

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

September 26, 2017

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

9:11 to 10:30 A.M.

MINUTES

The 292st meeting was called to order at 9:11 A.M. by the Chair, Ms. Valorie LaCour.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2017 BRTB meeting was made by Ms. LaCour. A motion was made by Mr. Ramond Robinson to approve the minutes and seconded by Ms. Sally Nash. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

No members of the public offered comments at this meeting.

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda reported no comments were submitted on the 2018-2021 TIP Amendment for [I-695 at Cromwell Bridge Road, drainage improvement project](#).

The next *What's on Tap* regional forum is scheduled for Thursday, October 26 and features Ford Motor Company's City Solutions. Following the presentation, a panel featuring Baltimore City Department of Transportation's Director Michelle Pourciau and Howard County's Office of Transportation's Administrator, Clive Graham will discuss their thoughts and reactions to how Ford's vision fits into our region. The location of the event is being finalized and information will be posted on the BMC website.

Lastly, Mr. Todd Lang presented at the County Engineers Association of Maryland Conference on September 22 as part of staff efforts to reach out and engage key stakeholders about the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and how they can be involved in the regional planning process.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report for September 2017]

4. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Eric Norton reported the following from the September PAC meeting:

- Ms. Gladys Hurwitz of the Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT) presented highlights of the Hanover Street Corridor Study which received a TIGER grant.
- The Public Involvement Subcommittee continued their development of an event plan for a PAC sponsored Leadership Academy, utilizing the model outlined in the [USDOT Everyplace Counts Leadership Academy](#).
- The PAC approved PAC Resolution #2017-04 in support of the 2018-2021 TIP Amendment for I-695 at Cromwell Bridge Road, drainage improvement project.
- PAC members discussed the Final Draft of the Boston Street Multimodal Corridor Study, open for comment through September 17, 2017 by the Baltimore City Department of Transportation. Mr. Norton reported that the PAC typically does not focus on local projects, but since the study was funded through the BRTB's Unified Planning Work Program and it has regional implications, they felt it important to provide comments to the BRTB.
- The Equity committee continued to develop a draft policy statement on equity to guide BRTB plans and programs.

5. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Steve Cohoon, Vice Chair of the TC, reported the following from the September Technical Committee meeting, including recommendations to approve two resolutions.

- Resolution #18-4 – Mr. Zach Kaufman presented information on Resolution #18-4, involving recommendations for funding under the Transportation Alternatives Program. See details below.
- Resolution #18-5 – Mr. Kaufman introduced Resolution #18-5, involving SHA's request to add a drainage improvement project in the vicinity of I-695 and Cromwell Bridge Road to the FY 2018-2021 TIP. See details below. The motion passed with unanimous support from the members.
- Maximize2045 Financial Forecast – the financial planning manager at MDOT presented information on the financial forecast for the 2019 regional long-range transportation plan. MDOT analyzes historical growth rates in state funds and federal funds to determine potential future growth rates in these funding sources. Information on recent trends was presented that have decreased the amount of revenue expected to be available statewide and for the region. Besides the expected shortfall owing to lower fuel prices, another reason for the decrease in forecasted revenues for major capital projects compared to the 2015 plan forecasts is that MDOT is devoting more funds to system preservation. This is consistent with the performance-based planning and programming approach and with FHWA's and FTA's emphasis on keeping transportation assets in a state of good repair.
- Update on FAST Act Performance Measures and Targets – BMC gave an update on the status of performance measures and targets required under the FAST Act. These measures must be included in a system performance report in the 2019 plan and, eventually, incorporated into the

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). As the designated MPO for the region, the BRTB will need either to adopt the performance targets set by MDOT or develop its own set of regional targets.

- MDOT staff announced that the draft CTP is now online and that the schedule for Tour meetings has also been posted.
- BMC staff reminded TC members of a consultant effort to develop Transportation Data Books. BMC will release an RFP on Wednesday, September 6 to solicit proposals.
- A member mentioned the recent edition of COG Quarterly and the range of topics in it. He has shared with elected officials in his county.

6. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #18-4

Mr. Kaufman began by summarizing the process for Transportation Alternatives applications and funds available to the Baltimore region. Applications were due on May 15, 2017. Both SHA and BMC staff review applications and then meet to discuss project applications. BMC staff also attended two site visits in August. The recommendation was finalized in September. FY 2018 appropriations for the Baltimore region are \$2.14 million. Eight applications totaling \$15.54 million in funding requests were received for these funds. In addition to Baltimore region funds, there is also \$1.02 million available to applicants that fall within the Aberdeen-Bel Air South-Bel Air North urbanized area. These are composed of \$207,000 in FY 2018 appropriations and unawarded funds from previous years. Two application totaling \$3.45 million in requests were received for these funds.

Mr. Kaufman presented a brief description and site map of the projects recommended for funding. The Aberdeen MARC Station Connectivity Enhancement project is recommended for funding in the Aberdeen-Bel Air South-Bel Air North urbanized area. SHA has identified a few maintenance related improvements that are ineligible for TAP funds, but they are not anticipated to comprise a significant percentage of the \$796,342 request. Three projects are recommended for funding using Baltimore region funds: Patapsco Light Rail Station – Cherry Hill pedestrian connection feasibility study (\$120,000), Pimlico Elementary and Middle School Safe Routes to School (\$257,577), and the WB&A Trail Bridge over the Patuxent River (\$1,760,469). Applications not recommended for funding using Baltimore region funds will be eligible for funding in the statewide competition. Approximately \$7 million in statewide funds are available in FY 2018.

Ms. LaCour asked for a motion. Ms. Heather Murphy made a motion to move Resolution #18-4 and Ms. Lynda Eisenberg seconded the motion. During discussion, BMC staff clarified that those applications not recommended for funding will be eligible in the statewide competition, including applications receiving partial funding with Baltimore region TA funds. Ms. LaCour asked for a vote and Resolution #18-4 was unanimously approved.

[PowerPoint: Resolution #18-4 – Transportation Alternatives Applications]

7. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #18-5

The BRTB was asked to consider Resolution #18-5 in support of a proposed State Highway Administration amendment to the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Lang said that SHA is requesting to add a drainage improvement project in the vicinity of I-695 and Cromwell Bridge Road to the 2018-2021 TIP. The amendment was advertised for public comment from August 24 through September 25, with no comments received. The ICG has determined that the project qualifies as exempt.

Ms. Tara Penders, SHA, presented details on the project. The project is necessary to address an erosion issue and is required as part of the mitigation for the I-695 widening project from US 40 to MD 144. Specifically, the project involves restoration of the Minebank Run stream channel, repair of SHA drainage outfalls and outfall channels, construction of stormwater management facilities to provide water quality treatment, and relocation of the Baltimore County sewer line. SHA anticipates completing this project in the spring of 2020.

This amendment adds the project to the 2018-2021 TIP utilizing federal NHPP funds along with state matching funds for the preliminary engineering, construction, and right-of-way phases. The project requires its own TIP sheet because the total cost now exceeds \$10 million, and must be included as a major project in the State's Consolidated Transportation Program. Federal NHPP funds are added in the amount of \$9.548 million along with \$2.387 million in state matching funds for a total of \$11.935 million added to the 2018-2021 TIP. The total project cost is \$13.455 million, with \$1.52 million expended in previous fiscal years.

Ms. LaCour asked for a motion. Ms. Eisenberg made a motion to move Resolution #18-5 to the BRTB as presented and Mr. Clive Graham seconded the motion with unanimous support from the members.

[PowerPoint/Handout: 2018-2021 TIP Amendment Presentation, TIP Amendment Summary]

8. CENTRAL MARYLAND TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Graham provided an overview of the process and products for the Transit Development Plan (TDP) that is nearing completion. MTA requires the TDP be updated every five years and be endorsed by elected officials. For this update Howard and Anne Arundel counties joined forces due to the formation of the Central Maryland Transit Agency. Mr. Graham focused on Howard County in the overview. The initial step was to identify issues that need to be corrected – older fleet, long routes, etc. Also, there was an effort to get considerable input from the public and they found that the primary purpose for travel was work and also that connections are critical. MTA staff, Mr. Glen Hoge, helped enormously in planning new routes. Another key component is the paratransit service, which is currently free, available to those 55, and older. Numerous changes have been proposed and a series of public meetings is underway. Due to the number of changes there will be two phases of improvements. Mr. Graham displayed route changes on a series of display boards and invited by Robinson to share his Anne Arundel County perspective.

[PowerPoint: Central Maryland Transit Development Plan (focus on Howard County), 5 display boards of routes]

9. MARC/SEPTA COMMUTER RAIL SERVICE EXTENSION RIDERSHIP ANALYSIS

This presentation was postponed due to MTA unavailability.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Lang mentioned that the next meeting in October would be an Empowered Representative meeting on October 24 at 9 AM, not an Elected Officials meeting. The Elected Officials meeting will be rescheduled to January 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Alexandra Brun, (for Tad Aburn) MD Department of the Environment
Steve Cohoon, (for Todd Mohn) Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works
Lynda Eisenberg, Carroll County Department of Planning
Clive Graham, Howard County, Office of Transportation
Valorie LaCour, (for Michelle Pourciau) Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Heather Murphy, Maryland Department of Transportation, OCP
Sally Nash, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning
Alex Rawls, (for Tony McClune) Harford County Department of Planning
Ramond Robinson, Anne Arundel County, Department of Planning & Zoning
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Anjuli Bakhru, Fehr & Peers
Robert Berger, BMC
Kathleen Donodeo, Howard County Office of Transportation
Monica Haines-Benkhedda, BMC
Kathy Falk, Kimley-Horn
Terry Freeland, BMC
Don Halligan, BMC
Victor Henry, BMC
April Holloway, Pennoni Associates
Zach Kaufman, BMC

Todd Lang, BMC
Rick Nas, Kimley-Horn
Eric Norton, Public Advisory Committee Chair
Marieannette Otero, Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Tara Penders, MD State Highway Administration
Rebecca Smith, BMC
Charles Thomas, Baltimore City Resident
Sara Tomlinson, BMC and Interagency Consultation Group Representative

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board