



Baltimore
Metropolitan
Council

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BRTB SEEKS COMMENTS FOR AMENDMENTS TO BALTIMORELINK, MTA BUS FACILITIES, SHA BRIDGE REPAIR PROJECTS

BALTIMORE, MD (January 29, 2016) – The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) seeks public comments for [six amendments](#) to the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) until **Friday, March 4, 2016**. The BRTB is scheduled to vote on the TIP amendments on **Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 9 a.m.**

The 2016-2019 TIP is the list of regional transportation projects requesting federal funding. It includes more than **\$2.5 billion** in proposed federal, state and local money for highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects during the next four years. The funding provides for maintenance, operation and expansion of the transportation system serving the Baltimore region. The TIP is fiscally constrained.

Amendments occur in the TIP because of changes to project scope and funding or changes to federal documentation policies. Public comment periods and meetings aim to keep communication open regarding these changes. Below the BRTB provides summary information of the projects and changes to the TIP:

MTA Preservation and Improvement Projects

MTA proposes changes to the following projects in order to address funding updates, as well as changes associated with the implementation of BaltimoreLINK:

- The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) proposes adding \$39.39 million in unused funds to the **Core Bus and Paratransit Vehicle Replacement project**. In order to reduce operating and maintenance costs, MTA is committed to replacing aging transit and paratransit (Mobility) buses and to fleet expansion to meet demand for service. The replacement of older buses with clean diesel buses helps to meet higher federal emissions standards.

Adding this project to the TIP would increase Section 5307 funds by \$26.57 million, \$21.25 million of which is federal funding and \$5.31 million in matching

funds; and increase CMAQ funds by \$12.81 million, \$10.25 million of which is federal funding and \$2.56 million in matching funds. Of these funds, \$2.8 million in federal funds, with \$700,000 matching, will go toward 10 forty-foot clean diesel buses to assist with the BaltimoreLINK project.

- The MTA proposes updating funding levels for the **Bus and Rail System Preservation and Improvement project**, which includes funding for three BaltimoreLINK projects: BusLINK Transitways, BusLINK Transit Signal Priority and BusLINK Transit Hubs. This ongoing project rehabilitates MTA bus, light rail, and Metro vehicles, facilities, and infrastructure including park-and-ride lots, bus turnarounds, bridges, tunnels, track and equipment.

This amendment would increase project funding from \$10.4 million to \$54.58 million. MTA anticipates opportunities for public comments on the BaltimoreLINK project. Visit the BaltimoreLINK [website](#) for more info.

MTA Bus Facility Replacement Projects

MTA proposes funding changes for the following bus facilities in Baltimore City:

- The MTA proposes updating funding for the **Kirk Bus Facility Replacement project** for Fiscal Year 2016. The purpose of this modernization project is to construct a new Kirk Bus Division transportation and storage building to accommodate approximately 160 buses, including articulated/hybrid vehicles. The new Kirk Bus Division will replace the existing facility, originally constructed in 1947. The maintenance building construction is expected to be completed in May 2016, while the transportation/storage building construction is anticipated for completion in 2018.

Updating this project in the TIP will increase Section 5307 funding by \$12.9 million and Section 5339 funding by \$2.6 million.

- The MTA proposes adding to the TIP the \$42 million **Bus New Main Shop** project. This project constructs a new sustainably designed bus maintenance facility in South Baltimore at 1300 Bush Street. The new facility increases the capacity for maintenance and for the staging of additional articulated buses.

Adding this project to the 2016-2019 TIP allows MTA to utilize \$9.329 million in federal Section 5307 funds, with \$2.332 million in matching funds, and \$1.664 million in federal Section 5339 funds, with \$416,000 in matching funds, for construction in FY 2016.

An Additional MTA Project

MTA proposes an update to the TIP to correct a funding amount:

- **Ridesharing – Baltimore Region**
The rideshare program promotes alternatives to driving alone through use of mass

transit, carpools, and vanpools. Funding is for the promotion and management of the Rideshare program, as well as assistance to commuters through the Guaranteed Ride Home program.

This amendment corrects funding levels for the Baltimore region for fiscal years 2016 through 2019. Previous TIP descriptions erroneously listed the statewide total of \$6.2 million. This amendment lists the correct amount of \$2.664 million for the Baltimore region.

Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) Highway Bridge Project

The Maryland State Highway Administration would like to amend the TIP to add funding for the following project:

- **US 40 Bridge Replacements over Little & Big Gunpowder Falls**
This \$12.4 million project replaces four bridges along US 40 over the Little and Big Gunpowder Falls. The existing bridges, built in 1935, are structurally deficient.

Adding this project to the TIP allows SHA to utilize \$1.19 million in federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds, with a \$298,000 match, for preliminary engineering. It also adds state construction funds in the amounts of \$3.95 million in FY 2017 and \$6.05 million in FY 2018, for a total of \$11.49 million in the 2016-2019 TIP.

The BRTB will host a public meeting for the TIP amendment on **February 24 from 5:30-7 p.m.** at Cecil Elementary School, located at 2000 Cecil Ave, Baltimore, Maryland, 21218. There will be a presentation of the amendments during the BRTB's Public Advisory Committee monthly meeting on **Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.** at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, located at the Offices @ McHenry Row, 1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300, Baltimore, Maryland, 21230.

Comments also are welcome during the Public Comment Opportunity during the BRTB meetings on **Tuesday, February 23, 2016** and **Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 9 a.m.** at BMC.

In addition, public comments will be accepted by email at comments@baltometro.org; on Twitter [@BaltoMetroCo](https://twitter.com/BaltoMetroCo) and [@BmoreInvolved](https://twitter.com/BmoreInvolved), or on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BaltoMetroCo) using the hashtag #BRTBlistens; or by mail at:

Attn: Public Involvement Coordinator
The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board
Offices @ McHenry Row
1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300
Baltimore, MD 21230

The public participation process for the TIP will also meet the FTA public participation requirements for the MTA's Program of Projects (POP).

The BRTB is the federally recognized metropolitan planning organization for transportation in the region. BMC provides the BRTB with staff support.

The BRTB operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable laws. Appropriate services can be provided to qualified individuals with disabilities or those in need of language assistance who submit a request at least seven days prior to a meeting. Call 410-732-0500.

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The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) works collaboratively with the chief elected officials in the region to create initiatives to improve the quality of life and economic vitality. BMC, as the Baltimore region's council of governments (COG), hosts the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB), the federal metropolitan planning organization (MPO), and supports local government by coordinating efforts in a range of policy areas including emergency preparedness, housing, cooperative purchasing, environmental planning and workforce development.

BMC's Board of Directors includes the executives of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford and Howard counties, the mayor of the City of Baltimore, a member of the Carroll County Board of Commissioners, a member of the Maryland State Senate, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, and a gubernatorial appointee from the private sector.