



Baltimore
Metropolitan
Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Laura Van Wert, 410-732-9564

BRTB SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR UPDATES TO FY 2017 BUDGET AND WORK PLAN

BALTIMORE, MD (February 12, 2016) – The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) seeks public comments on its proposed updated Budget & Work Program for [Fiscal Years 2016-2017](#) through Wednesday, **March 16, 2016**.

The BRTB is scheduled to vote on the proposed changes on Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

The BRTB develops this list of regional transportation planning activities every two fiscal years. This addendum updates the funding tables for FY 2017 and identifies several new tasks.

The BRTB's Budget and Work Program is known as the [Unified Planning Work Program \(UPWP\)](#) for Transportation Planning. It details projects, studies and other activities to be completed by [BRTB members](#) and staff of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC). The UPWP includes both local and region-wide activities.

The updated UPWP includes an increase in funding of \$710,024 to reflect new federal funding levels and projected carryover from FY 2016 to support the additional tasks as outlined below.

New local and regional projects include:

- **Boston Street Multi-Modal Corridor Study** – Baltimore City will study alternatives in this corridor to address the cancelled Baltimore Red Line and recommendations for improved truck access, pedestrian/bike accommodation, residential and commuter travel, and improved safety.
- **Complete Streets** – Following the adoption of the Howard County Bicycle Master Plan, Howard County will evaluate and provide recommendations on ways to integrate complete streets policies into their subdivision and design manual.
- **Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland (RTA) Transit Service Study** – Anne Arundel and Howard counties will conduct a complete route

analysis to assess transit route alignment, ridership, gaps in service, and opportunities to enhance and upgrade transit service in the service area.

- **Regional Patapsco Greenway** – This regional project will be a coordinated planning effort by area jurisdictions, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, State Highway Administration and the Patapsco Heritage Greenway Inc. The Regional Patapsco Greenway is a proposed shared use pathway network connecting the Inner Harbor, Catonsville, Ellicott City, Elkridge, Sykesville and the BWI Trail.

The BRTB also proposes adding several new focus areas for BMC staff. They include:

- Study regional attitudes and behavior differences in commuter travel, including transit use, ridesharing, teleworking, biking, walking, etc. *Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan* identified these measures as congestion management strategies in reducing congestion and increasing mobility;
- Identify congestion management strategies for locally-maintained corridors that have serious operational issues;
- Explore options for improving transit service through cooperative purchasing, multi-agency electronic fare collection, and improvements to on-street bus stops;
- Expand regional outreach and public participation through a series of events and new outreach efforts; and
- Preliminary planning for the 2018 regional Household Travel Survey.

Download updated budget tables and task descriptions for new subarea tasks in FY 2017 using the link below or visit the [Regional Information Center \(RIC\)](#) at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300, Baltimore, MD 21230) to view a print copy.

B'More Involved

The public is invited to share their thoughts on these proposed regional transportation planning activities through **Wednesday, March 16, 2016**.

Please send all comments in writing to:

Email: comments@baltometro.org

Twitter: [@BaltoMetroCo](https://twitter.com/BaltoMetroCo) [@BmoreInvolved](https://twitter.com/BmoreInvolved) [#BRTBlistens](https://twitter.com/BRTBlistens)

Mail: The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board
Offices @ McHenry Row
1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300
Baltimore, MD 21230

Fax: 410-732-8248

Comments may also be shared during the Public Comment Opportunity at the BRTB meetings at 9 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 23, 2016**, and **Tuesday, March 22, 2016**, or before the vote on **Tuesday, April 26, 2016**.

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.