

## **BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

May 26, 2015

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

9:15 to 10:30 A.M.

### **MINUTES**

The 271<sup>st</sup> meeting was called to order at 9:15 A.M. by the Vice Chair, Mr. John Powell who noted the birthday of John Wayne.

#### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2015 BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Powell. A motion was made by Mr. Pat Keller to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Mike Nixon. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY**

Mr. Kevin Racine of Harford County spoke about his adventures on the Northeast Corridor. He has seen how transit works in various local communities. He expressed support for an extension of Harford Transit down into White Marsh. He also noticed how smaller projects can make a difference such as the Glen Burnie sidewalk improvements. He stressed the importance of not just talking but doing.

#### **3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Todd Lang noted the recently closed public comment periods including those for the FY 2016&FY 2017 UPWP and the three MARC projects. Upcoming comment periods include the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program and the Language Assistance Program. The Opportunity Collaborative is releasing their Regional Plan for Sustainable Development at an event scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2015.

***[Handout: Public Involvement Report, May 2015]***

#### **4. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Greg Shafer began by talking about how the recent issues in Baltimore have highlighted the interrelation of transportation and social justice issues. He indicated that the most recent report by the American Society of Highway Engineers has Maryland infrastructure ranked as a C minus. Improvements can be made and should be a focus with the upcoming Panamax shipping it is important for this region to remain competitive.

Mr. Shafer reported the following from the April and May PAC meetings. In April the PAC reviewed the UPWP and recommended approval. He thanked staff for working through the PAC comments. The PAC also recommended approval of the DBE goal and the Stafford Road bridge and MTA TIP amendments. At that meeting Mr. Lang presented an overview of FTA funding programs. In May Jeff Snyder of MTA presented on the Next Bus program and while there are still bugs this could lead to higher bus utilization. The PAC recommended approval of the MARC TIP amendments. The meeting then turned to a discussion about the future of the proposed Red Line Light Rail Line. The PAC would like to see more dialog on the project as there are strong opinions on both sides. The PAC also recommended approval of the revised PAC bylaws.

#### **5. REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP**

The ICG met on April 1<sup>st</sup>. They determined the conformity exempt/non-exempt status of projects for the conformity determination of the 2016-2019 TIP. At previous meetings the ICG determined the methodology for the conformity determination which has been reviewed by FHWA.

There were several items on the agenda that MDE requested for discussion including the Baltimore clean data determination for ozone and an "Outside of Conformity" companion document.

The EPA has determined that for the first time in 30 years, the Baltimore region is meeting the federal standards for ozone pollution (1997 and 2008 standards). This means that a SIP is not required, unless the air pollution level increase.

MDE is currently working on a companion document to the conformity determination.

#### **6. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Ben Pickar reported on the May 5<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Zachary Kaufman introduced Resolution #15-30 to the Technical Committee. Members were asked to recommend approval of three proposed projects included in the resolution. Mr. Michael Helta described Resolution #15-30 in support of an amendment to the TIP. The Maryland Department of Transportation on behalf of the Maryland Transit Administration requested three projects be added to the 2014 – 2017 TIP: MARC Rolling Stock Overhauls and Replacement, MARC Improvements, and MARC Facilities.

Ms. Regina Aris indicated that the Bylaws of the Public Advisory Committee are subject to approval by the BRTB. In light of the change in the name of the committee the bylaws were updated. In addition the front page was deleted as duplicative and the term handicapped was replaced with persons with disabilities. Essentially, no substantive changes were made.

Mr. Pickar announced the formation of the FY 2016 Technical Committee nominating committee and appointed Ms. LaCour to serve as chair with Mr. Byrne and Mr. Rawls serving on the committee. A slate of officers for the upcoming fiscal year will be offered at the June meeting.

Mr. Subrat Mahapatra reported findings from the 2014 Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) Annual Mobility Report. Mobility and economy together are one of the six Key Performance Areas (KPA) at SHA. The Mobility KPA goal is to support Maryland's economy and communities through enabling reliable movement of people and goods. The annual Mobility Report was initiated in 2012 and is built around a theme of "What's Happening?", "What is SHA doing?", and "What is the outcome?" The report relies on INRIX vehicle probe data on freeways and expressways, SHA traffic count data, SHA signal system data, and SHA construction project information. Mr. Mahapatra identified trends, current traffic volumes and VMT, reporting 2013 Maryland annual VMT of 56.5 billion. The presentation transitioned to reporting on congestion describing the Travel Time Index used in the report. Several maps and charts were shown displaying location and tabulation of congestion and identification of the most congested segments.

Ms. Sara Tomlinson provided a progress report on the How Far Can We Get? project. The Round 1 analysis which included assessment of 15 individual emission reduction measures was completed in fall 2014. The Round 2 analysis, which included assessment of 8 combination scenarios of emission reduction measures, was completed in March 2015. The committee has assessed the benefits of combining measures.

Ms. Tomlinson also provided an update on the conformity determination of the FY 2016-2019 TIP. The conformity determination is currently being performed on the draft TIP projects, and includes assessment of the following pollutants in 2017, 2025, and 2035: annual fine particulate matter, annual nitrogen oxides, summer daily nitrogen oxides, summer daily volatile organic compounds, and winter daily carbon monoxide. EPA's new MOVES 2014 motor vehicle emissions model is being used for this conformity determination.

Mr. Terry Freeland distributed a copy of a table showing the candidate projects submitted to date. The table includes several transit projects recently submitted by MTA. Several outstanding scope and cost questions remain on the MTA projects. To date, BMC staff has not received answers to these questions. In addition, SHA is developing cost estimates for the highway projects. Mr. Freeland noted that BMC staff still does not have the official list of projects from one jurisdiction. Staff has proceeded with scoring the submittals from all other jurisdictions.

Mr. Charles Baber, filling in for Mr. Birat Pandey ABM project manager, provided a status report of the three year effort transiting the region's travel model tools from aggregate Trip Based to disaggregate Activity Based modeling. The tour generation model uses a latent class model of daily

activity patterns and joint activity participation. The model simultaneously assigns a household class and daily activity patterns to the synthesized household and person records. The definitions of the six latent class households were shared with the committee.

Mr. Kaufman distributed TIP sheets to each jurisdiction and requested feedback in preparation for the draft 2016 – 2019 TIP document. He also requested that jurisdictions submit letters of financial reasonableness for the 2016-2019 TIP if they have not already done so.

## **7. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #15-26**

The BRTB was asked to approve Resolution #15-26 to adopt the Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Years 2016 & 2017. This document indicates the planning activities that will be performed in the upcoming years including focus areas of the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan, Congestion Relief, Safety, Freight, Emergency Preparedness and Public Involvement. The UPWP also provides federal transportation funding for locally directed transportation planning studies.

Mr. Powell asked for a motion to approve Resolution #15-26. A motion to recommend approval was made by Mr. Mike Nixon and seconded by Ms. Sally Nash. Mr. Powell asked if there was any discussion by the members and then by the audience. Mr. Powell asked for a vote and Resolution #15-26 was unanimously recommended for approval.

## **8. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #15-27**

The BRTB was asked to approve Resolution #15-27 adopting the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal for FY 2016 contracts managed by BMC under the annual work program known as the UPWP. The fiscal year 2015 goal was set at 29% and was based upon MDOT's goal. MDOT has retained the 29% goal and staff recommended the BRTB use 29% again in the coming year. Contracts for the previous closed fiscal year of 2014 contained a 32% DBE participation rate.

Mr. Powell asked for a motion to approve Resolution #15-27. A motion to recommend approval was made by Ms. Sally Nash and seconded by Mr. Mike Nixon. Mr. Powell asked if there was any discussion by the members and then by the audience. Mr. Powell asked for a vote and Resolution #15-27 was unanimously recommended for approval.

## **9. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #15-30**

The BRTB was asked to approve Resolution #15-30 supporting an amendment to the 2014-2017 TIP. The Maryland Transit Administration is requesting to add the following three projects: MARC Improvements to provide funding to implement ongoing improvements derived from the MARC Master Plan and Amtrak Operating Agreement, MARC Rolling Stock Overhauls and Replacement for the ongoing overhaul and replacement of MARC rolling stock, and MARC Facilities to provide funding for the improvement and procurement of several MARC Train facilities.

Mr. Powell asked for a motion to approve Resolution #15-30. A motion to recommend approval was made by Mr. Pat Keller and seconded by Mr. Alex Rawls. Mr. Powell asked if there was any discussion by the members and then by the audience. Mr. Powell asked for a vote and Resolution #15-30 was unanimously recommended for approval.

#### **10. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #15-31**

The BRTB was asked to approve Resolution #15-31 revisions to the bylaws of the Public Advisory Committee. The bylaws are being revised to update the name of the committee formerly known as the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Public Advisory Committee and minor word changes. This is to comply with suggestions from Federal regulations.

Mr. Powell asked for a motion to approve Resolution #15-31. A motion to recommend approval was made by Ms. Margaret Kaii-Ziegler and seconded by Mr. Mike Nixon. Mr. Powell asked if there was any discussion by the members and then by the audience. Mr. Powell asked for a vote and Resolution #15-31 was unanimously recommended for approval.

#### **11. REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ON BRTB OFFICERS**

Mr. Mike Nixon indicated that the Nominating Committee met and is putting forward for consideration a slate of proposed officers for FY 2016 of Howard County as Chair and Baltimore City as Vice Chair. Mr. Nixon thanked the Nominating Committee including Emery Hines of Baltimore County and Anthony (Tony) McClune of Harford County.

#### **12. PRESENTATION ON HARFORD NEXT**

Mr. Shane Grimm, Chief of Long Range Planning for Harford County presented on HarfordNEXT. County Executive Barry Glassman directed the Department of Planning and Zoning to begin an update to the 2012 Master Plan and Land Use Element Plan. The Department is undertaking a streamlined approach to preparing a Master Plan which will incorporate the various Element Plans into one cohesive document known as HarfordNEXT. The Element Plans include the Natural Resources Element Plan, Priority Preservation Area Plan, Historic Preservation Plan and Transportation Plan.

There are six themes to the approach:

- Grow with Purpose
- Economic Vitality
- Environmental Stewardship
- Preserving our Heritage
- Mobility and Connectivity
- Promoting Healthy Communities

The process includes public involvement including a kickoff (that was well attended) and work with the newly rejuvenated community advisory boards. A draft plan is expected by the end of 2015 and adoption by May 2016. The Department has also implemented an online forum known as Open Town Hall which will allow citizens to provide input conveniently from their computers, smart phones and tablets.

The County has also initiated a Planning and Zoning Activity Tracker with a “Trackit App” with color codes for stages of development review.

### **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board has been asked to draft a letter of support for a TIGER grant application from Baltimore City for a planning study to improve Broening Highway adjacent to the port and a letter of support for a Maryland bikeways grant by our neighboring MPO WILMPAPCO to study the economic impact of a potential bicycle/pedestrian bridge over the Susquehanna river.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### ***Members***

Lynda Eisenberg, Carroll County Department of Land Use, Planning and Development  
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment, Air Quality Planning & Monitoring Program  
Margaret Kaii-Ziegler, Anne Arundel County, Department of Planning & Zoning  
Pat Keller, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), Statewide Service Development  
Frank Murphy, Baltimore City, Department of Transportation  
Mike Nixon, (for Don Halligan), Maryland Department of Transportation, OPCP  
Sally Nash, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning  
John Powell, Howard County, Office of Transportation  
Alex Rawls, Harford County, Department of Planning  
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning, Transportation Planning

### ***Staff and Guests***

Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
Terry Freeland, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Charles Baber, BMC  
Robert Berger, BMC  
Tyson Byrne, Maryland Department of Transportation, OPCP  
Victor Henry, BMC  
Mark Howard, Public Advisory Committee (PAC)  
Zach Kaufman, BMC  
Todd Lang, BMC  
Madeline Mory, Carroll County Citizen  
Ben Pickar, Chair, Technical Committee  
Greg Shafer, Chair, Public Advisory Committee  
Kevin Racine, Citizen  
Ted Yurek, SHA

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary  
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board