



**BALTIMORE
METROPOLITAN
COUNCIL**

2024 | ANNUAL REPORT

A LETTER FROM BMC

This year, the Baltimore region has shown remarkable resilience. From climate impacts to road fatalities to the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, local communities have faced significant challenges. Yet the region's future is bright, and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) is working to write a new chapter for greater Baltimore's development.

Regional planning efforts have focused on supporting the priorities of Baltimore City and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford, Howard and Queen Anne's Counties. Funding was approved to enhance the region's transportation infrastructure. BMC staff led planning efforts for local responses to drought, flooding, extreme weather and other climate impacts. We are developing recommendations for new oversight of transit services in Baltimore and neighboring counties. Further, BMC's work impacted areas including emergency preparedness, affordable housing and cost-saving for local governments.

BMC is excited to continue planning efforts, leverage the success of our programs, and support local communities. BMC's staff, board members, and stakeholders around the Baltimore region are working diligently to improve the quality of life for all. Follow BMC on social media to learn more and support our mission.

Sincerely,



Mike Kelly
Mike Kelly
Executive Director

Jim Moran

Jim Moran
Queen Anne's County Commissioner
Board of Directors Chair



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB)

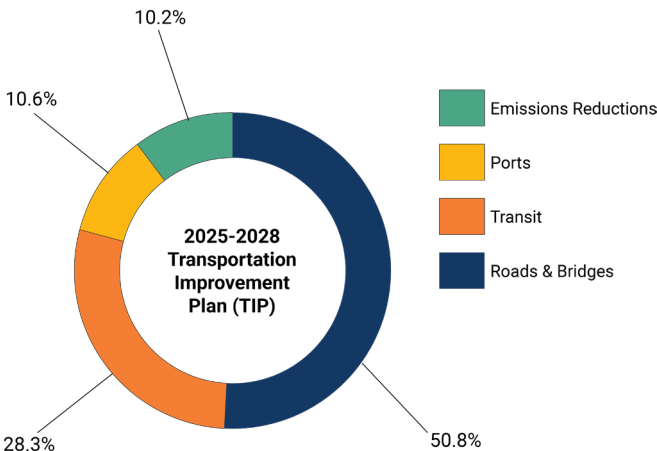
- Oversees the coordination of federal and state funding for transportation planning at both local and regional levels with support of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC).
- In FY24, the BRTB received certification from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, validating that their planning processes adhere to federal standards for thorough, transparent, and inclusive community engagement.

Baltimore Regional Transit Commission (BRTC)

- The Baltimore Regional Transit Commission was created to provide input, advice and support for the operations of MTA's core service network in the Baltimore region.
- The Commission conducted a thorough review of the current regional transit system. Sixteen Commissioners participated in site visits to view the region's transit facilities and learn more about scheduling, maintenance and operations.

Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

- The BRTB produced an annual plan outlining major regional investments in the transportation system over the next four years.
- The 2025-2028 plan includes more than \$4.5 billion in transportation projects, with federal funding accounting for \$2.8 billion of the investments and state and local agencies providing \$1.24 billion and toll revenues covering \$490 million.



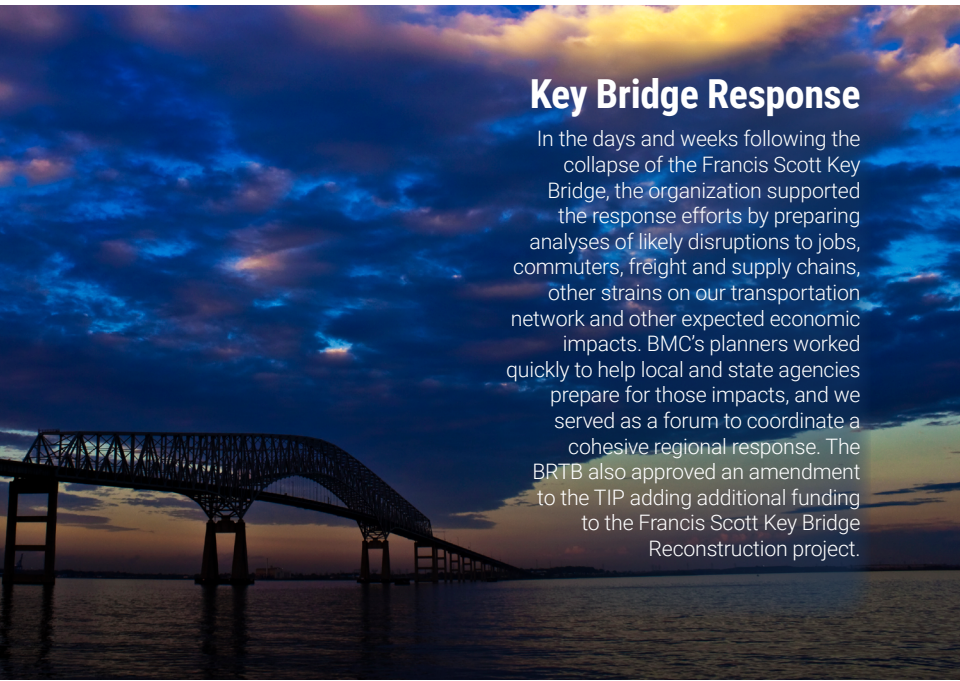
Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

The Patapsco Regional Greenway is an envisioned 40-mile shared-use trail connecting Baltimore's Inner Harbor to Sykesville in Carroll County along the Patapsco River Valley. During the summer, BMC hosted a comment period to present four variations of the proposed trail route. From the feedback and technical analysis, a final proposed route was developed, with segments connecting the Guinness Open Gate Brewery with Southwest Area Park and Elkridge Main Street, as well as a segment connecting Elkridge Main Street with the BWI Trail at Stoney Run Road. BMC launched Bikeable Baltimore Region, an initiative mapping existing bike facilities and identifying opportunities to fill in the gaps to create a fully connected regional network. Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program awarded \$4.7 million in grant funding to BMC for local agencies to design and implement improvements to bicycle and pedestrian facilities, including crosswalks, sidewalks, bike lanes and shared-use paths.



Key Bridge Response

In the days and weeks following the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, the organization supported the response efforts by preparing analyses of likely disruptions to jobs, commuters, freight and supply chains, other strains on our transportation network and other expected economic impacts. BMC's planners worked quickly to help local and state agencies prepare for those impacts, and we served as a forum to coordinate a cohesive regional response. The BRTB also approved an amendment to the TIP adding additional funding to the Francis Scott Key Bridge Reconstruction project.



ENVIRONMENT

Climate Action Plan

Thanks to a \$1 million Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), BMC staff is leading planning efforts to boost sustainability in our region. The team shared a Priority Climate Action Plan identifying immediate actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) is underway and will offer more detailed strategies for reducing emissions over a longer timeline.

Carbon Reduction Grants

BMC received \$14.1 million in grant funding from the Department of Transportation's Carbon Reduction Program to reduce carbon emissions across the region's transportation network. These projects include improving traffic management systems, installing energy-efficient streetlights, building new sidewalks and bike lanes, increasing electric vehicle use and procuring zero-emission buses for the Maryland Transit Administration's fleet.

PURCHASING

Energy Board Savings

Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee subcommittee, The Energy Board, saved \$29.2 million on electricity in fiscal year 2024. The Energy Board oversees energy procurement for participants including city and county governments, public schools and community colleges in the region. Buying electricity in bulk enables stakeholders to achieve savings compared to the fixed rate offered by the local electric utility's standard service. Since its establishment in 2006, the Energy Board has helped participants save \$319 million.

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Million**
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PROGRAMS

CHESAPEAKE CONNECT, ST. LOUIS

In October 2024, BMC hosted the annual Chesapeake Connect trip to St. Louis, Missouri, assembling 70 leaders from the greater Baltimore region to connect, reflect and learn from a peer region. As two of the only independent cities in the United States, Baltimore City and St. Louis City face many of the same challenges. Our delegation learned about the region's unique funding for arts and recreation, toured urban bike trails that reconnect neighborhoods, got a field-level view of St. Louis' new soccer stadium and heard from one of the nation's leading public health experts about his work to improve conditions for St. Louis families.



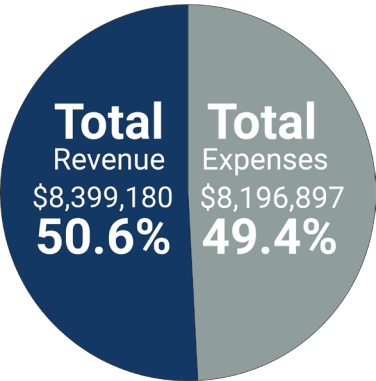
The 27th annual Bike to Work Central Maryland was held in May with a record number of events throughout the region, including group rides, rallies and commuter Pit Stops. Registration numbers held steady with nearly 1700 participants, continuing a resurgence after a pandemic dip. Planning is underway for Bike to Work 2025, which runs May 12-18. Registration will open in March at [BikeToWorkMD.com](https://www.BikeToWorkMD.com).



ABOUT BMC

The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) serves as the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and houses the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB). The BRTB collaborates with various stakeholders to plan, approve, and coordinate regional projects. The organization supplies crucial data to aid decision-making and program management, aiming to enhance transportation, safety, freight movement, and budget planning for future initiatives.

Fiscal Year 2024 Audited Financials



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