



Promoting Inclusiveness and Cooperation



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Friday Oct 19 to 8:00 pm

Next to Black Eyed Saver's

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One Great Auction for Great Causes

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Giving individuals, organizations, and groups the opportunity to actively engage in the regional transportation planning process is a vital part of the work of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB).

Active engagement, by the public and partner agencies alike, is an essential part of a meaningful transportation planning process because it enables government agencies to understand and account for the concerns and needs of the public, particularly at times when key decisions regarding the region's transportation network are made.



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Promoting Inclusiveness

The BRTB is committed to broadening the scope of public participation to include stakeholders who have not traditionally been involved in providing input on transportation decisions. In ensuring full and effective participation by the public and other interested parties, the BRTB adheres to the following guiding principles:

- **Public involvement is an important element** of an effective transportation planning process, not a simple add-on to meet federal requirements.
- **Effective transportation planning** must include the participation of those whose everyday lives are critically affected by how they are able to get to work, home, school, stores, and services.
- **It is essential to ask for public participation**, not just wait for it. It is essential to respect and seriously consider input that is received, not just collect it.
- **Informing and educating** the public about transportation planning issues and the transportation planning process is key to obtaining good quality public input.
- **Additional emphasis** should be placed on involving persons and groups typically under- represented in transportation planning or with special transportation needs, including low-income, minority, elderly, and disabled populations.



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) for the Baltimore region assists the BRTB in carrying out its responsibility to reach out to and engage the public and other interested parties.

The PPP provides an open process that offers complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and support for early and continued involvement of stakeholders.



PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

One of the primary ways the BRTB engages the public in the transportation planning process is through its Public Advisory Committee (PAC).

The PAC provides independent, region-oriented advice regarding regional transportation planning and related issues. Members also assist in promoting equity and public awareness and public participation in the planning process.



TITLE VI NON-DISCRIMINATION

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that no person in the U.S. shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance based on race, color or national origin.

As a recipient of federal funding to support the regional transportation planning process, the BRTB is required to be compliant with Title VI.

The BRTB must submit a signed assurance to the U.S. Department of Transportation that it will not discriminate in the administration of its programs and activities. The BRTB must also document its compliance with Title VI in accordance with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental Justice (EJ) goes beyond non-discrimination to ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income.

In transportation planning, an EJ analysis seeks to ensure that the benefits and burdens of transportation investments are shared as equitably as possible among all affected communities. Specifically, EJ analysis considers whether low-income and minority populations bear disproportionate impacts resulting from governmental decisions and, if so, identifies ways to mitigate the impacts.

In coordination with BRTB advisory committees, BMC staff identified a series of accessibility and mobility performance measures, including accessibility to jobs and shopping opportunities, travel times to work, and proximity to key destinations such as hospitals and supermarkets. BMC staff used these measures as the basis of an analysis of the potential effects on EJ and non-EJ areas of the transportation projects in the regional long-range transportation plan.





LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) is a term used to describe individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English.

As a recipient of federal funds, the BRTB is required to have a Limited English Proficiency Plan and to conduct a four-factor analysis to determine the “reasonable steps” the BRTB must take to ensure meaningful access to information and services it provides.

Based on the current low levels of residents with LEP in the Baltimore region and their limited interaction with the BRTB, full translation of all BRTB Plans and Programs is not required at this time. However, in order to engage the diverse population in the region, the BRTB is committed to providing appropriate language assistance to the LEP population.



VULNERABLE POPULATION INDEX

To support public engagement and project planning efforts, BMC staff developed the Vulnerable Population Index (VPI). This tool uses data obtained from the decennial Census and the American Community Survey (ACS) to determine the regional distribution of each of seven vulnerable populations. These populations are based on the following indicators: poverty, minority (non-Hispanic, non-white), minority (Hispanic), LEP, disabled, elderly, and people with no car.



ACCOMMODATIONS FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

The BRTB must adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In particular, Title II requires the BRTB to make reasonable accommodations to provide access to its programs, services and activities, as well as to its premises, in order to avoid discrimination.

To ensure reasonable access to its premises and to further ensure reasonable access to its programs and activities, BMC staff developed a Title II of Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.







Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program

The BRTB actively seeks to ensure that the planning process gains input and includes participation by minority, disabled, and elderly representatives through committee representation and public participation. In addition, the BRTB seeks to ensure equity through its consultant contracting DBE participation requirements and through equal opportunity employment practices. The BRTB adopted DBE procedures to define clearly the standards for ensuring DBE participation. DBE targets are set annually.

The BRTB participates in the Regional Procurement Diversity Expo, “Meet the Primes,” which is sponsored, in part, by the Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee, a subcommittee of the BMC. This event, which typically draws hundreds of attendees and exhibitors, features sessions in which prime contractors and minority- and women-owned subcontractors can interact and identify opportunities for working together.



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