

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

May 24, 2016

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

9:06 to 10:20 A.M.

MINUTES

The 281th meeting was called to order at 9:06 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Clive Graham.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2016 BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Graham. A motion was made by Mr. Tony McClune to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Pat Keller. Several revisions to the minutes were made including the Report from the Public Advisory Committee and regarding Resolution #16-15. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

Delegate Charles Sydnor (District 44B, Baltimore County) addressed the Board regarding the proposed re-development of the former Sparrows Point site currently known as Tradepoint Atlantic. The Delegate asked the Board to consider how to connect residents to the job opportunities on the site including the need for improved transit access. Mr. Pat Keller indicated that MTA is reviewing access to the site as part of the Baltimore Link effort and would be happy to meet with the Delegate to review the planning effort.

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Laura Van Wert provided the monthly public involvement report. She reported that there is one open comment period for the [2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\), an amendment to Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan and the Air Quality Conformity Determination](#). Comments are welcome from Monday, May 23 through Friday, June 24, 2016. The TIP projects can be viewed on an interactive map at <http://arcg.is/1qIn0em> and full details are on the BMC website. Ms. Van Wert invited the public to learn more at a public meeting on Wednesday, June 1 at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council; Thursday, June 9 at the SHA MD 32

Planning Study public meeting at the Sykesville Freedom District Fire Department; Wednesday, June 8 at the Baltimore County Public Library, Woodlawn Branch,; or Tuesday, June 14 Baltimore County Public Library, Essex Branch.

Next, Ms. Van Wert reported on the two comment periods which recently closed:

- [2016 Federal Certification of the BRTB](#) – This public comment period ran from Tuesday, March 22 through Friday, April 29, 2016. During this time, one public meeting was held on Monday, April 25 at BMC with approximately 20 people in attendance. In addition, the BRTB received approximately 70 surveys, verbal and written comments. All comments have been shared with the federal certification team and BRTB members.
- [Carrs Mill Road Bridge Replacement Project](#) (Amendment to *Amended 2016-2019 TIP*) – This comment period ran from Monday, April 4 through Friday, May 6, 2016 with public meetings on Monday, May 2 at the Harford County Public Library, Bel Air branch and Wednesday, May 4 at BMC. Four people attended the Bel Air meeting and questions were passed along to Harford County. The comment period received no written comments.

Lastly, Ms. Van Wert shared highlights of staff efforts for the Clean Commute Initiative which launched in April and runs through Fall. Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 20 was a huge success with over 1,800 riders registering for more than 30 events around the region. Photos from the various events are being compiled and shared on the [Bike2WorkCentralMD](#)'s Facebook and Twitter pages.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report, May 2016]

4. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ms. Angela Jones, PAC Vice Chair, reported the following from the May PAC meeting:

- The PAC has reviewed several applications and recommends three new members to fill vacancies on the PAC: Jessica Luty Kabrhel, Jennifer Perry (Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind), and Ian Roddy.
- Mr. Zach Kauffman presented information on the 2017-2020 TIP, in advance of the public comment period. The PAC will review the document in June and finalize comments to the BRTB by their July meeting.
- The Public Involvement Subcommittee discussed the BRTB recertification public meeting and talked about new ways to reach the public. In June they will review survey results and public comments from the recertification process. They also discussed ways of soliciting input including: Recording stories; having tables at regional events; Participating in career days; and Attending outreach events.
- The Policy and Legislation Subcommittee reviewed the TIP Amendment for the Carrs Mill Road Bridge Reconstruction Project. They recommended approval of this amendment without reservation via PAC Resolution #2016-06.

This Subcommittee also discussed some of the recent transportation related legislation from the MD General Assembly (such as House Bills 1010, 1012, and 1013). The PAC has requested a presentation on this legislation in order to understand the potential impact on local, state, and regional transportation planning.

[Handout: PAC Resolution #2016-06]

5. REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

Ms. Sara Tomlinson (BMC) presented an update from the May 18th ICG meeting. The meeting had one action item: the ICG unanimously voted to approve the results of the draft conformity determination of the 2017-2020 TIP and Amended Plan. The results were presented for the emissions modeling for summer daily nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions, summer daily volatile organic compounds (VOCs), annual tons of fine particulate matter (PM2.5), and annual tons of NOx. Estimated emissions are below established SIP motor vehicle emission budgets for these pollutants.

6. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Scott Graf reported:

- Mr. Zach Kaufman introduced Resolution #16-17 to the Technical Committee. Harford County is requesting to add \$1.535 million for construction and inspection fees in FY 2017 for the Carrs Mill Road over Bear Cabin Branch project.
- Mr. Alex Rawls presented details on the project. The existing bridge, located in Fallston, is a three cell concrete pipe culvert built in 1950. The bridge currently supports a two lane 18' wide roadway with no shoulders. The new bridge will be slightly elevated to reduce flooding risk and will consist of two 11' travel lanes with 3' shoulders on each side. The project will include a temporary bridge that will allow Carrs Mill Road to remain open to traffic during construction. Mr. Graf asked for a motion and received unanimous support from the members.
- Mr. Chris Diaczok, the Performance-Based Planning Coordinator at SHA, provided background and process for SHA's approach to asset management. Transportation asset represent a significant investment by the state and will now have a systematic management plan as required by MAP-21. This policy can encompass external bodies, help communicate the implications of funding decisions and reinforce accountability. This management plan covers both pavement and bridges on the NHS with ratings of good, fair and poor for all assets. The plan will cover a ten-year period and include: performance gap analysis, life cycle cost analysis, risk management plan, financial plan, and investment strategies. Local jurisdictions with principal arterials on the NHS will also need to prepare a TAMP and report data to the BRTB.

- Ms. Crystal McDermott reviewed the Fatality Analysis Reporting System data and the Maryland State Police crash data and how members could use this large data set. This data provides open access to crash data. Staff showed several ways to use this information and what resources are available to mine the data.
- Mr. Blake Fisher presented a summary of the region's building permit activity in 2015. Through a series of charts, Mr. Fisher illustrated the changes in residential permitted units from 2006 through 2015 and showed a comparison between the region and state. In 2015, the number of housing units permitted in the region was at the highest level of the past ten years. The Baltimore region accounted for 52.2 percent of the new residential units permitted in the state. The estimated construction cost of permitted non-residential buildings experienced a modest contraction in 2015, decreasing 15.8 percent from the 2014 total. A total of 825 mixed-use units were permitted in 2015, a figure that is 565.3 percent greater than the 2014 total. Mr. Fisher noted that five of the six mixed-use permits were for projects in Baltimore City.
- Mr. Charles Baber reviewed the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) published schedule for BaltimoreLINK and informed the committee that BMC staff was providing technical assistance to MTA. For MTA, BMC staff is in the process of updating transit network assumptions incorporating BaltimoreLINK routes and run time estimates. The revised travel model input assumptions will be used in the calculation of transit accessibility and ridership estimates. An MTA working group is using the analysis in evaluating the proposed transit network in meeting identified goals. MTA has scheduled public hearing in June to present findings and receive comments from the public.

7. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #16-17

The BRTB was asked to approve Resolution #16-17 in support of an amendment to the *Amended 2016-2019 TIP*. Harford County is requesting to add \$1.535 million in Surface Transportation Program funds in FY 2017 for construction and inspection fees for the Carrs Mill Road over Bear Cabin Branch project. The project was publicized for public review from April 4, 2016 through May 6, 2016 with a public meeting on May 2 at the Bel Air branch of the Harford County Public Library and a presentation to the public advisory committee on May 4. Both the Technical Committee and the Public Advisory Committee recommended approval of Resolution #16-17.

Mr. Graham asked for a motion. Ms. Lynda Eisenberg made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution #16-17 and Mr. Pat Keller seconded the motion with unanimous support from the members.

8. REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ON BRTB OFFICERS

Ms. Heather Murphy indicated that the Nominating Committee included representatives from MDOT and Baltimore County and thanked Emery Hines for his service. The Nominating Committee has put forward a slate including Howard County as Chair and Baltimore City as Vice Chair for officers for the BRTB for Fiscal Year 2017. The BRTB will vote for officers at the June BRTB meeting.

9. PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HOWARD STREET TUNNEL

Howard Street Tunnel – Double-Stack Clearance Project

The Howard Street tunnel was built in 1895 and is owned and maintained by CSX Transportation. It is a 1.7 mile long, single-track freight tunnel that runs under downtown Baltimore. Mr. Bradley Smith, Office of Freight & Multimodalism, MDOT, provided an update on the Howard Street Tunnel – double stack clearance project. He noted that this is one of two tunnel projects in the Baltimore region – the other being Amtrak’s B&P tunnel.

The Howard Street tunnel located on CSX’s I-95 rail corridor supports approximately 20 trains per day and is the single biggest obstacle preventing double-stack rail service at the Port of Baltimore. The tunnel has been the subject of numerous studies and reports and for years, the cost estimate to clear the tunnel for double-stack was in the range of \$1-3 billion. However, in 2015, CSX notified MDOT there may be a cost-effective solution to clearing the Howard Street Tunnel for double-stack and in late 2015, CSX and MDOT agreed to jointly fund a study to investigate the feasibility of clearing the Howard Street Tunnel for double-stack. The feasibility study was completed in early 2016 and found that the existing tunnel is structurally sound and has many years of useful life and engineering advances now allow for the tunnel to be improved at a much lower cost than previously thought. In addition to the tunnel, there are nine overhead bridge clearances that also need to be addressed in order to create a double-stack clearance route to/from Seagirt Marine Terminal.

The feasibility study concluded it is possible to create a double-stack clearance route to Seagirt Marine Terminal for \$445 million in approximately 6 years. It includes three components:

1. Howard Street Tunnel Improvements - \$265 million
2. Overhead Bridge Clearances - \$160 million
3. Drainage Improvements - \$20 million

CSX could not fund construction entirely on their own so MDOT and CSX decided to apply for a Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant that was announced by USDOT under the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

On April 14, 2016, MDOT submitted a FASTLANE grant application for the Howard Street Tunnel Project. The scope of work for the FASTLANE grant application only included the tunnel work and overhead bridge work. In order to allow CSX to progress with the drainage improvements immediately, that work was not included in the FASTLANE application. The grant request was for \$155 million, with a state match of \$145 million and CSX providing \$125 million for a total project cost of \$425 million. In addition, CSX would pay \$20 million for drainage improvements.

MDOT expects USDOT to announce FASTLANE awards this summer. If funding is awarded, the project can be completed in about 6 years.

In response to a question on how many applications USDOT received for this grant cycle, Mr. Smith replied that there were about 200 applications totaling over \$9.8 billion – the amount of funds available for this cycle is \$800 million.

Asked if there would be any issues related to the bridges historic structures, he noted that there will likely be some preservation issues and these will be coordinated with the necessary agencies if the project is funded.

10. REVIEW OF UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM ITEMS

Mr. Todd Lang gave a brief review of the topics and projects from the FY 2016 UPWP and upcoming items approved for the FY 2017 UPWP. The review included the funding and schedule for development of the UPWP. Fiscal Year 2016 work items included: development of the Long Range Plan known as Maximize 2040, the FY 2016-2019 and FY 2017-2020 TIPs, updated BRTB Bylaws and Limited English Proficiency Plan and the FHWA/FTA/EPA Certification Review. Fiscal Year 2017 work items include implementation of MAP-21/FAST Act performance measures, several local studies and BRTB/TC identified focus areas including surveys, training and events.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County
Lynda Eisenberg, Carroll County Department of Planning
Clive Graham, Howard County
Brian Hug (for Tad Aburn), MD Dept. of the Environment, Air Quality Planning & Monitoring Program
Emery Hines, Baltimore County, Department of Public Works
Pat Keller, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), Statewide Service Development
Tony McClune, Harford County, Department of Planning
Heather Murphy, Maryland Department of Transportation, OPCP
Sally Nash, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning
Brian Ulrich, Anne Arundel County, Department of Planning & Zoning
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning, Transportation Planning

Staff and Guests

Tyson Byrne, MDOT
Scott Graf, Chair, Technical Committee
Don Halligan, BMC
Victor Henry, BMC
Zach Kaufman, BMC
Todd Lang, BMC
Rebecca Smith, BMC
Delegate Charles Sydnor, House of Delegates

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board