



Baltimore
Metropolitan
Council

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

BALTIMORE CITY SEEKS AMENDMENTS FOR SIX PROJECTS IN THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

BALTIMORE, MD (December 30, 2015) – The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) seeks public comments for [six amendments](#) to the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) until **Friday, February 5, 2016**. The BRTB is scheduled to vote on the TIP amendments on **Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 9 a.m.**

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 provides for maintenance, operation and expansion of the transportation system serving the Baltimore region. The TIP is fiscally constrained.

Amendments occur in the TIP because of changes to project scope and funding or changes to federal documentation policies. 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:

- Baltimore City proposes adding to the TIP a project, **the Colgate Creek Bridge Replacement**, which is related to the Southeast Baltimore Freight Corridor. This project replaces a structurally deficient, functionally obsolete bridge on Broening Highway over Colgate Creek, enabling trucks to reroute away from residential communities and addressing major quality of life issues of area residents. The bridge connects major port terminals, Dundalk and Seagirt, to I-95 and I-695. It operates under capacity because of deterioration from overweight freight traffic, and holds a Bridge Sufficiency Rating of 42.3 out of 100.

Adding this \$22 million project to the TIP allows Baltimore City to utilize \$10 million in federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funds, with a \$10 million match, and \$1.6 million in federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds, with a \$400,000 match.

- Baltimore City proposes adding to the TIP a project, **the Keith and Holabird Avenues Improvements**, which is related to the Southeast Baltimore Freight Corridor. This project seeks to provide safer, more efficient access between the Port of Baltimore and the Interstate System by allowing freight vehicles to utilize Keith Avenue or Holabird Avenue to directly access I-95 and I-895 without going through residential communities.

Adding this \$6.2 million project to the TIP allows Baltimore City to utilize \$3.64 million in federal STP funds, with a \$2.56 million match, for construction and preliminary engineering.

- Baltimore City proposes adding to the TIP a project, **the Broening Highway Complete Streets**, which is related to the Southeast Baltimore Freight Corridor. Complete Streets improvements will be implemented in the residential portion of Broening Highway to further dissuade trucks from traveling through residential neighborhoods, while creating a more walkable and bikeable environment that improves quality of life.

Enhancements between Holabird Avenue and Boston Street may include sidewalk widening, crosswalk and ADA enhancements, a median and bumpouts with stormwater management and/or bio-retention elements, and dedicated bicycle facilities. This \$2.3 million project seeks to use \$1.2 million in federal STP funds for construction and preliminary engineering.

- Baltimore City proposes amending the TIP to include the addition of funding for the **Charm City Bikeshare project**. This amendment adds \$1.5 million in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds for Phase I implementation of the Charm City Bikeshare system. Bikeshare provides access to bicycles for short-distance trips as an alternative to private vehicles and last-mile connections between transit and final destinations, thereby reducing traffic congestion, noise, and air pollution.
- Baltimore City proposes amending the TIP to include the **Waterview Avenue/Annapolis Road Bridge Replacement project**. Details of the project include the replacement of three bridges over the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (MD 295):
 1. **Maisel Street Pedestrian Bridge** – Reconstruction meeting ADA width requirements;
 2. **Waterview Avenue / Annapolis Road Bridge** – ADA compliant ramps, a wide sidewalk/bikeway on one side of the bridge, and crosswalk improvements; and
 3. **Annapolis Road Bridge** (located 0.6 miles south of the Waterview Avenue / Annapolis Road Bridge) – Sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the bridge and will meet ADA requirements.

The current Bridge Sufficiency Ratings for the Waterview Avenue / Annapolis Road and Annapolis Road bridges are 50.1 and 45.1 out of 100. Adding these bridge replacement projects to the TIP allows Baltimore City to use \$24 million in federal STP funds, with a \$6 million match, for a total of \$30 million.

- Baltimore City proposes amending the TIP to include the **Edison Highway Bridge project**, which is part of the **Citywide Bridge Preservation and Rehabilitation project**. This amendment provides funding to replace the Edison Highway Bridge over Amtrak tracks, as the bridges' severely deteriorated support structures are beyond repair and it has a Bridge Sufficiency Rating of 48.4 out of 100.

The \$1.7 million project allocates construction funds in the amount of \$1.36 million federal STP funds, with \$340,000 in matching funds. The project had previously been on hold.

The BRTB will host a public meeting for the TIP amendment on **Wednesday, February 3, 2016 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.** (with presentations at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.) at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, located at the Offices @ McHenry Row, 1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300, Baltimore, Maryland, 21230. Comments also are welcome during the Public Comment Opportunity during the BRTB meetings on **Tuesday, January 26, 2016** and **Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 9 a.m.**

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

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