

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 5, 2017
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
5:35 to 7:32 P.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Eric Norton, PAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M. and invited guests to introduce themselves. Ms. Audrey Sellers reported she is Independent Living Specialist for Accessible Resources for Independence and is interested in serving on the PAC.

1. PRESENTATION: MODELING 101

Mr. Charles Baber provided an overview of the regional travel demand model. Transportation planners use this model for simulating current travel conditions and for forecasting future travel patterns and conditions. This allows planners and policy-makers to analyze the effectiveness and efficiency of alternative transportation investments in terms of mobility, accessibility.

Mr. Baber reported the model includes the Baltimore region of 2.6 million people, as well as a portion of the metropolitan Washington region. The model includes over 25,000 roadway links, as well as transit routes and stops, and travel costs.

Data for the model comes from a variety of sources, including census data, the BRTB's Cooperative Forecast Group's demographic forecasts for each jurisdiction, Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs) forecasts for households, population and employment, and information from local comprehensive plans and other land use information. Mr. Baber also provided a summary of how the model simulates the trips people take, which mode they choose, and when they travel.

[Presentation: [Travel Simulation](#)]

2. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES & CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

- **Policy and Legislation** – Mr. Mark Lotz reported the group met and discussed a concern raised by Mr. William Cowan regarding the difficulty in obtaining information about the [Commuter Choice Maryland benefits program](#). Mr. Cowan shared that the Commuter Choice Maryland is an incentive program that encourages Maryland employees to choose transit or vanpools instead of driving to work. The program is an outgrowth of the Transportation Equity Act of 1998, which amended the federal tax code to create financial incentives for transit or rideshare commuters.

In addition to having difficulty finding information on the program, Mr. Cowan was surprised to find that even though the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Transit Administration (MTA) operates the program he is not eligible to participate. He is concerned that MDOT, as well as other BRTB member agencies do not offer this benefit to their own employees. Mr. Cowan also noted that a 2008 law allows employers to offer \$20 a month benefit to bicycle commuters.

Mr. Cowan recommended the PAC urge the BRTB and its members to implement the Commuter Choice Maryland program within their agencies.

It was noted that the program had a long-term vacancy, but a new staff person is now on staff. Before making recommendations to the BRTB, PAC members requested staff from the program present additional information to the PAC. Staff agreed to follow-up with the new Commuter Choice Maryland program staff to set up a presentation.

- **Public Involvement** – Mr. Greg Shafer reported that the subcommittee met before the meeting and discussed ideas for a PAC sponsored Leadership Academy. The PAC could utilize the model outlined in the [USDOT Everyplace Counts Leadership Academy](#), which several PAC members participated in in 2016. Since USDOT has a corresponding toolkit, the subcommittee felt that offered a good starting point for developing an event plan.

The goal of a PAC Leadership Academy is to increase the range of people who are aware of the BRTB and involved in transportation advocacy. Members discussed how the event would differ from or support the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance's Transportation 101 course, launching this year. Ideas include:

- Hosting a daylong event with childcare, transit access, and food.
- Hosting a series of events focused on various constituencies such as faith

Mr. Shafer agreed to draft an initial event plan for members to review online and finalize at its next meeting to submit to the BRTB for its consideration.

- **Equity** – Mr. Eric Norton reported that the March Equity ad-hoc subcommittee meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The next meeting is scheduled for April 19 at CMTA. The group continues to discuss a collaborative definition of equity and a review of the BRTB's Vulnerable Populations Index (VPI) tool.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The PAC postponed approval of the [February](#) and [March 2017](#) meeting minutes.

4. MAXIMIZE2045 UPDATE

Ms. Regina Aris reported that the process to develop *Maximize2045: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan*, the next Long-Range Transportation Plan for the Baltimore region is underway. The next step is to review performance measures and targets this summer. In addition, she noted that the BRTB Technical Committee is considering options for scenario planning exercises, including the ideas generated by the PAC.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Staff and PAC members made the following announcements:

- Mr. Eric Norton reported that the BRTB responded to the PAC's comments in PAC Resolution #2017-01 on the BRTB's Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget and Work Plan. After discussion, the PAC requested that the following additional comments be presented to the BRTB prior to their vote on the UPWP:

- The PAC is very appreciative of the answers it received in response to a set of comments and recommendations that the PAC submitted during the development of the FY18-19 UPWP. The thorough responses demonstrate that BRTB members and BMC staff took the PAC's comments seriously and gave them thoughtful consideration. However, prior to the BRTB voting for final approval of the UPWP, the PAC would like to submit further comments on two BRTB responses.

In response to PAC Comment #4, BRTB added language that "*[s]taff will continue to work with BRTB members and elected officials to identify opportunities to move BRTB meetings out into the community...*".

The PAC appreciates the added language, but would like to see a more specific and accountable commitment to have BRTB members engage directly with residents on regional transportation issues.

In response to PAC Comment #6, BRTB updated the language as "*[t]o encourage equitable outcomes and involvement in the regional transportation planning decision-making process.*"

The PAC appreciates the response, but would like to strengthen the commitment to equitable outcomes. The PAC recommends adopting the following language as the stated purpose for the Transportation Equity Task in the UPWP: "*To implement policies and practices that will lead to equitable outcomes and involvement in the regional transportation planning decision-making process.*"

- **BRTB Meetings** – The BRTB did not hold a meeting in March. The [April 25 BRTB meeting](#) features consideration of two action items: BRTB Resolution #17-19 in support of the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 UPWP and Resolution #17-20 recommending a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for consultant contracts awarded under the FY 2018 UPWP. The BRTB will also receive briefings on the recently completed Public Transportation Choice Study: *Attitudes and Behavior of Baltimore Area Residents with Access to Transit* and transportation related bills from the recently completed MD General Assembly and the president's proposed federal budget. Minutes and a list of upcoming events are online at baltometro.org.
- **Upcoming meetings** – A member recommended that MDOT or a BRTB share information about how a project idea can get into the local, state, or regional plans.
- **Bike to Work Day** – The Baltimore Metropolitan Council is coordinating the 20th Bike to Work Day in the region with over 30 events around the region on Friday, May 19. Sponsors and additional events are welcome. Visit Bike2WorkCentralMD.com for more information!

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Terraine Arnold – Arunah Avenue Association
William Cowan – South Baltimore Neighborhood Association
Michael Davis – Resident, Carroll County
Tiffany Davis – Resident, Baltimore City
Janet Eveland – Resident, Baltimore City
Benjamin Gilardi – Resident, Baltimore City
Benjamin Groff – Resident, Baltimore City
Tafadzwa Gwitira – Resident, Baltimore County
Yvette Hicks – Resident, Baltimore County
Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Rita Ossiander – Resident, Baltimore County
Derrick Sexton – Resident, Baltimore City
Greg Shafer – Resident, Howard County
Zack Vacovsky – Resident, Baltimore City
Paul Verchinski – Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA)
Jennifer Weeks – Resident, Baltimore County

Proxy designated by: Mark Howard

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Monica B. Haines Benkhedda – BMC
Audrey Sellers – Accessible Resources for Independence