



Baltimore  
Metropolitan  
Council

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**HELP US SHAPE THE NEXT 20+ YEARS OF  
TRANSPORTATION: *BRTB seeks public comments on Maximize2040,  
the next long-range transportation plan for the Baltimore region***

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 1, 2015)** – The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) seeks public comments for three transportation documents until **Thursday, October 15**. These documents include the draft of [Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan](#), two amendments to the [2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program](#) (TIP) and the [Air Quality Conformity Determination Report](#).

The BRTB is scheduled to vote on the transportation documents on **Tuesday, November 24, at 9 a.m.**

“As Chair of the BRTB, I’m pleased to share the draft of the region’s next long-range regional transportation plan with our constituents,” said Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman, BRTB chair. “Your feedback on the plan is important during the next 45 days, because whether it’s soccer games at Centennial Park, work at Fort Meade, dinner in Hampden or visits with family in Severna Park, we live regional lives.”

***Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan***

*Maximize2040* contains a list of the major surface transportation projects the region expects to implement. This plan, a federal requirement for surface transportation, will serve as the blueprint for fiscally constrained transportation planning in the Baltimore region from the years 2020 through 2040. The plan also establishes the region’s broad transportation goals and performance measures, which will serve as guiding principles as the region plans and carries out projects.

*Maximize2040* is a carefully selected mix of projects, developed over a two-year period, which takes into account anticipated funding levels through 2040, and future trends and demographics. They promote transportation safety, improve accessibility and mobility, encourage investments in existing communities, and maintain or improve air and water

quality. Select projects and estimated costs throughout the region proposed for *Maximize2040* include:

**Throughout the Baltimore Region:**

- Road widening of I-695, from I-95 to MD 122, and from I-95 to I-83, for \$1.49 billion.
- Road widening of MD 295, from I-195 to MD 100, for \$287 million.
- The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) MARC Growth and Investment Plan, a \$668 million project to improve train mainline capacity, maintenance facilities and station areas.
- \$155 million will be set aside for potential Complete Streets/bike and pedestrian initiatives.

**Anne Arundel County:**

- Reconstructing and widening U.S. 50, from I-97 to MD 2 for \$353 million.
- Widening MD 175 from the Howard County line to MD 170 for \$274 million.

**Baltimore County:**

- Widening I-795, from Franklin to Owings Mills boulevards; adding auxiliary lanes to Owings Mills Boulevard; and adding a new interchange at Dolfield Boulevard for \$219 million.

**Carroll County:**

- Widening MD 32, from MD 26 to the Howard County line; and adding bicycle and pedestrian facilities for \$189 million.

**Harford County:**

- Widening MD 22, from MD 543 to the Aberdeen Proving Ground Gate; adding an HOV lane from Old Post Road to the Aberdeen Proving Ground Gate; and creating bicycle and pedestrian access where applicable for \$537 million.

**Howard County:**

- Adding a Bus Rapid Transit project for \$480 million on U.S. 29, from Mt. Hebron to MD 198.

**Baltimore City:**

- Improving Moravia Road, from Belair Road to Sinclair Lane, with \$12 million in upgrades to the roadway, curbs, sidewalks, streetscape and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) elements.
- Constructing the Bayview MARC station, a \$73 million new station on Lombard Street at Bayview Boulevard.

**Amendments to the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

The 2016-2019 TIP is the list of regional transportation projects requesting federal funding. It includes more than **\$2.5 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.

Amendments occur in the TIP because of changes to project scope and funding or changes to federal documentation polices. Public comment periods and meetings aim to keep communication open regarding these changes. Below the BRTB provides summary information of the projects and changes to the TIP:

- The MTA proposes updating the TIP to reflect that the **Baltimore Red Line project**, a **\$2.65 billion** 14.1-mile light rail transit line, will no longer move forward. At this time, the only funds being shown in the TIP are Fiscal Year 2016 state funds in the amount of **\$4.5 million**, which will be used to close out the project. The 2016-2019 TIP Baltimore Red Line project previously allocated a total of \$800 million in funding.
- Baltimore City proposes adding to the TIP a new project, the **\$6.8 million East Baltimore Development Inc. (EBDI) Road Reconstruction**. This project encompasses four square blocks north of the Johns Hopkins University East Baltimore campus at Chase and McDonogh Streets and Rutland Avenue. The roadway and infrastructure improvements are intended to support expected community and business redevelopment.

The project utilizes funds from two SAFETEA-LU federal earmarks. The project allocates in both FY 2016 and FY 2017 a total of **\$2.72 million** in federal funding and **\$680,000** in matching funding.

### **Air Quality Conformity Determination Report**

The Baltimore region does not meet 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 amended 2016-2019 TIP for the Baltimore region and the long-range projects in *Maximize2040*. The report addresses the following criteria pollutants: ozone, fine particulate matter and carbon monoxide.

### **B'More Involved in Our Region's Transportation Planning**

The BRTB will host town hall meetings about *Maximize2040* draft, the TIP amendments and the Air Quality Report. Details are as follows:

- Howard County - **September 15, 6-8 p.m.** at the George Howard Building's Ellicott Room, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD, 21043.
- Carroll County - **September 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**, at the Carroll County Office Building, Room 003, 225 North Center Street, Westminster, MD, 21157.

- Harford County - **September 28, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**, at the Harford County Emergency Operations Center, 2220 Ady Road, Forest Hill, MD, 21050.
- Anne Arundel County - **September 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**, in the Annapolis High School cafeteria, 700 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD, 21401.
- Baltimore County - **October 7, 7-9 p.m.**, at the Baltimore County Planning Department's first floor hearing room, Jefferson Building, 105 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, MD, 21204.
- Baltimore City - **October 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**, at the Benton Building, Third Floor, 417 East Fayette Street, Baltimore City, MD, 21202.
- The BRTB also will host a town call meeting on **October 1, noon to 1 p.m.** Click here to [access the meeting](#), by computer, tablet or smartphone: Phone [1-877-309-2070](tel:1-877-309-2070) (Toll-free) and enter Access Code: 743-489-149.

In addition, public comments will be accepted by email at [comments@baltometro.org](mailto:comments@baltometro.org); on Twitter [@BaltoMetroCo](https://twitter.com/BaltoMetroCo), [@BmoreInvolved](https://twitter.com/BmoreInvolved) and [@Maximize2040](https://twitter.com/Maximize2040), 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

The BRTB is the federally recognized metropolitan planning organization for transportation in the region. BMC provides the BRTB with 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](tel: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.*