



Baltimore
Metropolitan
Council

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

**STAFFORD ROAD BRIDGE REHABILITATION, HYBRID BUS
IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED AS UPDATES TO 2014-2017
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

BALTIMORE, MD (March 6, 2015) – The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) will accept public comments for two amendments proposed for the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) until **Wednesday, April 8**. Proposed amendments include bridge rehabilitation in Harford County and hybrid bus improvements. The BRTB will vote on the amendments on **Tuesday, April 28, at 4:30 p.m.**

The 2014-2017 TIP, which is the list of regional transportation projects requesting funding, includes more than \$2 billion in proposed federal, state and local money for highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects during the next four years. The funding goes towards maintaining, operating and expanding the transportation system. The TIP is fiscally constrained.

Below, the BRTB provides summary information of the projects and changes to the TIP:

- Harford County proposes adding to the TIP a new project, the **Stafford Road Bridge Rehabilitation**. The 65-year-old bridge requires repair and/or replacement of the bridge deck, and repairs to the beam seats, abutments, wingwalls, piers, backwalls, rocker bearings and railing posts. The goal is to extend the life of the bridge by another 40 years.

Adding this project to the TIP would allow Harford County to utilize \$160,000 in Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds, with \$40,000 in matching local funds, for Preliminary Engineering in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015. Construction funds in the amount of \$750,000 - \$563,000 in federal and \$187,000 in local - and other funds in the amount of \$50,000 for inspection fees are included in FY 2017. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1 million.

- The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) proposes adding to the TIP a new project, **Bus Efficiency Enhancements Research and Demonstrations**. The MTA, through a federal grant for research, development and deployment, will retrofit 41 hybrid buses with new beltless alternators throughout the Baltimore region. The project is intended to reduce alternator maintenance and belt failure, and to improve fuel economy.

Adding this project to the TIP allows MTA to use \$496,000 in Federal Section 5312 grant funding, matched with \$212,000 in state funds, for FY 2015. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$708,000.

The BRTB will host a public meeting about the amendments in conjunction with the Public Advisory Committee on **Wednesday, April 1, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**, at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's office, located at the Offices @ McHenry Row, 1500 Whetstone Way, Baltimore City, 21230. Comments also are welcome during the Public Comment Opportunity during the BRTB meetings on **Tuesday, March 24 at 9 a.m.** or **Tuesday, April 28 at 4:30 p.m.**

In addition, public comments will be accepted by email at 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:

Attn: Public Involvement Coordinator
The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board
Offices @ McHenry Row
1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300
Baltimore, MD 21230

For more information, visit www.baltometro.org or contact Zach Kaufman, transportation planner, by email at zkaufman@baltometro.org, or by phone at 410-732-0500 ext. 1048.

The BRTB is the federally recognized metropolitan planning organization for transportation in the region. 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.

###

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.