



Baltimore  
Metropolitan  
Council

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**CONTACT: Laura Van Wert, 410-732-9564**

## **BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON TWO-YEAR DRAFT BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAM**

**BALTIMORE, MD (February 17, 2015)** – The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) seeks public comment on its draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 through **Thursday, March 19**. The UPWP is intended to serve as a work program and budget that outlines how a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) will use federal transportation funds.

The UPWP details local and regional transportation projects, studies and other activities. The BRTB, as the Baltimore region's MPO, has the option to produce a UPWP annually or every two years. The BRTB will switch to a two-year UPWP beginning with the proposed FY 2016-2017 document.

The BRTB plans to switch to a two-year UPWP because many of the initiatives – such as determining air quality conformity and monitoring traffic conditions as part of the Congestion Management Process – lend themselves to planning cycles that exceed one year. The BRTB is committed to operating as efficiently as possible while helping the Baltimore region meet federal guidelines.

The proposed UPWP includes a budget in **FY 2016 of \$6,586,080**; and an estimated budget for **FY 2017 of \$5,793,080**. The Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration provide funding that would require a 20 percent match from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) or from BRTB member jurisdictions.

A significant portion of proposed funding for FY 2016 is scheduled to go toward the completion and development of *Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan*, the next long-range transportation plan for the Baltimore region. Funding also will go toward: upgrading analytical tools and capabilities, preparing the next four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), maintaining a congestion management process, planning for air quality, safety and security issues, and continuing public involvement. Phallic

The BRTB will accept public comments by email at [comments@baltometro.org](mailto:comments@baltometro.org); by fax at 410-732-8248; on Twitter [@BaltoMetroCo](https://twitter.com/BaltoMetroCo) and [@bmoreinvolved](https://twitter.com/bmoreinvolved), using the hashtag #BRTBlistens; or by mail at:

The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board  
Offices @ McHenry Row  
1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300  
Baltimore, MD 21230

The BRTB also will accept public comments during its meetings on **Tuesday, February 24** and **Tuesday, March 24** at 9 a.m. or **Tuesday, April 28** at 4 p.m. at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

For more information, visit [www.baltometro.org](http://www.baltometro.org) or contact Regina Aris, transportation assistant director and policy planning manager, by email at [raris@baltometro.org](mailto:raris@baltometro.org) or by phone at 410-732-9572.

The BRTB is the federally recognized metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for transportation in the region. The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) provides the BRTB with technical and staff support.

The BRTB operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable laws. Appropriate services can be provided to qualified individuals with disabilities or those in need of language assistance who submit a request at least seven days prior to a meeting. Call 410-732-0500.

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*The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) works collaboratively with the chief elected officials in the region to create initiatives to improve the quality of life and economic vitality. BMC, as the Baltimore region's council of governments (COG), hosts the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB), the federal metropolitan planning organization (MPO), and supports local government by coordinating efforts in a range of policy areas including emergency preparedness, housing, cooperative purchasing, environmental planning and workforce development.*

*BMC's Board of Directors includes the Baltimore City mayor, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard county executives, a member of the Maryland State Senate, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates and a gubernatorial appointee from the private sector.*