

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 8, 2017
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
5:41 to 7:15 P.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Eric Norton called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The PAC approved the [October 2017](#) meeting minutes.

2. PRESENTATION: TRANSPORTATION EQUITY IN ACTION

What does it mean to be equitable in transportation? Is this just a nice thing, but impossible in practice? Ms. [Kristen Jeffers](#), writer and urban planner shared her ideas, solutions and examples of transportation equity in action, especially as it relates to how cities like Baltimore can help create an equitable transportation system.

To begin the discussion, Ms. Jeffers reviewed, in plain language, how transportation equity is defined. Key elements include:

- Access to transportation for all
- Access to jobs – as a commuter, as well as jobs in transportation industries
- Connects communities
- Supports public health
- Equal opportunities for all communities to be including in transportation planning

Ms. Jeffers shared examples of transportation equity in action from:

- [Atlanta Marta Army](#) – The MARTA Army is an independent grassroots action group, committed to enhancing the ridership experience on public transit by making it more accessible and convenient throughout all Metro Atlanta neighborhoods. The MARTA Army's first initiative is an adopt-a-stop program. More than 300 soldiers have adopted bus stops all over Metro Atlanta, which have become gateways into the transit system.
- [Houston's transportation response following Hurricane Harvey](#) – Nearly 91 percent of the commuters in the Houston metro travel alone by car to get to work. Prior to Hurricane Harvey, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) positioned vehicles on high ground to ready them for emergency response. Operators transported over 15,000 individuals

evacuated from dangerously flooded neighborhoods to safety and shelters around the county. Paratransit operators fielded emergency calls during the storm. Bus drivers coordinated quickly with firefighters and police officers to rescue stranded drivers. METRO is now turning its attention to ways in which it can expand transit access through the development of a long-range regional transit plan known as METRONext and other initiatives.

- *Kansas City 2017 GO Bond and Airport Vote* – In April 2017, voters approved an \$800 million plan to fix infrastructure through the use of revenue created by issuing approximately \$40 million in General Obligation (GO) bonds each year for 20 years. A key feature of the plan calls for a complete change in the way the City repairs sidewalks. The bonds would create revenue to allow the City to pay for residential sidewalks repairs, rather than charging homeowners. The bonds would be repaid through a property tax increase. In addition, voters approved a plan to spend \$1 billion to replace the current layout of Kansas City International Airport. The new terminal is to be paid for by the airlines and user fees, not tax dollars.
- [Seattle Transportation Equity Program](#) – The City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) is a citywide effort to end institutional racism in Seattle City government and to achieve racial equity across the community. Since transportation is the 2nd highest household cost after housing, disproportionately affecting cost-burdened households in Seattle, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) has developed a transportation equity program in partnership with community members and other stakeholders. Efforts include a low-income car share program and transit access, youth programs where youth help fix bicycles, community conversations, a [Racial Equity Toolkit](#), and an Ambassador Program.

Ms. Jeffers offered some ideas on ways in which Baltimore could address transit equity, including the rethinking of transit fares, a focus on improving bus shelters and transit access, and real-time indicators. She wrapped up with a list of resources for additional information and a Q+A.

[Presentation: [Transportation Equity in Action](#)]

3. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES & CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

- **Equity** – Mr. Norton reported that the committee during the month to finalize a [draft policy statement on equity to guide BRTB plans and programs](#). Staff shared the draft with PAC members via email, but the committee has yet to receive any comments. Mr. Norton asked that members review by Friday, November 17 the draft statement.

The Equity Subcommittee will review comments on this draft submitted by PAC members at their next meeting on Monday, November 20 at noon at Impact Hub. All members were encouraged to attend the equity subcommittee meeting in person or by phone.

- **Public Involvement** – Ms. Beth Wiseman reported that the Subcommittee met before the meeting to outline a draft budget for a PAC sponsored Leadership Academy, based on the [USDOT Everyplace Counts Leadership Academy](#). Mr. Todd Lang will present the draft budget and event plan to the BRTB Executive Committee. Staff will work with subcommittee members as they continue to update the [event plan](#) and begin seeking sponsors and event partners.

Ms. Wiseman reported that the subcommittee began a review of the 2014 Public Participation Plan. The PAC has an opportunity to provide input into the update of the plan, which staff plan to release for public review and comment in late February or early March 2018. At this time, staff are considering a change to the TIP amendment process and minor updates to other elements of the plan. Mr. Greg Shafer recommended that the PAC consider a review of the PPP utilizing the equity statement. Mr. Norton agreed and said that the Equity committee will add this to their agenda for November.

- **Policy and Legislation** – Mr. Mark Lotz reported the subcommittee met at 4:30 and received a presentation on the [Hawkins Point Bridge over CSX Railroad project](#) and TIP amendment.

He presented highlights of the project and PAC Resolution #2017-06 in support Hawkins Point Bridge over CSX Railroad project. Mr. Norton asked if bike lanes were being included at this time. Mr. Lotz reported that the road includes 6 foot shoulders, but the road will not be striped for bicycles. The PAC approved this resolution.

[Handout: PAC Resolution #2017-06 in support of Hawkins Point Bridge over CSX Railroad project]

- **Membership** – Mr. Norton reported that a number of members have terms ending in December and should notify Ms. Haines Benkhedda if they have not done so already if they'd like to request an additional 3-year term of service.

In addition, new member applications are being accepted through early December. The BRTB particularly seeks applicants from Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne's Counties, as well as individuals with the following interests or experience:

- Leaders in local community associations, including low-income, minority, or limited English speaking communities;
- Transit riders and individuals in the freight, transit, and private transportation industries;
- People with disabilities or representative organizations; and
- Pedestrians and bicyclists.

4. NOMINATIONS FOR 2018 PAC OFFICERS

PAC members nominated the following individuals for 2018 PAC Chair (1 position): Eric Norton and Dick Ladd. Members nominated the following individuals for Vice Chair (2 positions): Mark Lotz and Taffy Gwitira. Additional nominations will be welcome by email through Monday, November 20. The PAC will vote on its 2018 chairs at the December 6 meeting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Todd Lang reported on recent and upcoming BRTB Meetings. The BRTB cancelled its October meeting; however many of the BRTB empowered representatives, as well as members of the Technical Committee and a PAC Vice Chair attended the [Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations \(AMPO\)](#) Annual Conference in Savannah, GA. The November 28 BRTB meeting features consideration of the Hawkins Point Bridge over CSX Railroad project TIP amendment and the findings of the Patapsco Regional Greenway Concept Plan and Implementation Matrix.

Mr. Lang also reported that the BRTB has tentatively scheduled a meeting with elected officials for January 26 at 9 a.m. in Annapolis. Upcoming events, agendas, and minutes is online at baltometro.org.

PAC Members and staff made the following announcements:

- [North Avenue Rising](#) – The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and Baltimore City are hosting a series of public workshops from November 13-16 to share information and collect public comments on the proposed transportation investments for the North Avenue Rising project.
- [MTA Public Hearings on Winter Service Changes](#) – MTA is hosting ten public hearings to provide the opportunity to comment on proposed service changes to CityLink, LocalLink, and Express BusLink routes. The proposed changes would become effective on or about February 4, 2018.
- [Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study](#) – The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) is conducting a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study to evaluate traffic demand across the Chesapeake Bay and identify a preferred plan to address congestion at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. A virtual meeting is November 15 and comments are welcome through December 15.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

William Cowan – South Baltimore Neighborhood Association

Michael Davis – Resident, Carroll County

Janet Eveland – Resident, Baltimore City

Benjamin Gilardi – Resident, Baltimore City

Ben Groff – Resident, Baltimore City

Tafadzwa Gwitira – Resident, Baltimore County

** by phone*

Mark Howard – Resident, Baltimore County

Angela Jones – Resident, Baltimore County

Paul Kowzan III – Broadway Area Business Association

Dick Ladd – Resident, Anne Arundel County

Mark Lotz – Resident, Harford County

Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance

Greg Shafer – Resident, Howard County

Paul Verchinski – Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA)

Jennifer Weeks – Resident, Baltimore County

Beth Wiseman – Baltimore County Association of Senior Citizens Organizations

Staff and Guests

Robert Berger – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

Monica B. Haines Benkhedda – BMC

Kridsten Jeffers – The Black Urbanist

Todd Lang – BMC