



Baltimore Regional Transportation Board

The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

APPROVED

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**MINUTES OF THE 218th MEETING OF
THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD
September 28, 2010
9:00 A.M.**

EMPOWERED MEMBERS

Jon Arason, Director
City of Annapolis Department of Planning & Zoning

Ben Pickar, Acting Chief
Division of Transportation Planning
Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning

Harvey Gold, Senior Transportation Planner
Anne Arundel County Office of Planning & Zoning

Emery Hines, Manager (Chair)
Transportation Planning
Baltimore County Department of Public Works

Jamie Kendrick, Deputy Director
Baltimore City Department of Transportation

Tony McClune, Deputy Director (Vice-Chair)
Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning

Mike Nixon (for Don Halligan, Director)
Office of Planning & Capital Programming
Maryland Department of Transportation

Scott Graf (for Cindy Parr, Deputy Chief of Staff)
Carroll County Government

Jim Wilkinson (for Diane Franks, Chief)
Air Quality Planning Division
Maryland Department of the Environment
(Non-voting member)

David Whitaker, Manager, Transportation Planning
Maryland Department of Planning
(Non-voting member)

OTHERS PRESENT

Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Jamie Bridges, BMC
Dunbar Brooks, BMC
Tyson Byrne, BMC
Trevor Cascio, Central Maryland Regional Transit (CMRT)
Edward Cohen, TRAC
Terry Freeland, BMC
Joan Gorsuch, BMC
Charles Grant, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)
Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC
Dami Kehinde, State Highway Administration (SHA)
Mike Kelly, BMC
Todd Lang, BMC
Theo Ngongang, MDOT
Brian O'Malley, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance (CMTA)
Michael Owino, CMRT
Michele Rosenberg, CAC
Ted Rosenberg, Citizen
Alex Rawls, Technical Committee Chair
Sara Tomlinson, BMC
Heather Weir, Citizen

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Emery Hines.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2010 BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Hines. A motion was made by Mr. Jamie Kendrick to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Tony McClune.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY: Mr. Edward Cohen, Transit Riders Action Council (TRAC), noted that recently there have been some developments in the Red Line process. He said that Sandra Connor was named as a liaison between the Red Line Advisory Council and the Station Area Advisory Councils, and she is also a member of the BRTB's CAC. He noted that the first meetings started last week and there are more meetings this week. Mr. Cohen noted that there was a discussion about the Edmondson Village station and they had a vote of 11-4 to put it underground. A

discussion ensued regarding modeling requirements for the Red Line New Starts application.

Ms. Michele Rosenberg said that she has attempted many times to obtain information on MTA's Mobility Service and noted the red tape that she and other persons needing that service must endure. She also spoke again of the difficulty she encountered last year when trying to attend the Baltimore City Consolidated Transportation Program meeting and wondered why she was not admitted. Mr. Kendrick apologized again and said that it was a miscommunication between the Mayor's office and the Security desk at City Hall.

REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda referred to a handout – Public Involvement Report – September 2010, and noted that there were three comment periods that closed during the month. The first comment period was on the draft Goals for *Plan It 2035* (All three items were open for review from August 12 through September 14). The public meeting was attended by 3 members of the public and comments were received from 8 individuals and organizations. The second comment period related to two amendments on behalf of Baltimore City: Kent Street Transit Plaza and Pedestrian Corridor Project as well as Transit Vehicle Purchase Project. No one from the public attended the public meeting and written comments were received from 1 member of the public. The third comment period considered an update to the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. No one from the public attended the public meeting; however, 1 comment was received from the public and 1 from an organization. Currently, there is one open public comment period on an Amendment to the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program. As of September 24th, there have been no comments received and a public meeting was held on September 27 and it was attended by one person. This public comment period remains open through October 11.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report – September 2010]

REPORT FROM CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Ms. Rosenberg reported that there was no CAC meeting this month but noted that there will be a Membership Subcommittee meeting where 29 applications for membership will be reviewed. She said that one issue that the current membership is concerned about is parking at BMC's new facility and being charged a parking fee. Ms. Rosenberg indicated that a 3-hour time limit for parking would be ideal. Mr. Todd Lang indicated that final parking arrangements have not been worked out with the building management.

REPORT FROM INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP: Ms. Sara Tomlinson (BMC) provided an update from the September 15, 2010 ICG meeting, which was held at the Maryland Department of the Environment. The ICG determined that three TIP amendments presented are exempt from the requirement to determine air quality conformity. These three proposed TIP amendments include Transit Vehicle Purchases for the Charm City Circulator, the Kent Street Transit Plaza and Pedestrian Corridor and

BWI MARC Station & Track Improvements. Also at the meeting, BMC staff presented the draft goals for *Plan It 2035*. There was general agreement on the goals as provided at the meeting. There was then a discussion of project prioritization methods. Ms. Megan Hughes of the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland gave a presentation on the Port of Baltimore Clean Diesel Program, in particular the drayage truck emission reduction funding piece.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Mr. Alex Rawls said that the Technical Committee (TC) met on September 21, 2010 where three resolutions were presented. Resolution #11-8 Endorsement of the Goals for *Plan It 2035* were presented and then Howard County and the Maryland Department of Planning submitted recommended revisions to the goals and strategies. Mr. Rawls noted that the TC voted and approved Resolution #11-8 with amendments. Resolutions #11-9, Updated Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan, and #11-10, approval of TIP amendments for Baltimore City, were also presented and approved by the TC. A presentation on *Plan It 2035* as well as updates on several UPWP projects was deferred until the October meeting. Mr. Rawls noted that BMC staff did distribute highway network maps and a presentation on project prioritization for TC review.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #11-8 – GOALS FOR PLAN IT 2035: Mr. Lang introduced Resolution #11-8, Goals for *Plan It 2035*, for approval. As indicated by the Technical Committee Chair, Mr. Rawls, the TC recommended approval of the draft goals were amended subsequent to the Public Review period to include fifteen new strategies.

There was considerable discussion and a series of motions. The discussion leading to the approved motion included: Mr. Kendrick proposed to add two specific performance measures per goal to enable the region to determine in the future how well projects are meeting the intent of the goals. Mr. Harvey Gold added that he had asked MDOT at the TC meeting for some specific measures. Mr. Ben Pickar expressed some concern that this might delay the process further, noting the need to keep the process moving and that consideration of performance measures will be the next step after the draft goals and strategies are approved. Mr. Hines suggested the need to extend the public comment period to enable the public to review and consider the additional strategies. Mr. Kendrick then proposed that the BRTB provide preliminary approval of the draft goals and amended strategies and that these be sent back to the TC. This way, the Technical Committee can consider what technical evaluation criteria could be added to address the draft goals and strategies. Also proposed was the extension of the public comment period to October 8. This recommendation was moved by Mr. Kendrick and seconded by Mr. McClune; the motion was approved.

[Handout: Plan It 2035 – Draft Goals (Recommended Changes from Technical Committee)]

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #11-9 – UPDATED COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT – HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

Mr. Lang introduced Resolution #11-9, and stated the reason behind the update. MTA wanted the BRTB to update the document focusing on revisiting the unmet transportation needs and the strategies to address those needs. Mr. Hines asked for a motion to approve Resolution #11-9. Mr. Kendrick made a motion to approve the recommendations and Mr. Gold seconded the motion. Mr. Kendrick asked that a strategy be added to include bike programs as they relate to job access. Ms. Regina Aris indicated that this update needs to be submitted this week or we won't be able to be eligible for the next round of projects that will be initiated in early October. Mr. Kendrick asked to amend the motion on the floor and direct BMC staff to prepare a bicycle and pedestrian strategy for inclusion in the Human Services Transportation Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pickar. All voted in favor of the amendment to the Coordinated Transportation Plan. Then Mr. Hines asked for a motion to endorse Resolution #11-9, as amended. Mr. Jon Arason made a motion to adopt the resolution, as amended, and it was seconded by Mr. Gold. The resolution was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #11-10 – AMENDMENTS TO THE 2011-2014 TIP:

Mr. Lang introduced Resolution #11-10 and described the two projects: Kent Street Transit Plaza and Pedestrian Corridor (in the development known as Westport) and Transit Vehicle Purchase. The Kent Street project is a federally funded grant that will improve safety as well as pedestrian and transit access to the Westport Light Rail Station. The Transit Vehicle Purchase is a \$1.2 million Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Program award to the City to provide improved transit to Fort McHenry. The grant will be used to purchase vehicles for a yet to be determined route or route extension for the Charm City Circulator. The Chair recognized questions from the audience about the new route which has yet to be determined and asked for a motion for approval. There was a motion by Mr. Kendrick, which was seconded by Mr. Mike Nixon. The resolution was unanimously approved.

UPDATE ON IMAGINE 2060 AND PLAN IT 2035:

Mr. Terry Freeland gave a brief update on the next steps in the *imagine 2060* and *Plan It 2035* processes. In October, the BRTB intends to hold a work session to discuss the *imagine 2060* initiative. Expected participants include BRTB, Planning Directors, Technical Committee and Cooperative Forecast Group members. Items for discussion will include a debrief on what has been received in the way of public input, what the final *imagine 2060* product should be, and an update from MDP on PlanMaryland. For the *Plan It 2035* process, BMC staff expects to bring several items to the BRTB for approval in November. These include criteria to be used in the project evaluation and prioritization process, the financial forecast, and a definition of "regionally significant" for the purpose of determining which projects are projected to benefit the entire region. Also at the November BRTB meeting, it is anticipated a call for projects for *Plan It 2035* will be announced.

[Handout: *Plan It 2035* Prioritization Progress Update by Vimal Kumar, September 21, 2010]

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Lang pointed out a letter to MDOT for an administrative modification to the Baltimore Region 2010-2013 TIP.

[Handouts: *Letter dated September 8, 2010 to MDOT from Todd Lang re: Administrative modification to the Baltimore Region FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program*]

Mr. Charles Grant, MTA, spoke briefly about the new CharmCard and noted that it can be used on WMATA and Washington, D.C. services as well as Northern Virginia and Prince George's and Montgomery counties. He said that the program is still unfolding and noted that seniors are not yet able to use the card because of their reduced fare. Mr. Grant also noted that the CharmCard eliminates the use of the farebox. Mr. David Whitaker added that the CharmCard has been a great step forward.

[Handout: *MTA Press Release re: MTA Ready to Launch "Smart" Electronic Farecard*]

Mr. Hines asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Pickar made a motion to adjourn with Mr. Theo Ngongang seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board