Light Rail — A streetcar-type vehicle operated on city streets, semi-exclusive rights-of-way, or exclusive rights-of-way. Service may be provided by step-entry vehicles or by level boarders.

MTA Mobility/Paratransit — A service operated by the Maryland Transit Administration for citizens who are unable to use Local Bus, Metro/Subway or Light Rail service. Service is provided within three-quarters (3/4) of a mile of any MTA fixed-route service in Balti- more City, Carroll County, Howard County or Anne Arundel County.

Rapid Transit — Rail or motorbus transit service operating completely separate from all modes of transportation on an exclusive right-of-way.

Ridesharing
A form of transportation, other than public transit, in which more than one person shares the use of the vehicle, such as a van or car, to make a trip. Also known as “carpooling,” “bus-pooling” or “vanpooling.” For more information, visit metrorideshare.com for local Rideshare program information.

Surface Transportation Program (STP)
One of the key funding programs in the federal transportation bill. STP moneys are “flexible,” meaning they can be spent on mass transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, as well as on roads and highways.

Sustainability
The traditional definition of sustainability calls for policies and strategies that meet society’s present needs without compromising the ability to future generations to meet their own needs. Source: U.S. Department of Transportation/Office of Planning, Environment, and Energy.

Technical Committee
TC Committee of the BRTB, the TC makes recommendations to the BRTB on technical sufficiency, accuracy and completeness of all plans and programs. This input enables the Board to have a technical viewpoint prior to making decisions.

Telecommuting/Teleworking
Refers to employees who work at an alternate site, such as at home, usually one or more days per week, thereby reducing their commute. www.teleworkBaltimore.com

TC – Technical Committee
TC Committee of the BRTB, the TC makes recommendations to the BRTB on technical sufficiency, accuracy and completeness of all plans and programs. This input enables the Board to have a technical viewpoint prior to making decisions.

TC–PAC
Concerns of the Technical Committee on Project Access are submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) as part of the required planning process.

Title VI
Refers to Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, and requires that transportation planning and programming be nondiscriminatory on the basis of race, color and national origin. Integral to Title VI is the concept of environmental justice.

Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ)
Basic unit of geography used to predict travel behavior in the travel demand model. Constructed using census block information.

Traffic Count
A record of the number of vehicles, people aboard vehicles (occupancy) or both that pass a given checkpoint during a given time period.

Transit Oriented Development (TOD)
A type of development that links land use and transit facilities to support the transit system and help reduce sprawl, traffic congestion and air pollution. It includes housing, along with complementary public uses ( Jobs, retail and services), located at a strategic point along a regional transit system, such as a rail hub.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM)
Programs designed to reduce demand by automobiles on the transportation system. Examples are the promotion and use of transit, alternative work hours, ridesharing, etc. Land use planning also plays a role in providing alternate travel options.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
A short-term (covering four years) program of transportation projects that will use federal funds expected to flow to the region; the projects contained in the TIP are drawn from, and are consistent with, the long-range transportation plan.

Travel Demand Model
Used by transportation planners for simulating current travel conditions and for forecasting future travel patterns and conditions. Models help planners and policy-makers analyze the effectiveness and efficiency of alternative transportation investments in terms of mobility, accessibility, environmental and economic impacts.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
A work program and budget that lists the transportation studies and tasks to be performed by BMC staff or one of the BRTB members. The work program, which is developed annually, begins in July of a given year and ends the following June.

United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT)
The federal cabinet-agency with responsibility for highways, maritime, motor carrier safety, railroad, transit, aviation and ports, it is headed by the Secretary of Transportation. The DOT includes the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, among others.

Urbanized Area
Area that contains a city of 50,000 or more population plus incorporated surrounding areas meeting size or density criteria as defined by the U.S. Census.

Value Pricing
The concept of assessing higher prices for using certain transportation facilities during the most congested times of the day, in the same way that airlines offer off-peak discounts and hotel rooms cost more during prime tourist seasons. Also known as congestion pricing and peak-period pricing, examples of this concept include higher bridge tolls during peak peri- od or charging single-occupant vehicles that want to use carpool lanes.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
One vehicle (whether a car carrying one passenger or a bus carrying 30 people) traveling one mile constitutes a vehicle mile. This number is used in transportation models because reducing VMT can help ease traffic congestion and improve air quality.

Walkable
Refers to a single route, or a system of routes, between points that is relatively short, barrier-free, interesting, safe, well-lighted and comfortable, inviting pedestrian travel. Walkable Communities are areas that incorporate these kinds of principles.

Visit metrorideshare.com for local Rideshare program information.

Questions?
If you have any comments about this glossary or just can't find the word you are looking for, please contact the Public Involvement Coordinator at 410-732-0500 x1047 or comments@baltimetro.org.

Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB)
The mission of the BRTB is to provide regional transportation planning and policy making for the Baltimore region. The BRTB is the federally recognized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in the Baltimore region. As an MPO, the BRTB is directly responsible for making sure that any federal money spent on existing and future surface transportation projects and programs is based on a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive (3-C) planning process. The BRTB convenes a number of committees and advisory groups that focus on specific technical and policy areas, such as freight movement, bicycle and pedestrian access, traffic incident management, air quality. All meetings of the BRTB and subcommittees are open to the public.

BRTB Empowered Representative — Each BRTB member designates an individual empowered with the rights and responsibilities to act in place of the BRTB member.
Flexibility Funding
Unlike funding that flows only to highways or only to transit by a rigid formula, this is mon-
ey that can be invested in a range of transportation projects. Examples of flexible funding include the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and the Congestion Mitiga-
tion and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program.

Freight Movement Task Force
A subcommittee of the BRTB that provides the freight community a voice in the regional transportation planning process. The FMTF is a forum for Baltimore region freight stake-
holders to share information and discuss motor truck, rail, air, and waterway concerns.

Geographic Information System (GIS)
A system of computer hardware, data and software for collecting, analyzing and interpreting information about areas of the earth. GIS can display attributes and analyze results electronically on a map. For example, BMC uses GIS to create maps that show topics such as congestion, minority populations in relation to transportation projects, growth patterns, etc.

Global Positioning System (GPS)
A system that uses satellites to track the location or position of vehicles or vessels on the earth. In the Baltimore region, BMC uses GPS in cars to track and monitor congestion on area highways.

Interagency Consultation Group (ICG)
A subcommittee of the BRTB that focuses on coordination of the transportation air quality conformity process. This group works to promote coordination among the transportation and air quality agencies for the region.

Intermodal or Multi-Modal
The term "mode" is used to refer to a means of transportation, such as automobile, bus, train, ship, bicycle and walking. Intermodal refers specifically to the connections between various types of transportation services and multi-modal refers to use of several modes.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
A broad range of diverse technologies such as information processing, communications, control, and electronics which can help transportation systems in many ways, including congestion management.

Land Use
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines land use planning as the degree to which land reflects human activities (like agriculture, residential and industrial uses) and describes land use management practices by people.

Level of Service (LOS)
Report card that reports traffic flow from A (excellent) through F (failing), and compares actual or projected traffic volume with the maximum of intersection or road in question.

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
The statement of the ways the regions plan to invest in the transportation system over the next twenty years. The 2015 LRTP is called Maximizing Mobility.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
A federally required body responsible for the transportation planning and project selection in its region; the governor designates an MPO in every urbanized area with a population of over 50,000. The Baltimore region is the Baltimore region’s designee.

Metrorail
Magnetic levitation: A rail transportation system with exclusive right-of-way which is propelled along a fixed guideway by the use of magnets on the rails and under the rail cars. Service between Baltimore and Washington have been studied. See http://www.bwmaglev.com/ for more information.

Mixed Use
In land-use and transportation planning, generally refers to different compatible land uses located within a single structure or in close proximity to each other. An example is buildings that host stores on the bottom level and offices or residences above it.

Mobility
The ability to move or be moved from place to place. Source: FHWA Planning Glossary

Not attainment area
Any geographic region of the United States that the EPA has designated as not attaining the federal air quality standards for one or more air pollutants, such as ozone and carbon monoxide.

Ozone
Ground-level ozone is an air pollutant that causes human health problems, and damages crops and vegetation. It is a key ingredient of urban smog. The Baltimore region is a nonattainment area for Ozone.

Particulate Matter
Also known as particle pollution or PM, is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets found in the air. By themselves, these particles and droplets are invisible to the naked eye. But together, they can appear as clouds or a fog-like haze. PM is a serious health concern. Because of their small size, they can get into sensitive areas of the lungs and heart, causing major problems.

Paratransit
Door-to-door bus, van and taxi services used to transport elderly and disabled riders. Paratransit is sometimes referred to as dial-a-ride service, since trips are made according to demand instead of along a fixed route or according to a fixed schedule.

Pedestrian-Oriented Development
Development that is designed with an emphasis primarily on the streets, sidewalks, and on pedestrian access to the site and building(s), rather than emphasizing personal-vehicle access. Pedestrian-oriented spaces place close to each other pedestrian-oriented spaces that are oriented to the street’s sidewalk. Although parking areas may be provided, they are generally limited in size and are located at the side or rear of the buildings. This type of development also is characterized by the mix of uses within walking distance, allowing people to move easily among many destinations.

Performance Measures
Indicators of how well the transportation system or specific transportation projects will improve transportation conditions.

Public Advisory Committee (PAC)
A subcommittee of the BRTB made up of individuals and representatives of community organizations, businesses and industries. Members are approved by the BRTB to (1) provide independent, region-oriented advice on issues related to key regional transportation planning activities; (2) Promote public awareness and participation in the regional transportation planning process; and (3) Promote equity in the regional transportation planning process.

Public Transportation
Transportation by bus, rail, or other conveyance, either publicly or privately owned, which provides to the public general or special service on a regular and continuing basis. Also known as “mass transportation,” “mass transit” and “transit.”

Source for transit definitions: FHWA Planning Glossary

Bus
Large motor vehicle used to carry more than 10 passengers, including school buses, intercity buses, and tour buses.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
Bus service that is, at a minimum, faster than traditional local bus service and, at a maximum, includes dedicated lanes just for BRT operations. To reduce travel time and to provide faster service, BRT may incorporate ITS technologies that provide real-time headway information to passengers. (Baltimore, MD) See http://www.baltimoremd.gov/developing/transportation/bus-rapid-transit

Circulator Bus
A bus serving an area confined to a specific locale, such as a downtown area or suburban neighborhood with connections to major traffic corridors.

Commercial Bus
Any bus used to carry passengers at rates specified in tariffs; charges may be computed per passenger (as in regular route service) or per vehicle (as in charter service).

Commuter Rail
Urban passenger train service for short-distance travel between a central city and adjacent suburb. Does not include rapid rail transit or light rail service.

Demand Response Vehicle
A nonfixed route, nonfixed-schedule vehicle that operates in response to calls from passengers or their agents to the transit operator or dispatcher.

Feedert Bus
A bus service that picks up and delivers passengers to a rapid rail transit station or express bus stop or terminal.

Heavy Rail
An electric railway with the capacity to transport a heavy volume of passenger and is characterized by exclusive rights-of-way, multi-car trains, high speed, rapid acceleration, sophisticated signaling, and high-platform loading. Also known as: Subway, Elevated (railway), or Metropolitan railway (metro).