as a major or moderate issue in their community (BMC Exploring Public Attitudes).
- Satisfaction with public transit was considerably higher in Baltimore City than Baltimore County

Priorities

- There was a lack of information on transportation system users' priorities for mobility.



Improve System Safety

Needs

- Bicycle users feel safest on a side-path or shared-use path/trail, and the least safe traveling in standard bike lanes or on a road without bicycle facilities.
- Respondents generally viewed transit as safer than driving with respect to crashes but less safe than driving with respect to crime.
- There was a lack of information on transportation system users' needs for motorized safety

Priorities

- Top improvements that would make respondents more likely to bike or walk included safer crossings/sidewalks, more protected bike lanes, and better street lighting.
- There was a lack of information on transportation system users' priorities for motorized or transit safety



Implement Environmentally Responsible Transportation Solutions

Needs

- Increasing demand for public EV charging, particularly for those living in multi-family buildings.
- Only 31% of respondents were concerned about the impact of climate change on the transportation system in Maryland.

Priorities

- In surveys, the majority of respondents are somewhat or fully supportive of electric car-sharing programs in their communities.
- The majority of respondents said that reducing water and air pollution should be a high or very high priority at the state level (even higher among Black respondents).



Improve System Security

Needs/Priorities

- There was a lack of information on transportation system users' needs and priorities for security.



Improve & Maintain Existing Infrastructure

Needs

- Satisfaction with the quality of roads and bridges varies across the region. Baltimore County, Baltimore City, and Anne Arundel County were identified as jurisdictions where conditions could be improved.
- Roughly half said the Key Bridge closure impacted their lives (JHU Baltimore Area Survey)
- There was a lack of information on transportation system users' needs for transit infrastructure.

Priorities

- Rebuilding the Francis Scott Key Bridge is identified as critical to the region's economy and reducing traffic congestion in the region.
- There was a lack of information on transportation system users' priorities for transit infrastructure.



Promote Prosperity & Economic Opportunity

Needs

- Public support exists for TOD, but restrictions on growth and development are also desired.
- The cost of transportation being a barrier to full-time employment was cited by one-fifth of respondents to the BMC Regional Public Opinion Survey.

Priorities

- Understanding the impacts of remote work on the region's transportation network is ongoing. Nearly half of survey respondent's report working fully in-person, but employees ages 35-54 express the greatest preference for remote work.
- 35% of Maryland workers telecommute, and 37% more want to, of which 14% cannot.

Next Steps

- Analysis of Existing Conditions (StoryMap)
- Survey and Focus Groups
- Analysis of Results
- Presentation of Findings

Questions?



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Equity Emphasis Areas

- **Source:** Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership
- **Equity Emphasis Areas** = Low Opportunity + Very Low Opportunity Census Tracts
- Index consisting of 21 metrics across:
 - Educational Opportunity
 - Community Strength
 - Economic Opportunity

