



Thank you for subscribing to B'More Involved! B'More Involved, produced by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council on behalf of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board, promotes civic engagement in local and regional transportation, planning, and equity and provides information on air quality, safety for drivers and people who bike or walk, emergency preparedness, and more. These opportunities - also posted on Facebook and Twitter - allow you to stay up-to-date on important events and news, and, of course, B'More Involved!



MAXIMIZE2040: PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR REGION

Results of Future Thinking Workshops + Public Project Ideas Now Online

Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan is the Baltimore region's next long-range transportation plan. The process to create *Maximize2040* launched in April 2014 and the final version goes before the BRTB for approval in November 2015. A draft of the plan is scheduled to be released for public comment during summer 2015. Results of recent efforts in the *Maximize2040* planning process have been released by the BRTB. Read highlights below or visit maximize2040.com for details.

Scenario Workshops Provide Glimpse of Future

The BRTB, in its development of *Maximize2040*, considers major trends and external forces that could dramatically change our lives 25 years in the future. The objective is to find the investment strategy that best addresses the needs of the Baltimore region, while recognizing the challenges it could face in the future.

To reach that goal, the BRTB sought out opinions from the public as well as regional experts. More than 200 people participated in a survey that asked about social, economic, technological, environmental and political forces that could come into play. The BRTB also hosted two workshops in which 38 experts from around the region participated. Highlights of the major workshop findings are available in an infographic and full details can be found in our report, *Preparing for an Uncertain Future*.

Results of Public Project Ideas now online

As part of Maximize2040, the public shared more than 1,145 project ideas as a result of a three-month outreach effort. Suggestions included 178 major (large-scale and long-term) projects, such as the extension of the subway or light rail, high-speed rail to Washington, D.C. or New York City, adding lanes along area highways, and constructing an east-west connector highway between Harford and Baltimore Counties.



The bulk of the ideas (754) generated relate to short-term projects or operations. For example, 206 ideas related to expanding local bus service, 118 ideas suggested improving bicycle and pedestrian access, 30 ideas recommending new road or transit technologies, and others related to improvements to MARC commuter train service. The remaining 215 comments relate to policies such as greater enforcement for texting while driving and reducing/increasing tolls.

[Visit Maximize2040.com to read more](http://Maximize2040.com)



Stafford Road Bridge Project

OPEN FOR COMMENT

MTA Hybrid Bus Efficiency Improvements



The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) welcomes comments on updates to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for two projects through **Wednesday, April 8**. 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.

If approved, the **Stafford Road Bridge over Deer Creek Project** would receive approximately \$1 million in funding to repair or replace the 65 year old bridge, which shows numerous deficiencies and areas of deterioration. The bridge, located in Darlington at the North end of Susquehanna State Park is a popular destination for people seeking to canoe or kayak, fish, hike or bike the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenways Trail. In addition, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) would use a \$708,000 federal grant to **retrofit 41 hybrid buses** with new beltless alternators.

The BRTB will host a public meeting about the proposed amendments in conjunction with the Public Advisory Committee on **Wednesday, April 1** from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council. Comments may also be shared in writing.

[Find out more about the funding requests or how to share comments](#)



OPPORTUNITY COLLABORATIVE LAUNCH SERIES OF WORKSHOPS FOR RESIDENTS SEEKING TO IMPROVE THEIR COMMUNITIES

Citizens Planning and Housing Association will host local meetings where concerned residents can get together and discuss how to improve their communities. This is part of the Opportunity Collaborative's third and final round of public engagement. The first two meetings have been scheduled for:

Tuesday, March 24

6 to 8 p.m.

Morgan State University Student Center, Room #316
1700 East Cold Spring Lane
Baltimore, MD 21251

Thursday, March 26

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Epicenter Community Center
1918 Pulaski Highway
Edgewood, MD 21040

The Opportunity Collaborative is the consortium charged with developing a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development for the Baltimore region. The Baltimore Metropolitan Council serves as staff to the Collaborative.

[Learn more about the Opportunity Collaborative](#)

OPEN FOR COMMENT

Budget and Work Program for Fiscal Years 2016-2017



The BRTB welcomes comments on its draft budget and work program for Fiscal Years 2016-2017 through **Thursday, March 19, 2015**. The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Transportation Planning details projects, studies and other activities scheduled for completion by BRTB members and staff. The draft UPWP includes both local and region-wide activities.

Highlights include:

- Promoting safety for all users of the transportation network, especially people who bicycle or walk

- Soliciting feedback from key stakeholders and members of the public on *Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan*
- Conducting a study of the MD 924 corridor to gain a comprehensive report on roadway safety and operations
- Continuing to evaluate the feasibility of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service in Howard County.

[Learn more about the draft BRTB Budget or share your thoughts](#)



HOWARD COUNTY SEEKS INPUT FOR PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

Walk Howard to host open houses on Monday, March 16, and Tuesday, March 28, or online.

Howard County continues efforts to improve walkability and is creating a new pedestrian master plan, *WalkHoward: Moving Forward*.

The goal is for a happier, healthier, safer and more efficient community through a system of sidewalks, pathways, bus stops and roadway crossings that make it easy to get around as a pedestrian.

Howard County invites you to join them in developing an integrated and safe pedestrian network by participating in two open houses and telling them where a spot improvement is needed.

Attend one of the *WalkHoward* Open Houses on:

Monday, March 16

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Wilde Lake Village Center - Slayton House
10400 Cross Fox Lane
Columbia, MD 21044

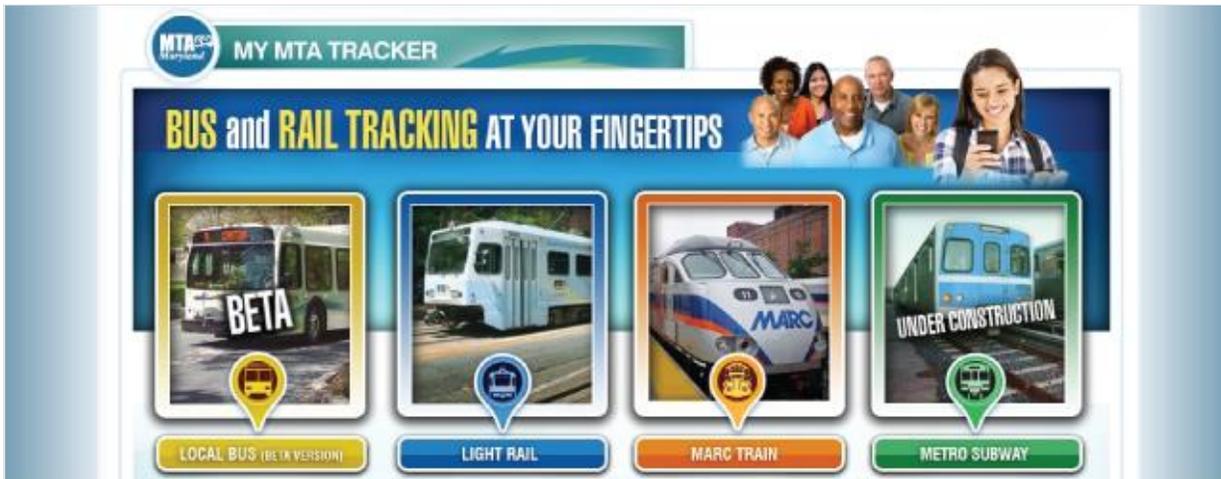
Saturday, March 28

1:30 to 3 p.m.

North Laurel Community Center
9411 Whiskey Bottom Road
Laurel, MD 20723



[Learn more at WalkHoward.org](http://WalkHoward.org)



MTA LAUNCHES BUS TRACKING SERVICE

New service add to existing tracking service for light rail and Metro

Sometimes the hardest part of waiting for your bus or train is wondering when it will arrive. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) recently launched My MTA Tracker for Bus, a GPS-based system that enables customers to determine the estimated arrival time of their Local Bus via computer, tablet, and smartphone or by phone at 410-539-5000.

MyMTAtracker.com also offers easy access to the existing MARC Tracker, and the Light Rail Tracker, which launched last year. Customers can take advantage of the convenient new bus-tracking system as MTA focus groups begin a 100-day testing period of the technology to help identify any issues and improve the program. Eligible riders who volunteer to test the system through text and online surveys over the course of 2-3 weeks will receive a 7-day MTA Charm Card transit riding pass.

[Visit mta.maryland.gov](http://mta.maryland.gov) to check out or test My MTA Tracker for Bus

TeleWORK Baltimore.com

Skip the commute,
save time, save money.

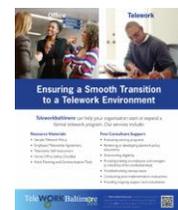


TELEWORK PROVIDES EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES MUTUAL BENEFITS

Check out these free resources to help you make the case and establish a successful telework program

More and more businesses are realizing bottom-line benefits from structured telework programs. Teleworking offers many benefits to both employers and employees including:

- Improved employee satisfaction and retention;



- Reduced recruiting and training costs and a competitive advantage in finding outstanding employees; and
- Increased productivity by employees and less time commuting.

Some of the most common barriers to implementing telework are myths - stories based on the fear of the unknown rather than on actual experience. A telework program can proactively address concerns.

Teleworkbaltimore.com provides free online resources and support to help registered employers in the Baltimore region start or expand a formal telework program. The program, funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation, is administered by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

[Visit TeleworkBaltimore.com to learn more or get started](http://TeleworkBaltimore.com)



OTHE NEWS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

[Towson Town Hall Meeting](#)

Monday, March 16 at 5:30 p.m.
Sheppard Pratt Conference Center in Towson

[Bike Maryland Symposium](#)

Tuesday, March 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis

[Liberty Reservoir Watershed Plan Community Mtg](#)

Wednesday, March 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Soldiers Delight Visitor Center in Owings Mills

[Bike/Pedestrian/Trails Funding Workshop](#)

Thursday, March 19 from 3 to 5 p.m.
Washington County Library in Hagerstown

[Safer Streets, Stronger Economies](#)

Tuesday, March 24 at 1 p.m. (Webinar)

[Bike/Pedestrian/Trails Funding Workshop](#)

Tuesday, March 24 from 3 to 5 p.m.
Bowie City Hall in Bowie

[Local Emergency Planning Committee \(LEPC\)](#)

Wednesday, April 29 from 9 to 11 a.m.
Banneker Room
George Howard Building in Ellicott City

[World of Possibilities Disabilities, Healthy Aging, and Independent Living Expos](#)

Saturday, May 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Radisson Hotel North Baltimore in Timonium

[Applications Now Being Accepted for BRTB Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Group](#)

The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board seeking a pedestrian and a cyclist to serve on its Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Group as public members.

[2014 Carroll County Master Plan](#)

The Carroll County Board of Commissioners adopted the 2014 Carroll County Master Plan on February 26. View the approved plan or an interactive map of zoning and existing and future land use.

BIKE TO WORK DAY

05/15/15

 @Bike2WorkCentralMD

 @Bike2WorkCentMD

Bike2WorkCentralMD.com



Monica B. Haines Benkhedda
Public Involvement Coordinator
410-732-0500 x1047
mhainesbenkhedda@baltometro.org

STAY CONNECTED WITH BMC



STAY CONNECTED WITH B'MORE INVOLVED



Baltimore Metropolitan Council, 1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300, Baltimore, MD 21230