

Appendix I: Public Involvement Process



Public Outreach and Engagement

Public Participation Plan

MAP-21 requires MPOs to consult with state and local officials, transit operators, and the public when conducting transportation planning. This includes developing a public participation plan.

The BRTB's public participation plan defines the process for providing the public and interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the planning process. This document is available from the BMC website: www.baltometro.org/be-involved/participate/public-participation-plan.

Engaging All Stakeholders

MAP-21 also stipulates that the public participation plan consider the needs of people and groups traditionally underserved by transportation systems, including low-income and minority households.

Throughout the planning process to develop *Maximize2040*, the BRTB provided members of the public and other stakeholders with opportunities to provide comments on draft goals and measures, give opinions on potentially game-changing future forces and trends, share project ideas, review draft plans, attend public meetings, and give the BRTB feedback.

Flyer and E-Newsletters

BMC staff periodically sent materials to people on the BRTB mailing list to inform them about opportunities to participate. These materials included flyers announcing events (see example at right) and e-newsletters. These are available online at www.maximize2040.com.

Help us
improve transportation
in the Baltimore region
for you, your family,
and your community

The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) is accepting project ideas from individuals and organizations as part of its effort to develop *Maximize 2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan*.

It's easy to share your ideas...

- ★ Add your idea to our online map at maximize2040.com
- ★ Share your ideas using our public project ideas comment form
Download a comment form at maximize2040.com and send it back to us by email to comments@baltometro.org, by fax to 410-732-8248, or by mail to: The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board Offices @ McHenry Row, 1500 Whetstone Way, Ste 300, Baltimore, MD 21230.
- ★ Send us a tweet!
We're listening on Twitter [@Maximize2040](https://twitter.com/Maximize2040) [@BaltoMetroCo](https://twitter.com/BaltoMetroCo) [#BRTBlistens](https://twitter.com/BRTBlistens)

Be sure to send us your ideas by December 9, 2014

maximize2040.com

BRTB *Maximize2040 is an initiative of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board, the metropolitan planning organization for the Baltimore region.*

Twitter and Facebook

Throughout the process, the BMC website contained links through which people could follow *Maximize2040* progress on www.twitter.com/maximize2040 and www.facebook.com/maximize2040.

Public / Stakeholder Input

Goals and Strategies



The BRTB sought input on proposed goals and strategies from each of its advisory groups. Some of these groups formed subcommittees to review and provide recommendations on proposed goals and strategies. BMC staff passed along all recommendations from the advisory groups to the BRTB for consideration.

The BRTB also welcomed comments from the public on draft goals and strategies for *Maximize2040* from Friday, March 14 through Monday, April 14, 2014.

The BRTB approved the final goals and strategies for *Maximize2040* in April 2014.

A link to the [comments from the public on the draft goals and strategies](#) is online, as is the [BRTB response](#).

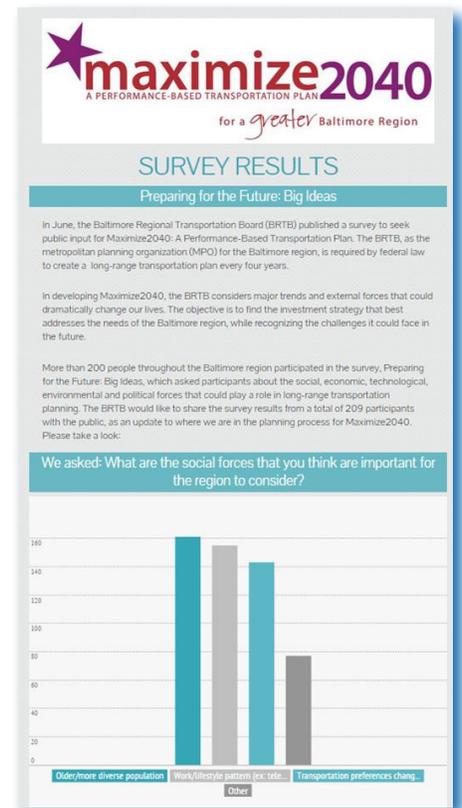
Critical Future Trends and Forces

One of the goals of *Maximize2040* is “Promote Informed Decision Making.” This goal is consistent with MAP-21’s emphasis on performance-based planning and programming. That is, monitoring the performance of transportation systems to make sure the region is getting the best “bang for the buck” with its investments. A basic question is “How can the region make informed decisions about the future, especially when there are a lot of uncertainties about the future?”

To help answer that question, the BRTB sought out opinions from the public and regional experts. The public input phase of this process took place from September to December 2014. More than 200 people throughout the Baltimore region participated in a survey that asked about the social, economic, technological, environmental, and political forces that could play a role in long-range transportation planning.

Responses to that survey are at <https://infogr.am/survey-results-70?src=web>.

From those results, the BRTB crafted three extreme scenarios and invited experts from around the Baltimore region to provide insight about how to craft *Maximize2040* to reflect possible future trends and events. Appendix C includes details about this process and its results.

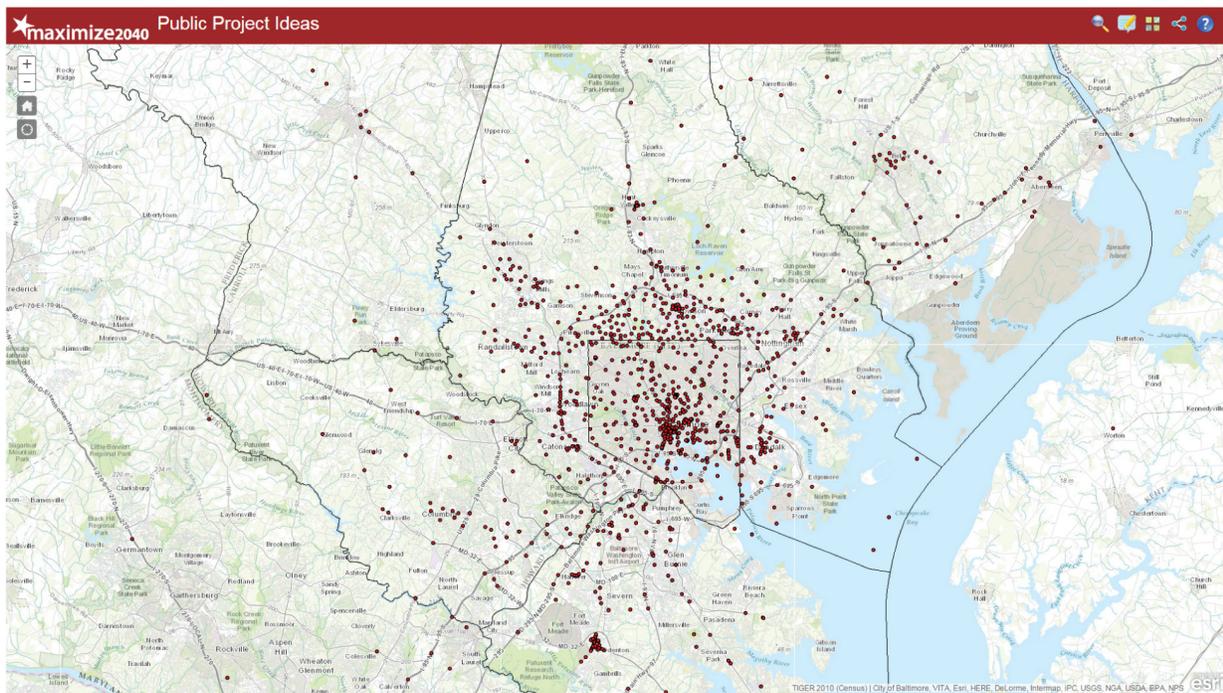


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Ideas for Large-Scale / Long-Term Projects

As noted in Chapter 4, the BRTB solicited ideas for major, long-term projects from the public. This process took place from September 9 through December 9, 2014. Below is an image from the BMC website showing the interactive map through which people could submit project ideas.

In addition, advisory committee members and BMC staff members participated in numerous events throughout the region. This gave people who attended those events the opportunity to speak with committee members and staff members and to submit project ideas in hard copy format.



Suggestions for Large-Scale / Long-Term Projects

Of the more than 1,140 public project ideas submitted by the public, 178 relate to major, long-term projects that potentially could be included in *Maximize2040*. A summary of these major ideas follows:

- 101 suggestions to extend the MARC (commuter rail), Metro (subway), or light rail systems (e.g., recommendations to extend Metro and light rail lines beyond their existing termini: to Columbia, to Harford County, to Dundalk, to Pennsylvania, etc.; also, support for the Red Line project)
- 31 suggestions to construct new or widened roads on the National Highway System (NHS) (e.g., recommendations to widen I-695, construct a new Harford-Baltimore County connector, extend U.S. 29 northward, etc.)
- 22 suggestions to construct new or widened non-NHS roads (e.g., widening of MD 97 in Carroll County, MD 543 in Harford County, MD 32 and MD 100 in Howard County, etc.)
- 14 suggestions to construct new or upgraded interchanges
- 10 suggestions to provide high-speed rail service to Washington, DC, and/or New York City



Suggestions for Small-Scale / Short-Term Projects, General Comments

Most of the other submittals from the public (more than 750 submittals) recommended relatively small-scale and/or short-term projects. Many of these recommended projects are important to the daily travels of people in the region, and they can be considered for the short-term regional TIP or for the short-term capital improvement programs of the modal agencies and local jurisdictions.

Examples of suggestions for short-term or small-scale projects include:

- improvements to or expansions of specific local bus routes
- pothole repairs or roadway resurfacings at specific locations or along specific corridors
- turn lane improvements or signal adjustments at specific intersections
- improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities at specific locations, including improved connections between modes

In addition, more than 200 submittals contained general comments related to transportation. General comments included:

- suggestions to widen or double deck roads throughout the region (no specific locations noted)
- suggestions to “relieve congestion” (no specific locations or methods noted)
- statements that “buses should run on time” (no specific routes noted)
- comments about the traffic-slowing effects of “too much construction”
- recommendations for increased law enforcement related to texting, checkpoints, red light cameras, etc.
- suggestions for increased driver education and bike safety education programs
- suggestions to raise or lower the fuel tax and/or tolls



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So, We Have Project Ideas from the Public – Now What?

BMC staff presented all of the recommendations for major, long-term projects to the Technical Committee that advises the BRTB as well as the BRTB itself for review and consideration for *Maximize2040*. In addition, staff presented a summary of the other submittals (small-scale project ideas and general comments) to these groups.

Staff also shared all comments related to small-scale, short-term projects, as well as general comments, with the responsible modal agencies and local jurisdictions for review and consideration.

The objective of this sharing of ideas from the public is to make the BRTB members, the modal agencies, and the local jurisdictions aware of the kinds of issues people are concerned about, as well as the specific projects that submitters believe would address these issues over the short and long terms.

A table with a [complete list of ideas \(major projects, minor projects, and general comments\) submitted by the public](http://www.maximize2040.com) is online at www.maximize2040.com.

Informing Stakeholders about the Plan Development Process

Periodically throughout the development of *Maximize2040*, BMC staff published informational briefs under the name of “*MaxNotes*.”

The intent of these briefs was to explain some of the inputs and technical analyses involved in developing the plan. Topics included sociodemographic projections, financial projections, and performance measures. An example of one of these *MaxNotes* issues is shown at right.



Regional Goals, Performance Measures, and Targets

MAP-21 Requirements

MAP-21 is the federal law that establishes the requirements of federal surface transportation programs. This law requires regions to follow a performance-based approach to planning.

For *Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan*, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) has adopted broad goals to guide transportation investments over the 2020-2040 period. In accordance with MAP-21 requirements, the BRTB has developed regional performance measures and targets to help it gauge the effectiveness of its investments.

Definitions

- **Goal** – broad aspiration or guiding principle (e.g., “Improve system safety”)
- **Performance measure** – specific metric used to assess progress toward achieving a goal (e.g., “Decrease number of highway fatalities”)
- **Performance target** – specific level to be reached within a certain time frame (e.g., “Decrease number of highway fatalities to 0 by 2040”)

Adopted Performance Measures/Targets

Improve System Safety – Roads

- Reduce serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) to 3.0 by 2040.
- Reduce fatalities per 100 million VMT to 0 by 2040.
- Reduce number of serious injuries to 676 by 2040.
- Reduce number of fatalities to zero by 2040.

Improve System Safety – Transit

- Reduce number of preventable accidents per 100,000 revenue vehicle miles to 0 by 2040.



Improve/Maintain Existing Infrastructure – Roads

- Maintain percentage of roadway miles with acceptable ride quality at 82% or above.
- Maintain percentage of structurally deficient state and local bridges below 5.0%.

Improve/Maintain Existing Infrastructure – Transit

- Maintain average age of MTA and local transit agency bus fleets below 7.0 years.

Improve Accessibility

- Increase percentage of roadway miles with sidewalks (both sides of the roadway) to 25% by 2040.
- Increase bicycle/walk-to-work mode share to 5.0% by 2040.
- Increase average weekday MTA and local agency transit ridership (all modes) to 500,000 by 2040.

Increase Mobility

- Maintain portion of VMT in congested conditions on arterial roads during the evening peak hour below 25%.

Conserve and Enhance the Environment

- Maintain levels of emissions at less than vehicle emission budgets in the State Implementation Plan.

Promote Prosperity and Economic Opportunity

- Maintain average truck turnaround time at Seagirt Marine Terminal below 58 minutes.

For more information . . .

about performance measures, please contact:
Terry Freeland, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
(410) 732-0500, ext. 1028
tfreeland@baltometro.org

for a *greater* Baltimore Region



Public Comments on Preferred Alternative

Comment period scheduled for September 1 through October 15

The BRTB conducted a public comment period on the draft *Maximize2040*, including the preferred alternative list of programs and projects. This comment period ran from September 1 through October 15, with public meetings in each jurisdiction as well as a webinar-style “town call.” Details are shown below:

“Town Hall” Meetings

- **Anne Arundel County / City of Annapolis**
Wednesday, September 30 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Annapolis High School, Cafeteria
2700 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401
- **Baltimore City**
Thursday, October 8 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Benton Building, Third Floor
417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
- **Baltimore County**
Wednesday, October 7 – 7 to 9 p.m.
Baltimore County Planning Department
Jefferson Building, First Floor Hearing Room
105 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, MD 21204
- **Carroll County**
Monday, September 21 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Carroll County Office Building, Room 003
225 North Center Street, Westminster, MD 21157
- **Harford County**
Monday, September 28 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Emergency Operations Center
2220 Ady Road, Forest Hill, MD 21050
- **Howard County**
Tuesday, September 15 – 6 to 8 p.m.
George Howard Building, Ellicott Room
3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043



maximize2040
A PERFORMANCE-BASED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

for a
greater
Baltimore
Region

Maximize2040 is an initiative of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board that seeks to make the best use of the region's limited resources for our region's residents and businesses.

BRTB
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board

The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board 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 by qualified individuals with disabilities. Those in need of language assistance who submit a request at least seven days prior to a meeting. Call 410-312-2200.

**WE HAVE A PLAN
TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION FOR YOU**

What do you think?

Tell us at a Town Hall Meeting:

- Tuesday, September 15 – 6 to 8 p.m.
George Howard Building - Ellicott Room
3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
- Monday, September 21 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Carroll County Office Building - Room 003
225 North Center Street, Westminster, MD 21157
- Monday, September 28 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Emergency Operations Center
2220 Ady Road, Forest Hill, MD 21050
- Wednesday, September 30 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Annapolis High School - Cafeteria
2700 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401
- Wednesday, October 7 – 7 to 9 p.m.
Baltimore County Planning Dept. Hearing Room (Jefferson Bldg.)
105 W. Chesapeake Ave, 1st Floor, Towson, MD 21204
- Thursday, October 8 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Benton Building, Third Floor
417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

Join us for a Town Call:

- Thursday, October 1 – 12 to 1 p.m.
Computer, tablet or smartphone @ bit.ly/Maximize2040TownCall
Phone: 1-877-309-2070 (Toll-free) and enter Access Code: 743-489-149

Share your thoughts by October 15 to:

- E-mail: comments@baltometro.org
- Twitter: @Maximize2040 @BmoreInvolved #BRTBlistens
- Mail: The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board
1500 Whetsone Way, Suite 300, Baltimore, MD 21230

The BRTB also welcomes comments on the air quality analysis and two amendments to the short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

maximize2040.com

Regional “Town Call”

The BRTB also conducted a regional “town call” to enable interested people to participate via computer or phone. Information on how participants were able to access this town call is shown below:

Thursday, October 1 – noon to 1 p.m.

To access using a computer, tablet, or smartphone, go to bit.ly/Maximize2040TownCall

To access using a phone, dial 1-877-309-2070 (Toll free) and enter Access Code 743-489-149

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Thank you for your involvement in the development of *Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan*.

After many months of planning and discussions with key stakeholders, especially the public, the BRTB is scheduled to vote on the final version of *Maximize2040* on **Tuesday, November 24 at 9 a.m.** at the [Baltimore Metropolitan Council](#).

Below is a link to the BRTB's response to comments, and highlights of the planning process for *Maximize2040*.



BRTB RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

The BRTB members appreciate all comments sent in by the public during the last year and a half. The level of participation in the regional planning process shows that people care about the future of transportation in our region. Public comments also provide a framework to keep the process focused on real needs in the face of fiscal, environmental, and economic challenges.

BRTB members received all comments made regarding the draft plan. To view the BRTB response to these comments, click on the link below.

As all of the public comments received in this process demonstrate, the Baltimore region has a diverse set of needs and expectations - including more reliable commuting, more effective freight movement, and more choices in transportation and transit alternatives for everyone in the region.

Maximize2040 is required to be fiscally constrained, so the programs and projects in the plan represent the best judgment of the BRTB about what is desirable and possible. The BRTB considered statutory and regulatory requirements, existing conditions, and future possibilities. This is a snapshot the BRTB can reconsider during the next four years.

The BRTB (which includes local jurisdictions and MDOT) will engage the public to address the future of transit in the region, with the potential to add other projects as amendments to *Maximize2040*. Any mix of projects should enable the safe movement of people and goods in ways that provide additional opportunities for individuals and the region while realizing the need for environmental and fiscal responsibility.

Once again, the BRTB extends its appreciation for all the public input it received in this process. We look forward to further discussions about how we can maximize our region's transportation investments for the future.

[:: Download the BRTB Response to Comments ::](#)

[:: View All Comments Received ::](#)

Public Comments and BRTB Response

Comments were received in a number of ways, including e-mail, mail, Twitter, in writing via survey/comment card, and through an online survey/comment card.

Comments were also welcome in person during the Public Comment Opportunity during the BRTB meetings on Tuesday, October 27 at 4:30 p.m. or Tuesday, November 24 at 9 a.m. (vote).

BRTB members received [all comments made regarding the draft plan](#).

A [response to public comments](#) was issued on November 17, 2015 via email and shared on BMC's Twitter and Facebook accounts.

All comments and the BRTB response to comments were also posted online at www.maximize2040.com.