

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

July 28, 2015

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

9:02 to 10:35 A.M.

MINUTES

The 271st meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M. by the Chair, Ms. Margaret Kaii-Ziegler. Ms. Lyn Erickson was welcomed as the new representative from MDOT to replace Mike Nixon.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2015 BRTB meeting was made by Ms. Kaii-Ziegler. A motion was made by Mr. John Powell to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Tony McClune. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

Mr. Kevin Racine of Havre de Grace shared his disappointment in the decision not to fund the Baltimore Red Line, noting that it has widespread implications for the ability of individuals to travel along the entire Northeast Corridor. He noted that he was working with staff at agencies to the north and south of the Baltimore region, requesting that they add funding to their plans in order to build the Red Line as part of a Northeast regional rail network.

Mr. Racine also noted frustration by his doctor at having to repeatedly fill out paperwork for MTA's Mobility program about Mr. Racine's disability, as he will never be able to drive. He reported that upon visiting Philadelphia he was able to get a transit pass for the disabled simply by showing his MTA card. He asked why MTA requires recertification for those who do not have a temporary disability.

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda reported on the comment period that closed on Monday, July 13 for three documents out for public review. These included: the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Air Quality Report and the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan. During this time,

public meetings were held on June 24 from 6 to 7 p.m. (GoToMeeting Webinar) and on July 1 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. with the PAC Policy & Legislation Subcommittee. Neither the Air Quality Plan nor the LEP plan received comments, but four comments were received on the TIP. Copies of these comments were distributed to BRTB members and are attached to the Public Involvement Report. Staff worked with BRTB member agencies to review and respond to comments. A copy of the response matrix is also included in the public involvement report.

Ms. Haines Benkhedda went on to report that staff will be participating in several National Night Out events in the region on Tuesday, August 4. She asked that BRTB members share with BMC any National Night Out events in their communities in which they'd like staff to participate in.

Staff is preparing an outreach and participation plan for the release of the Draft *Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan*, which is expected to be released for public comment in early September through mid-October 2015, with a vote by the BRTB in November. Staff is also working on an advertising schedule and is asking BRTB members for assistance in identifying locations in which information could be shared, including transit buses, community centers, community associations, events, etc. Mr. Todd Lang noted that a draft schedule for the public comment period and potential meeting dates is on the table in front of members. Members were asked to work with Ms. Regina Aris on dates, times, and locations, which need to be ADA and transit accessible. Mr. Powell suggested that the Howard County meeting be held in conjunction with their September Public Transportation Board meeting. He also agreed to work with Ms. Haines Benkhedda on getting some advertisements on buses in Howard County.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report, July 2015]

4. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Greg Shafer reported the following from the July 1st PAC meeting:

- The PAC reviewed the five BRTB action items for this month and approved four resolutions. Regarding the fifth BRTB action item, they did not feel they had sufficient knowledge to provide comment on BRTB Resolution #16-2 regarding Self-certification of the metropolitan planning process in the Baltimore region.
- PAC Resolution #2015-10 was approved in support of the Conformity Determination of the amended *Plan It 2035* and the FY 2016-2019 Baltimore Region TIP. Mr. Shafer noted that PAC members are encouraged by the findings that air quality is improving.
- PAC Resolution #2015-11 was approved in support of the projects recommended to receive funding under the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program. PAC members were very pleased to see recommended funding for Safe Routes to Schools projects in Carroll County and other bicycle and pedestrian projects.
- PAC Resolution #201-12 was approved in support of the updated Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan with two comments. The first recommended that the BRTB better coordinate the outreach goals of the Public Participation Plan with the LEP Plan in order to most effectively spend limited

dollars. The second recommendation was that the BRTB keep an eye out to recruit multilingual staff members, consistent with regional language/LEP demographics.

- The PAC went on to review the TIP and members had great concern about the Governor's decision not to fund the Baltimore Red Line and many questions as to the impact on other TIP projects such as the Bayview Multimodal center. Additional comments surrounded specific funding amounts or local projects. After discussion and online review, PAC Resolution #2015-13 was approved in support of the TIP with a number of comments on specific projects. A spreadsheet of these comments is attached to the PAC's resolution.
- The August 5th PAC meeting will focus on the Baltimore Red Line and PAC members are quite interested to learn more about the request by Baltimore County Executive Kamenetz to have the BMC study alternates.
- PAC members are looking forward to participating in upcoming outreach efforts for *Maximize2040* and Mr. Shafer reiterated the PAC's previous resolution recommending active participation by elected officials at the local public meetings on *Maximize2040*.

[Handouts: PAC Resolutions #2015-10, 11, 12 and PAC Resolution #2015-13 with comments]

5. REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

Ms. Sara Tomlinson reported on the July 1 meeting:

- The ICG met on July 1st and unanimously recommended BRTB approval of the Conformity Determination of the 2016-2019 TIP and amended Plan It 2035. Emissions resulting from the transportation network are below adequate/approved emissions budgets. The pollutants addressed are fine particulate matter, ground level ozone, and carbon monoxide.
- The ICG agreed to a methodology and assumptions for the conformity determination of *Maximize2040* and the 2016-2019 TIP. The model used will be the EPA's MOVES 2014 emissions model. A fourth horizon year, 2040, will be added to the analysis. The intent is to have the schedule of the conformity determination align with the schedule of *Maximize2040*. Additionally, the ICG agreed to the exempt/non-exempt status of the projects for conformity purposes.
- Lastly, MDE briefly discussed a document they are writing which is intended by MDE as a companion to the conformity determination.

6. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Brian Muldoon reported on the July 1 meeting:

- The Technical Committee (TC) met at MDOT on July 7 to discuss five action items that are in front of the BRTB today. The TC recommended that all five move forward for your review and approval.
- Regarding Resolution #16-1 for approval of the 2016-2019 TIP, staff provided an update on the Red Line and indicated that it would remain in the TIP at this time. At the time of the TC meeting there were no comments from the public.

- Regarding Resolution #16-2 for approval of self-certification of the metropolitan planning process, the TC concurs that the applicable federal requirements are integrated into the regional process.
- Regarding Resolution #16-3 for approval of the air quality analysis of the 2016 TIP and amended Plan It 2035, the results of the emissions analysis were presented. The Interagency Consultation Group followed an approved methodology and signed off on the conformity document and the associated emissions results.
- Regarding Resolution #16-4 for consideration of applications for funding under the Transportation Alternatives Program, 10 applicants were reviewed. The recommendation identified 6 projects as proposed, pending a discussion with SHA on certain components of each application, 1 would receive an award to be determined to complete initial planning, and 3 would not receive funding from the Baltimore region allocation. The TC agreed that the recommendation move forward for BRTB approval.
- Regarding Resolution #16-5 is to approve an update to the Limited English Proficiency Plan. Staff undertook the required four factor analysis that indicated no LEP population is represented in a sizable manner in the region. However, it is recommended that the growing Latino population be acknowledged and provide interpreter services as appropriate and translation of several key documents. The LEP Plan will be updated every four years based on the most current Census data available. There were several small changes suggested to the content of the Plan which staff has included in the copy in front of you today.
- Under Progress Reports, staff requested the TC members to identify examples of projects that can be included in *Maximize2040* under the set-aside for Complete Streets, bicycle, pedestrian and projects.
- The regional CMAQ bike rack project is also moving forward and the members who are participating were asked to confirm their rack selection and send a letter of financial commitment.

7. ELECTION OF BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD OFFICERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

At the May BRTB meeting, the BRTB Nominating Committee recommended Howard County as Chair and Baltimore City as Vice Chair for FY 2016. Ms. Kaii-Ziegler stated the BRTB will now entertain nominations from the floor prior to a formal vote – none were offered. Hearing none Ms. Kaii-Ziegler asked for a vote for the slate presented by the Nominating Committee. Congratulations were offered to the new officers.

8. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #16-1

Mr. Zachary Kaufman gave an overview of the FY 2016 – 2019 TIP. It includes 140 projects requesting a total of \$3.3 billion – \$2.26 billion in federal fund requests and \$1.07 billion in local/state matching funds. The largest sources of programmed funds are MTA with transit at \$1.46 billion, SHA at \$1.43 billion, and Baltimore City at \$225.5 million. Of the nine project categories, highway preservation

(74) and highway capacity (29) have the largest number of projects. In regards to funding by project category, the transit (40%) and highway preservation (34%) categories account for the highest percentages of funds programmed. Mr. Powell asked if the highway preservation category included bridge projects and Mr. Kaufman responded that it did.

Mr. Lang stated that a 30-day public review for the FY 2016 – 2019 TIP began on June 12, 2015 and ended on July 13, 2015. A public meeting was held on July 1, 2015 at the BMC. A total of four comments were received. Both the Public Advisory Committee and the Technical Committee endorsed Resolution #16-1 for approval by the BRTB.

Ms. Kaii-Ziegler asked for a motion to approve Resolution #16-1. A motion to recommend approval was made by Ms. Lyn Erickson and seconded by Ms. Lynda Eisenberg. Ms. Kaii-Ziegler asked if there was any discussion by the members and then by the audience. Dr. Kwame Arhin asked which version of the CTP the TIP was based on. Ms. Lyn Erickson answered that it was based on the 2015 CTP. Mr. Powell asked if any of the preservation projects were bridges, and indeed there are many bridges included in that category. Ms. Kaii-Ziegler asked for a vote and Resolution #16-1 was unanimously approved.

[PowerPoint: Resolution #16-1 Baltimore Region FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)]

9. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #16-2

Mr. Terry Freeland gave a brief overview of this resolution. All metropolitan planning areas conduct a self-certification of the metropolitan planning process as part of the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This can be seen as an interim step of the certification review, conducted every four years by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, of each MPO's process and procedures for carrying out the transportation planning process.

The resolution states that the BRTB is conducting transportation planning in the Baltimore region in accordance with the applicable federal laws and regulations. The resolution enumerates these laws and regulations and provides additional material explaining how the BRTB conducts its transportation planning activities. There was no discussion, a motion to recommend approval was made by Mr. Tony McClune and seconded by Mr. John Powell. The BRTB voted to approve the resolution.

[PowerPoint: Resolution #16-2 Self-certification of the Baltimore Region Planning Process]

10. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #16-3

Mr. Lang introduced BRTB Resolution #16-3 to approve the air quality conformity determination of the 2016-2019 TIP and Amended Plan It 2035. Ms. Sara Tomlinson (BMC) provided background information on the conformity determination and process. The BRTB, as the federally-designated metropolitan planning organization for the region, is required to perform a conformity

determination. This ensures that the region's transportation plans and programs will not harm air quality of the region. The Maryland Department of the Environment set motor vehicle emission budgets in their State Implementation Plans (SIPs), and the MPO must determine whether the emissions of the transportation network (resulting from the TIP and plan) are equal to or below the emissions budgets. The pollutants addressed in this conformity determination are ground level ozone (and its precursors nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds); fine particulate matter, and carbon monoxide. The years that emissions were calculated for are 2017, 2025, and 2035. The conformity process determined that emissions resulting from the TIP and Plan are below the adequate/approved SIP budgets.

A motion to approve was made by Mr. John Powell and a second was offered by Mr. Tony McClune. The BRTB voted unanimously to approve Resolution #16-13.

[PowerPoint: Resolution #16-3 Conformity Determination of the TIP and Plan It 2035]

11. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #16-4

Mr. Kaufman introduced the 2015 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications for the Baltimore region. Applications were due on May 15, 2015. Subsequently, SHA conducted a technical review and met with BMC staff to discuss projects. Criteria for evaluation included: federal program eligibility and goals; state, regional, and local planning goals; health, environmental and community impact; and program effectiveness.

Mr. Kaufman briefly presented a site map and description of each project. The Baltimore region received a total of ten (10) applications totaling \$5,693,906 in TAP funding requests. The total amount available to the Baltimore region is \$3,569,756. There is also \$572,365 available to the Aberdeen/Bel Air South/Bel Air North urbanized area, though no applications were received for this urbanized area. Under the recommendations, six (6) projects would be endorsed as proposed pending a discussion with SHA on certain components of each application, one (1) would receive an award to be determined to complete initial planning, and three (3) would not receive funding from the Baltimore region allocation. Projects recommended for funding total \$3,332,772 in TAP requests, not including the one award to be determined. Those projects not recommended for funding will still be reviewed for consideration in the statewide competition. There is approximately \$10 million available statewide.

Mr. Lang stated that funding recommendations are contingent on projects meeting necessary technical criteria in consultation with SHA. Both the Public Advisory Committee and the Technical Committee endorsed Resolution #16-4 for approval by the BRTB.

Ms. Kaii-Ziegler asked for a motion to approve Resolution #16-4. A motion to recommend approval was made by Ms. Eisenberg and seconded by Ms. Erickson. Ms. Kaii-Ziegler asked if there was any discussion by the members and then by the audience. Ms. Sally Nash asked when the next opportunity to apply would be. Mr. Kaufman answered that there would be another call for projects next year. Ms. Kaii-Ziegler asked for a vote and Resolution #16-4 was unanimously approved.

[PowerPoint: Resolution #16-4 Transportation Alternatives Program Applications]

12. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #16-5

Ms. Haines Benkhedda presented highlights of the updated Language Assistance Program and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan. A LEP plan is required for all recipients of federal funding, as they must take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to the information and services it provides. In order to do this, a four factor analysis was completed in order to look at 1) Number and proportion of LEP persons in the eligible service area; 2) Frequency with which LEP persons come in contact with the program; 3) Importance of the service provided by program; and 4) Resources available to the recipient.

She went on to highlight the census data used to conduct the analysis and the Vulnerable Population Index, or VPI, tool customized by Mr. Jamie Bridges. The VPI tool identifies concentrations of seven “vulnerable” populations and allows staff to drill down and understand where vulnerable populations, such as those with Limited English Proficiency live. This can allow for targeted outreach.

Lastly, Ms. Haines Benkhedda noted the goal of the LEP plan is to assist any person who is limited English proficient who visits our office or writes/calls for assistance. First and foremost, this is done through posters and language identification cards at the front desk and a contract with a telephonic interpretation service provider. She went on to highlight other key elements of the LEP plan and areas where efforts were expanded such as the translation of additional documents.

Ms. Kaii-Ziegler asked for a motion to approve Resolution #16-5. A motion to recommend approval was made by Ms. Nash and seconded by Mr. McClune. Ms. Kaii-Ziegler asked if there was any discussion by the members and then by the audience. Ms. Eisenberg asked if any of those Spanish language documents are online. Ms. Haines Benkhedda confirmed that a number of Spanish language version of documents are already online, including the Public Participation Plan and the LEP plan. Mr. Powell asked about the use of Google Translate. Ms. Haines Benkhedda reported that this feature is installed on the site in order to provide LEP individuals with a basic understanding of content, however staff understand it cannot replace actual translation services, which are available upon request. She also noted that thanks to a comment by Howard County staff, the website was updated to provide a link and information about how to translate a document, as much of the BRTB’s information is provided in PDF format. Ms. Kaii-Ziegler asked for a vote and Resolution #16-5 was unanimously approved.

[PowerPoint: Resolution #16-5 - Update to the Limited English Proficiency Program]

13. PRESENTATION ON THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER RAIL BRIDGE PROJECT

Ms. Jacqueline Thorne presented an overview of the current status of work on the Susquehanna River Rail Bridge project. An ARRA grant for \$22 million has been awarded for project planning. Amtrak owns this 108 year old bridge and is leading the planning effort with MDOT and the Federal Railroad Administration. The primary purpose is to provide continued rail connectivity along the Northeast Corridor. Concerns with the bridge include: age, swing bridge portion, limited speeds and lack of bicycle and pedestrian access to cross the Susquehanna. The current two-track bridge will likely be replaced with a four-track bridge and be of sufficient height to eliminate the need for a

swing bridge function. The current bridge will be considered for rehabilitation or replaced with one or two new bridges.

The planning process is also looking at reconstructing the approaches on both sides for a distance of 2.5 miles. To date there has been a range of meetings with various stakeholders and review agencies. There was a discussion of key agency comments which ranged from maximum allowable speeds or possible impacts to the endangered Map Turtle. Based on agency comments the Alternates Retained for Detailed Study will be revised and concurrence will be requested in the Fall. All requirements of the FRA grant should be completed by Spring 2017. The grant is not large enough to complete planning therefore there is no timeframe for construction which is expected to cost between \$700M to \$1B.

[PowerPoint: Susquehanna River Rail Bridge Project, Handouts: Study Area Alternative LOD Map, Project Schedule]

14. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Other Business

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Lynda Eisenberg, Carroll County Department of Land Use, Planning and Development
Lyn Erickson, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Air Quality Planning & Monitoring
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
Tony McClune, Harford County, Department of Planning
Sally Nash, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning
John Powell, Howard County, Office of Transportation
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning, Transportation Planning

Staff and Guests

Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Jamie Bridges, BMC
Tyson Byrne, MDOT
Terry Freeland, BMC
Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC

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Victor Henry, BMC

Zach Kaufman, BMC

Alex Krempasanka, MDE

Todd Lang, BMC

Terri Lippa, MTA

Wesley Mitchell, McCormick Taylor

Brian Muldoon, Chair, Technical Committee

Greg Shafer, Chair, Public Advisory Committee

Kevin Racine, Citizen

Rebecca Smith, BMC

Charles Thomas

Jacqueline Thorne, MDOT

Sara Tomlinson, BMC

Ted Yurek, State Highway Administration

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary

Baltimore Regional Transportation Board