



Baltimore
Metropolitan
Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**\$3.3 BILLION IN TRANSPORTATION FUNDING OPEN FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT THROUGH JULY 13**

BRTB considers approval of 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program; Air Quality Determination Report; and Limited English Proficiency Plan

BALTIMORE, MD (June 12, 2015) – The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) will accept public comments for three draft transportation documents until **Monday, July 13**. These documents include the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, Air Quality Determination Report and Limited English Proficiency Plan. The BRTB will vote on them on **Tuesday, July 28, at 9 a.m.**

To view each of these draft transportation documents in full, visit www.baltometro.org. Physical copies also are available through the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's Regional Information Center. Details about each of them are as follows:

2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The 2016-2019 TIP, which is the list of regional transportation projects requesting federal funding, includes more than **\$3.3 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. Select projects throughout the region in the TIP include:

- *Regionally*: MARC Train improvements to locomotives, coaches, stations and tracks.
- *Anne Arundel County*: Widening of MD 175 from Disney to Reece roads as part of a larger project to address current and future congestion near Fort Meade; and repairs and/or deck replacement for eight bridges including the O'Connor Road Bridge over Deep Run.
- *Baltimore City*: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements near transit stops; Bicycle and pedestrian route improvements including a .65 bike loop in West Baltimore; Phase II of the Kirk Bus Division modernization project; and streetscape/improvement projects along Belair Road, Greenmount Avenue, and Mount Royal Avenue.

- *Baltimore County*: Adding a lane on both loops of I-695 from MD 41 to MD 147; adding a lane on the outer loop of I-695 from US 40 to MD 144; and 17 local bridge projects.
- *Carroll County*: Streetscape improvements on MD 30 Business in Hampstead including ADA compliant sidewalks and bicycle facilities and construction of the Governor Brown Trail linking Sykesville to various destinations within the Freedom Designated Growth Area.
- *Harford County*: Reconstruction of the intersection at US 40 and MD 7/MD 159 and widening of US 40 in the vicinity of this intersection; Bridge repair and/or deck replacement for 11 bridges including the Abingdon Road Bridge over the CSX Railroad.
- *Howard County*: Adding a third lane to US 29 northbound from Seneca Drive to south of MD 175 and adding a third lane in each direction and sidewalks to Snowden River Parkway from Broken Land Parkway to Oakland Mills Road

In addition, the BRTB will publish several jurisdictional multimedia presentations to highlight proposed TIP projects during the week of **June 15**.

Air Quality Conformity Determination

The Baltimore region is designated as not meeting the Clean Air Standards and so must review its current transportation plan and program to ensure conformity with the State Air Quality Implementation Plan (SIP). The Air Quality Conformity Determination report details a comprehensive analysis of effects of the draft 2016-2019 TIP for the Baltimore region and the long-range projects in Plan It 2035 (as amended). The report addresses the following criteria pollutants: ozone, fine particulate matter and carbon monoxide.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

The intent of the LEP plan is to ensure that where there are a substantial number of residents in the Baltimore region who do not speak or read English proficiently, these individuals will have access to the planning process and published information, and that public notification is provided in other languages. The draft plan includes a four-part analysis and lays out how the BRTB will provide services to LEP individuals.

The BRTB will host a webinar about the draft transportation documents on **Wednesday, June 24, from 6-7 p.m.** Details and instructions will be published at www.baltometro.org. The BRTB also will host a public meeting on **Wednesday, July 1, 4:30-6:30 p.m.** during the Public Advisory Committee monthly meeting at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's office. Comments also are welcome during the Public Comment Opportunity during the BRTB meeting on **Tuesday, July 28 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](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 Regina Aris, assistant director, by email at raris@baltometro.org, or by phone at 410-732-9572.

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.

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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.