



Baltimore
Metropolitan
Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FUNDING FOR 3 MARC TRAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT THROUGH MAY 11

BALTIMORE, MD (April 10, 2015) – The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) will accept public comments for three amendments proposed for the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) until **Monday, May 11**. Proposed amendments include several Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) MARC Train improvements to locomotives, coaches, stations, maintenance facilities and tracks. The BRTB will vote on the amendments on **Tuesday, May 26, at 9 a.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.

While all of the projects are new to the BRTB TIP, the first two previously appeared in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). These amendments are intended to split funding between the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. TIPs. Below, the BRTB provides summary information of the projects and changes to the TIP:

1. MTA proposes adding to the TIP a new project, the **MARC Train Commuter Rail preservation and improvements**. The MTA will implement ongoing improvements intended to maintain the safety and quality of MARC infrastructure. Such improvements include lighting design for the Baltimore Penn Station; block ties and lighting upgrades for the B&P tunnel; inner track platform upgrades; lead track to the Jessup Yard; lot repairs to the Perryville Park & Ride; and the development and implementation of positive track control, an on-board safety control feature, for all locomotives.

Adding this project to the TIP allows MTA to allocate a total of **\$31.2 million** in new construction funds: Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 includes \$6.3 million in federal funding, with \$1.6 million in matching; FY 2016 includes \$6.9 million in federal

funds, with \$1.7 million in matching; and FY 2017 includes \$11.8 million in federal funds, with \$2.9 million in matching.

2. MTA proposes adding to the TIP a new project, **MARC Train Locomotive and Coach overhaul and replacement**. Overhauls are intended to extend the lifecycle of mechanical systems and car bodies, through an ongoing 10- and 20-year replacement schedule, thus providing safe and reliable vehicles for the public. Funding will go toward safety feature upgrades to some MARC vehicles, as well as the purchase of 54 multi-level coaches.

Adding this project to the TIP allows MTA to utilize Section 5337 State of Good Repair Formula Program funds. MTA also will allocate a total of **\$29.8 million** in new construction funds: FY 2015 includes \$8.8 million in federal funding, with \$2.2 million in matching; FY 2016 includes \$9.7 million in federal funding, with \$2.4 million in matching; and FY 2017 includes \$5.3 million in federal funding, with \$1.3 million in matching.

3. MTA proposes adding to the TIP a new project, **improvements to MARC Train Facilities**. The improvements include: Procurement of the **Riverside Maintenance Facility** from CSX Transportation for maintenance activities on equipment operating on the MARC Train Camden Line; comprehensive structural inspection and recommended repairs on two garages at the **Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport facility**; barrier-free access and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance at the **MARC Train West Baltimore Station**; and the purchase of private property to construct two additional storage tracks with related infrastructure at the **MARC Martin State Airport Station**.

Adding this project to the TIP allows MTA to allocate a total of **\$6.6 million** in new construction funds: FY 2015 includes \$2.5 million in federal funding, with \$600,000 in matching; FY 2016 includes \$1.5 million in federal funding, with \$400,000 in matching; and FY 2017 includes \$1.3 million in federal funding, with \$300,000 in matching.

The BRTB will host a public meeting about the amendments on **Thursday, May 7, from 5-7 p.m.**, at the [MARC Train Camden Station](#) platform, located at 301 West Camden Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21230. Comments also are welcome during the Public Comment Opportunity during the BRTB meetings on **Tuesday, April 28 at 4:30 p.m.** or **Tuesday, May 26 at 9 a.m.**

In addition, public comments will be accepted by email at comments@baltometro.org; by fax at 410-732-8248; on Twitter [@BaltoMetroCo](#) and [@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.

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