

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

January 3, 2017
9:33 to 11:04 A.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 A.M. by Mr. Scott Graf.

1. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 6, 2016 MINUTES

Mr. Graf asked for approval of the minutes from the December meeting of the Technical Committee. Ms. Valorie LaCour moved to approve the minutes with Mr. Tyson Byrne seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION OF RESOLUTION #17-14

Mr. Robert Berger presented a summary of the applications received by the BRTB for the Federal Section 5310 Grant Program, which funds public transportation projects to meet the needs of seniors and people with disabilities.

In Fall 2016, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) announced a statewide call for projects for the FY 2018 - FY 2019 Section 5310 Program. The BRTB received twenty-two (22) applications from non-profit organizations in the Baltimore region.

Two applications were from small urbanized and rural areas, that if endorsed by the BRTB, will advance to a statewide competition, i.e., the State Committee for Coordinated Human Service Transportation, which meets on February 15, 2017. After a discussion of the applications the committee voted to recommend endorsement of Resolution #17-14, which would advance the two applications to the State Committee.

Mr. Graf asked for a motion for approval. Mr. Byrne motioned for approval, and Ms. Valorie LaCour seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

[Handout: Summary of Small and Rural Areas, PowerPoint: FY2018-FY2019 Section 5310 Grant Requests]

3. RECOMMENDED ACTION OF RESOLUTION #17-15

Mr. Berger presented eighteen applications from the Baltimore Urbanized Area and two applications from the Harford Urbanized Area that will be considered for approval at the February 28, 2017 BRTB meeting. Mr. Berger informed the Committee that BMC staff had not completed their recommendations, noting that the total request for the Baltimore Urbanized Area exceeds available funds by approximately \$1.7 million. Several committee members questioned the size and purpose of the request made by CMRT, including the use of Baltimore region funds for statewide activities.

[Handout: Summary of Large Urban Areas]

4. RECOMMENDED ACTION OF RESOLUTION #17-16

Ms. Sara Tomlinson introduced Resolution #17-16 to Endorse the Purpose & Need Statement for the I-95 Access Improvements supporting development at Port Covington. As part of the MPO's congestion management process (CMP), the BRTB reviews for endorsement key NEPA decisions of projects that could result in a significant increase in capacity for single occupant vehicles. As a result, the BRTB will have a resolution to endorse this Purpose & Need Statement at their meeting later in January.

The purpose of the project is to maintain operations on I-95 and other elements of the local and regional transportation system by accommodating a forecasted increase in transportation demand resulting from planned development at Port Covington, and enhancing multi-modal connections to the peninsula. Improvements are needed to: address increased transportation demand, address inadequate roadway capacity and geometry, support economic development and land use changes, and to address the limited multi-model connections.

The Port Covington redevelopment project will transform 266 acres on the peninsula from under-utilized industrial brownfields into a mixed-use urban development. As proposed, this is said to be the largest urban redevelopment project currently underway in the U.S. The redevelopment project is projected to generate more than 5,600 vehicular trips during the AM peak hour and more than 8,100 vehicular trips during the PM peak hour, to and from the site.

Mr. Byrne mentioned the Fast Lane grant application, and laid out how much funding would come from each of the project partners. Mr. Graf asked if there was a motion for approval of the resolution. Mr. Byrne motioned for approval, and Mr. Kwaku Duah seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

[Handout: Purpose and Need for I-95 Access Improvements from Caton Avenue to the Fort McHenry Tunnel EA]

5. MD 140 CORRIDOR STUDY – FOUNDRY ROW DEVELOPMENT

For the FY 2016 UPWP, members of the Technical Committee and BRTB asked staff to identify and study corridors in which traffic congestion and traffic operations were significant issues. Working with

jurisdictions, particularly Baltimore County, BMC staff identified the MD 140 corridor, from I-695 to the Carroll County line, as a candidate for study. Members of the Technical Committee agreed that this corridor could serve as a pilot for additional study.

To gain insight into some of the traffic operations issues affecting the southern end of the MD 140 corridor, BMC staff invited Ms. Sara Trenery, Business Development Representative with the Baltimore County Department of Economic and Workforce Development, to report on recent development activity in the southern portion of the corridor, including activity at the Foundry Row development. Ms. Trenery presented information on retail and commercial facilities at Foundry Row, including a new Wegmans grocery store that opened in the fall of 2016, as well as other points in the corridor. These other points include continued development at the Owings Mills TOD site and the upcoming demolition of the former Owings Mills Mall. Ms. Trenery noted the numbers of new jobs expected to be created and referenced two previous traffic studies in this corridor completed by consultants. Ms. Trenery stated that she would forward these studies to BMC staff.

[Handout: Owings Mills Updates]

6. PROGRESS REPORT ON UPWP PROJECTS

- **MD 140 Corridor Study**

Mr. Ed Stylc gave a presentation detailing upcoming traffic count data collection activities. BMC plans to support the MD-140 Pilot Project with supplemental turning movement counts in and around the Foundry Row project. Mr. Stylc mentioned that in order for that to take place BMC needed approval for a new 3-year on call traffic count contract. The committee was provided all dates in the process from the issuing of the RFP through consultant selection. Mr. Stylc gave a brief overview on the history of BMC's traffic count program which was established in 1990. The upcoming RFP would be similar to the one that recently expired allowing for various requests for screenline/volume, vehicle classification, and turning movement counts. Mr. Stylc then mentioned that BMC has also collected vehicle occupancy counts at regional activity centers and asked the committee for thoughts on the value of that data. Mr. Byrne mentioned that the data may be of interest, however would be more meaningful with a thorough analysis rather than just another round of data collection. Mr. Alex Rawls inquired about potentially collecting vehicle occupancy data around Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County. Mr. Stylc replied that it was something BMC could do with permission from the base.

Mr. Emery Hines asked about count locations in the BMC online traffic count database that seemed to be in odd locations like on dead end streets. Mr. Stylc replied that they were most likely specialized counts taken by SHA who provide factoring of all BMC counts and include state counts in the BMC deliverable database.

[PowerPoint: Spring 2017 Data Collection Plan – Traffic Counts]

- **FY 2018 – 2019 UPWP New Focus Areas and Core Funding**

Mr. Todd Lang distributed a summary of potential FY 2018-2019 UPWP focus areas. This included a tally of the numbers of votes from each BRTB retreat participant for each focus area covered at the retreat.

These potential focus areas received four votes apiece: “continue focus areas from FY 2017 UPWP” and “study transfer points between MTA and LOTS agencies.” These potential focus areas received two votes apiece: “assist in comprehensive / sub-area planning” and “advanced planning for priority letter projects and TAP projects.” All other potential focus areas received either one or no votes.

There was one new potential focus area, recommended by a Technical Committee member: “explore commuting patterns in the Baltimore region and greater megaregion.”

[Handout: Potential FY 2018-2019 UPWP Focus Areas]

• **Long-Range Transportation Plan**

Mr. Terry Freeland touched base again on the potential use of *Maximize2045* as the title/brand of the next long-range transportation plan. Committee members are on board with this title. He also reviewed the suggested additions to the strategies supporting the regional transportation goals and presented additional suggestions from Queen Anne’s County relative to enhancing tourism and easing evacuations in times of emergency. Mr. Byrne remarked that the suggestion from Queen Anne’s County to add another bullet point related to tourism and travel seemed redundant, as the concerns were already covered under another bullet point. Mr. Freeland stated that staff can combine these two bullet points so as to remove redundancy while continuing to address the concerns of Queen Anne’s County.

Mr. Freeland asked the committee members to review all of the suggested additions and let him know if there were any questions or comments.

[Handout: 2019 Long-Range Transportation Plan – Suggested New Strategies]

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Zach Kaufman handed out a production schedule for the draft FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He answered a few questions about expected due dates which is March 1, 2017 for all project submittals.

[Handout: Timeline for the 2018-2021 TIP]

Mr. Lang took a moment to share the draft agenda for the BRTB meeting in January. An invitation to attend the meeting was extended to all since the location will be the Baltimore Cruise Ship Terminal and will be one of the meetings with elected officials.

At 11:04 Mr. Graf called for a motion to close the meeting. Ms. Lacour made a motion and Mr. Rawls seconded the motion.

At 11:05 Mr. Graf called for a motion to open the closed session to discuss a Request for Proposals (RFP): *Regional Traffic Monitoring Program: Multi-Year On-Call Traffic Counts*. Ms. Lacour made a motion and Mr. Byrne seconded the motion. After a brief discussion of the RFP, Mr. Graf called for a motion to accept and move the RFP forward. Mr. Byrne made a motion and Ms. Lacour seconded the motion. The closed session ended with a motion from Ms. LaCour and a second by Mr. Rawls.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Alex Brun– Maryland Department of the Environment
Tyson Byrne - Maryland Department of Transportation
Ken Choi – Maryland Department of Planning
Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne’s County
David Cookson – Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning
Kwaku Duah – City of Annapolis Department of Transportation
Scott Graf – Carroll County Department of Planning & Zoning
Emery Hines – Baltimore County Department of Public Works
Valorie LaCour - Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Tara Penders – State Highway Administration (SHA)
Alex Rawls – Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris - Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Charles Baber - BMC
Robert Berger – BMC
Blake Fisher - BMC
Terry Freeland - BMC
Victor Henry - BMC
Don Halligan - BMC
Todd Lang – BMC
Zach Kaufman – BMC
Shawn Kimberly – BMC
Crystal McDermott - BMC
Michael Samra – Harford County Planning & Zoning
Douglas Simmons – JMT
Eileen Singleton - BMC
Rebecca Smith – BMC
Ed Stylc - BMC
Sara Tomlinson – BMC
Sara Trenergy - Baltimore County Department of Economic and Workforce Development