In September, 2010, BMC moved to McHenry Row, a new mixed-use development adjacent to Key Highway and East Fort Avenue in the Locust Point section of Baltimore City. When completed in 2011, McHenry Row will include a five-story office building, street level retail with apartments above, ample parking, and a Harris-Teeter grocery store.

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What is the Baltimore Metropolitan Council?

Our Mission

The Baltimore Metropolitan Council is committed to identifying regional interests and developing collaborative strategies, plans and programs which will improve the quality of life and economic vitality throughout the region.

Who We Are

BMC is the organization of the region’s elected executives. The BMC Board is composed of the Mayor of Baltimore, the executives of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford and Howard counties, and a member of the Carroll County Board of Commissioners. BMC’s staff works closely with the staffs of member jurisdictions.

History

BMC carries on a tradition of formal regional planning that began half-a-century ago in 1956, when the Baltimore Regional Planning Council was created within the Maryland Department of Planning. In 1963, the Regional Planning Council (RPC) emerged as a separate state agency. In 1989 the name of the organization was changed to Baltimore Regional Council of Governments (BRCOG) to reflect the RPC’s resolve to serve as the regional voice of local government. In 1992, recognizing the need for a smaller, more efficient organization, the Maryland General Assembly dissolved BRCOG and created BMC as a private nonprofit organization of the region’s elected executives.

A Message from the 2011 Chair

It’s a great honor to serve as chair of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council in 2011. BMC is a unique and important forum for the region’s elected executives to work together to solve problems, and make the Baltimore region better, safer and stronger.

In the last few years the Baltimore region has made great progress in the areas of cooperative purchasing of energy, watershed management, emergency preparedness and regional transportation planning. These efforts are helping all the member jurisdictions work more cost-effectively in these fiscally challenging times, and also work together in ways that directly benefit our residents. The rapid, coordinated response to the November, 2010, tornado in Baltimore City and County is but one example.

BMC has also opened a dialogue on sustainability and is working to open lines of communication among the jurisdictions to explore cost-saving and environmentally sound practices throughout the region.

Over the next year, I look forward to continue making progress on these issues and others as BMC strives to make the region a better place to live and work.

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor, Baltimore City
Every new construction project and any significant improvement to an existing structure requires a building permit.

The resulting database, collected from all permits with a value of $10,000 or more, provides a continual record of plans for new and renovated residential, commercial/industrial and institutional building projects. The BMC staff uses this information as an indicator of new regional development patterns.

Specialty contractors, real estate analysts, economic development professionals and others may subscribe to the Building Permit Database, through either the printed monthly, quarterly and annual reports or the searchable online database, which is updated weekly. Contact the Regional Information Center at 410-732-9570 or mlogan@baltometro.org to learn more.
Anne Arundel County

Total Population 521,209
Median Age 38.3
Total Households 191,741
Total Labor Force 289,688
Number Who Drive To Work Alone 212,504
Median Household Income $80,300
% of Families Below Poverty Level 5.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey
Additional demographic data is available at www.baltometro.org

Visit www.baltometro.org for current schedule of meetings and activities

February

John R. Leopold, Anne Arundel County Executive
The United States Census Bureau is expected to begin releasing the results of the 2010 Census in March. This was one of the shortest censuses in history, comprised of only 10 questions. It included questions about the number of people living in the household, their sex, age, Hispanic origin and race.

The old “long form,” which asked for more detailed information, has been replaced by the ongoing American Community Survey (ACS) which is sent separately from the decennial census to a much smaller portion of the population.

BMC uses data from the census and ACS in its transportation planning work to track trends in the population of each jurisdiction and where people live and work. Data from the census and ACS is also used to generate Community Profiles, 8-10 page compilations of data and information about each of the 94 Regional Planning Districts (RPDs) in the region, each jurisdiction as a whole, and the entire region. Community Profiles are available at www.baltometro.org.

Visit www.baltometro.org for current schedule of meetings and activities
Baltimore City

Total Population 637,418
Median Age 34
Total Households 234,840
Total Labor Force 314,685
Number Who Drive To Work Alone 162,230
Median Household Income $38,772
% of Families Below Poverty Level 17.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey
Additional demographic data is available at www.baltometro.org

Visit www.baltometro.org for current schedule of meetings and activities

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

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Citizens Advisory Committee 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday
BMC Offices Closed

BRTB 9:00 a.m.

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore City Mayor
May is the beginning of ground-level ozone season, that time of the year when longer days and warmer temperatures combine with emissions to create air pollution. Since almost 1/3 of those emissions come from vehicles, BMC and the Clean Commute Partnership have designated May 2011 as Clean Commute Month for the 14th consecutive year.

Residents are encouraged to try a cleaner way to get to work by taking transit, carpooling, walking, or riding a bike. Drivers are also encouraged to keep their vehicles well-maintained to increase fuel efficiency – and reduce emissions.

Bike to Work Day, on the third Friday in May, features rallies in each of BMC’s member jurisdictions to acknowledge regular bicycle commuters and encourage others to try this clean alternative to driving.

Look for BMC staff at the Flower Mart, Towson Town Festival, and other events in the region in May; and visit www.cleancommute.com or www.bike2workcentralmd.com to learn more.
Baltimore County

Total Population 789,814
Median Age 38.8
Total Households 308,039
Total Labor Force 442,565
Number Who Drive To Work Alone 319,157
Median Household Income $64,906
% of Families Below Poverty Level 4.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey
Additional demographic data is available at www.baltometro.org

Visit www.baltometro.org for current schedule of meetings and activities

Kevin Kamenetz, Baltimore County Executive
The Loch Raven, Prettyboy and Liberty Reservoirs together provide high-quality water for approximately 1.8 million people in Baltimore City and the five surrounding counties. Baltimore City owns the three reservoirs and operates the regional water system.

BMC's Reservoir Watershed Management Program, which dates to 1984, was developed by the region’s six local governments and key state agencies to monitor water quality trends, promote policies and actions to protect the watersheds, and address emerging issues that could affect one or more of the lakes. The 2005 Reservoir Agreement, signed by local elected executives and the secretaries of the Maryland Departments of Agriculture and the Environment, has the fundamental goal of ensuring that the three reservoirs and their respective watersheds will continue to serve as sources of high-quality water for the Baltimore metropolitan water-supply system.

Gallons of Reservoir Water Consumed FY 2010

- Anne Arundel County ~ 2.2 billion
- Baltimore City ~ 26.3 billion
- Baltimore County ~ 26.3 billion
- Carroll County ~ 719 million
- Harford County ~ 1.8 billion
- Howard County ~ 7.6 billion

One of the region’s most valuable natural assets – our reservoir system

Visit www.baltometro.org for current schedule of meetings and activities

July

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### Carroll County

- Total Population: 170,089
- Median Age: 40.5
- Total Households: 59,915
- Total Labor Force: 94,061
- Number Who Drive To Work Alone: 73,760
- Median Household Income: $79,227
- % of Families Below Poverty Level: 4.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey
Additional demographic data is available at www.baltometro.org

### Carroll County Board of Commissioners

Robin Bartlett Frazier, District 1  
Haven N. Shoemaker Jr., District 2  
David H. Roush, District 3  
Richard S. Rothschild, District 4  
Doug Howard, District 5

Visit [www.baltometro.org](http://www.baltometro.org) for current schedule of meetings and activities

### Calendar

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- Citizens Advisory Committee: 5:30 p.m.
- BRTB: 9:00 a.m.
The Baltimore Urban Area Work Group (UAWG), a committee of emergency planners and first responders, meets regularly to evaluate the needs of the region, and directs the use of federal Homeland Security funds for equipment, training and outreach. BMC staff works closely with the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) and UAWG to prepare the region to respond to any emergency.

Through the UAWG’s Public Information Officers Subcommittee, BMC coordinates the Ready? Set? Good public outreach campaign. In 2010, household preparedness messages were disseminated through radio and TV outlets, and on MTA buses. The messages generated more than 7,600 visits to www.readysetgood.org.

BRTB’s Transportation and Public Works Subcommittee and UAWG are developing a computer model to help coordinate traffic in the event of a large evacuation. Large evacuations would impact multiple jurisdictions. Coordination between responders is critical. One way to improve coordination and identify problem areas is through exercises. Last year the region conducted a daylong tabletop exercise for local, state and federal agencies to discuss how they would respond to various emergencies.

A message from the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and your local emergency responders.

Visit www.baltometro.org for current schedule of meetings and activities.
Total Population 242,514
Median Age 39.4
Total Households 92,397
Total Labor Force 137,498
Number Who Drive To Work Alone 107,690
Median Household Income $76,187
% of Families Below Poverty Level 4.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey
Additional demographic data is available at www.baltometro.org

Visit www.baltometro.org for current schedule of meetings and activities

David R. Craig, Harford County Executive
Like many urban areas in the country, the Baltimore region has an extensive transportation network — including highways, local streets, suburban and rural roads, bus lines, train lines, sidewalks and bicycling paths. All of these modes of transportation have one thing in common: they help people and goods get where they need to go.

A great deal of money and time goes into maintaining and improving these modes of transportation. As a result, it is the responsibility of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) to update the plan every four years.

Plan It 2035 is the next Long-Range Transportation Plan for the Baltimore Region. With a scheduled November 2011 adoption date, Plan It 2035 is being developed with local, state, and federal agency transportation professionals, area business leaders, community advocates, and many other interested stakeholders.

Visit www.baltometro.org for current schedule of meetings and activities
Howard County

Total Population 281,884
Median Age 37.8
Total Households 100,979
Total Labor Force 160,906
Number Who Drive To Work Alone 119,824
Median Household Income $101,940
% of Families Below Poverty Level 2.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey
Additional demographic data is available at www.baltometro.org

Visit www.baltometro.org for current schedule of meetings and activities

Ken Ulman, Howard County Executive
Although contributions from local governments and revenue from special contracts declined, total revenue increased by more than $800,000. Revenue from federal and state transportation grants accounted for most of the increase.

Local government contributions declined by about $4,500, but the amount passed directly to local governments by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) increased by more than $400,000. Spending on transportation planning programs increased by more than $360,000.

Although operating costs increased by $57,000, that figure includes BMC’s moving expenses. BMC ended the year with $43,000 in retained earnings.

**BMC PUBLICATIONS**


**Baltimore Region Transportation Improvement Program 2010-2013.** July 2009.

**Baltimore Regional Roadway Congestion Trends Analysis 1998-2008.**


Explains how to get ready to ride safely to work. Details include rules of the road, how to outfit your bike and great places to ride. Online at [www.baltometro.org/bike/BikeCommuterGuide_Employee.pdf](http://www.baltometro.org/bike/BikeCommuterGuide_Employee.pdf).


Clean Commute Month 2009; Helping to Clear the Air in the Baltimore Region. 2010.


Establishing a Bike-Friendly Workplace for Your Baltimore Region Employees.
A brief guide for employers in the region who want to become a bicycle friendly employer. Included are tips on encouraging employees to commute by bike, providing bicycle facilities, and using the Bicycle Commuter Act and tax incentives for employees. Online at [www.baltometro.org/bike/ BikeCommuterGuide_Employers.pdf](http://www.baltometro.org/bike/ BikeCommuterGuide_Employers.pdf).

To sustain the high quality of life in the Baltimore region, we must all think about how the region will grow and how we are connected. Imagine 2060, grew out of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board’s desire to work with community leaders and regional stakeholders to develop general agreement on goals and values for a balanced 21st century transportation system. In addition, a key focus of imagine 2060 is to improve accessibility for all and promote livable and sustainable communities throughout the metropolitan area.

The input gathered in the imagine 2060 process will guide the development of PlanIt 2035, the federally mandated, financially constrained 2011 Baltimore Region Long-Range Transportation Plan, as well as future plan updates. During 2010, the BRTB:

- Initiated the effort with a regional workshop for key stakeholders;
- Conducted 15 public workshops and open houses around the region focusing on land use and transportation options and education;
- Sponsored an online values survey; and
- Developed a web site featuring a Learning Center, Speakers Series, Photo Contest, Regional Economic Outlook and more.

The results of this dialogue are already finding their way into PlanIt 2035. The goals have been modified and the process to evaluate potential projects has also been refreshed. The next steps will include scenario planning and convening work groups to delve into issues such as performance measures, transit options, and funding sources.

For more information, visit www.imagine2060.org.

### Working Towards Sustainability

In October 2008, the BMC Board of Directors created the Regional Sustainability Committee (RSC). Through the RSC, the member jurisdictions of BMC, along with the City of Annapolis and Frederick County, are working to meet the present needs of the region without compromising our ability to meet those needs in the future.

Creating a sustainable region requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the region’s economic, social and environmental needs.

The goal of the Committee is to share information and coordinate sustainable efforts throughout the region in order to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. It is about ensuring that the world our children and grandchildren inherit will be as good as or better than the world today.

The Committee is focusing its efforts in three areas:

1. Coordinating regional sustainability programs.
2. Fostering cooperation between state and local governments.
3. Maximizing partnerships with public, private and quasi-governmental agencies.

On March 29, 2010, the RSC convened a Regional Sustainability Summit of local government employees and active citizens from throughout the Greater Baltimore region. The goals for the Summit were to share meaningful and useful information about sustainable activities; foster new relationships among the attendees; and create a foundation from which BMC members can further their sustainability efforts.

### Regional Information Center – The Source for Data about the Baltimore Region

The Regional Information Center (RIC) at BMC, a branch of Baltimore City’s Enoch Pratt Free Library system, is a repository for regional and urban planning materials with a focus on local demographic information, economic development, transportation planning, land use and environmental issues. RIC also continues to provide staff support to BMC’s Building Permits Data System subscribers and BMC’s website content management needs.

Frequent users of the RIC include small and large businesses; non-profit organizations and community groups; government agencies; students; and the media. In Fiscal Year 2010, the Regional Information Center responded to more than 1,900 requests for information, including approximately 275 customized demographic profiles and maps.

Contact the Regional Information Center at 410-732-9570 to request information or make an appointment. The Center is open to the public by appointment between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.