



**FY 2021 Addendum to the Unified Planning Work Program  
For the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q What is a UPWP?**

A The Unified Planning Work Program is a work program and budget that outlines how a metropolitan area will use federal transportation planning funds to accomplish activities covered in the Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Programming Rules and Regulations.

**Q How often do you develop a work program?**

A Metropolitan areas have the option to develop either 1-year or 2-year work programs and budgets. The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) utilizes a 2-year work program. The FY 2020 UPWP was considered year 1 of a 2-year document. Now, in Year 2, the FY 2021 UPWP will include an updated budget and information on additional tasks added to the work program. All core tasks required by law remain the same and are described in detail in the FY 2020 document. In the Baltimore region, the fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

**Q Why choose a 2-year work program?**

A Most of the tasks and activities in the UPWP lend themselves to a cycle longer than one year. For example, staff members regularly engage in such continuous activities as determining if programmed and planned transportation projects conform to air quality standards, monitoring traffic conditions as part of the regional Congestion Management Process, and running the regional travel demand model to determine the effects of programmed and planned projects. These activities promote efficient operation of the transportation network and help the region meet federal requirements. The BRTB recognizes this continuity and hopes to use it to its advantage in making Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) operations as efficient as possible.

**Q Where does the money come from?**

A Based on a formula, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration provide funding which requires a 20 percent match from the Maryland Department of Transportation or from member jurisdictions.



**Q What is the proposed budget for FY 2021?**

A The budget in FY 2021 is \$8,901,750.

**Q Is the money all for Baltimore Metropolitan Council staff?**

A No, planning activities undertaken by the BMC staff are supported in FY 2021 with \$5,625,000, while \$2,740,000 is proposed for consultant activities to support the planning process.

**Q What are the planning priorities facing the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board?**

A Several important tasks include the following:

- engaging the public and other interested parties in the regional transportation planning process
- coordinating regional safety and security efforts
- maintaining and improving a congestion management process
- working with the Maryland Department of the Environment to make sure programmed and planned transportation projects conform to air quality standards
- upgrading analytical tools and capabilities to help planners determine the potential effects of programmed and planned transportation projects
- developing elements of the next long-range regional transportation plan
- preparing a short-range Transportation Improvement Program.

**Q Are members supported for their participation in these activities?**

A The member jurisdictions engage in a cooperative forecasting process, provide input to the four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), participate in ongoing committees such as the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Group, and develop geographic information system (GIS) data layers. A description of local core activities can be found in Appendix B of the FY 2020 UPWP.



## B'More Involved – Share your thoughts!

The public is invited to share their thoughts on these proposed regional transportation planning activities through Wednesday, March 12, 2020. Please send all comments in writing to:

Email: [comments@baltometro.org](mailto:comments@baltometro.org)

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