

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 6, 2015
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
5:30 to 7:40 P.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by the Chair, Mr. Greg Shafer.

1. WELCOME

Mr. Shafer welcomed everyone to the May meeting. He noted that there was a quorum at the meeting.

2. PRESENTATION FROM THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Shafer introduced the first agenda item. Mr. Jeff Snyder from MTA gave a presentation on its phone access feature, My MTA Transit. This is not an app. Rather; it's a mobile version of MTA's web site feature that enables people with smart phones to access bus trip information. Users can do trip planning by accessing schedules and real-time bus information. The procedure for getting this information is to send a text or email to MTAMD with the bus stop number.

The feature is in the beta testing phase, which is scheduled to last 100 days until the end of May.

MTA will be upgrading the system that feeds schedule data to the buses. The system is more than 20 years old and relies on radio transmission. MTA plans to replace the system and had gone through a previous bidding process. This process was challenged, so MTA needs to rebid the project. The new system will feature a public data feed. At this point, there are no plans to incorporate the Charm City Circulator into this system; that service uses a different system, and the two systems are not integrated.

Also in progress are improvements to the operator log-in system, both in terms of maintenance and operator log-in behavior (i.e., making sure operators log in on a timely basis). MTA also is looking to improve its web site design and is planning to introduce an interactive voice response system as part of the My MTA Transit feature within the next few weeks.

A question-and-answer period followed. Comments and questions from PAC members addressed:

- Concerns about on-time performance of buses. Mr. Snyder noted that MTA is well aware of these concerns and is working to improve on-time performance. He stated that this tracking system will not be used to monitor on-time performance since another system is in place to do that monitoring.
- The issue of pushing the data out to the public so that so-called “civic hackers” can use it to create new apps. MTA is not planning to do this at this time. One of the concerns is that MTA also is required to serve the disabled population, and civic hackers may not address this function or attempt to cover ADA requirements.

3. PRESENTATION FROM THE BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Mr. Shafer introduced Mr. Zachary Kaufman, Transportation Planner at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council. Mr. Kaufman presented an overview of 2016 – 2019 TIP projects, focusing on new projects in each jurisdiction that had not been in the 2014 – 2017 TIP. Draft TIP project sheets for all jurisdictions are available online in pdf form in order to give the PAC the ability to review and comment on all projects. Though TIP sheets are currently in draft form, major components of each project are in place and no significant changes are anticipated at this point. Mr. Kaufman also noted that a resolution on the final TIP will be presented to the BRTB on July 28, giving the PAC time to review and comment on the TIP at their July meeting. There was some discussion on whether TIP projects are in the Long Range Plan. Major projects in the TIP, and particular capacity expanding projects, must be in the LRP. There were also questions regarding the fiscal constraint of the TIP document as well as if there is prioritization for implementation among TIP projects. Fiscal constraint for federal funds is verified by MDOT for the TIP document while local jurisdictions are required to verify that they have sufficient matching funds for federally funded projects. As for prioritization, all projects within the TIP are projects that are already moving forward with the funding schedule listed.

[Handout: 2016 – 2019 TIP Project Summary]

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS

The following subcommittee reports and action items were presented:

- **Membership** – No report.
- **Public Involvement** – Ms. Beth Wiseman discussed the two tasks this subcommittee has taken on: reviewing the project ideas the public submitted for the next long-range plan and developing a brochure or similar tool to inform the public and stakeholder groups about the transportation planning process. With regard to the first task, the subcommittee has reviewed the public project ideas and has expressed its support for additional transit investments in the region. Mr. Terry Freeland added that BMC staff has presented the major ideas to the BRTB members and all of the ideas to the Technical Committee members. In addition, staff has shared the short-term recommendations (e.g., local bus service or facility improvements, pothole repairs, intersection improvements, etc.) with the responsible operating agencies or local jurisdictions for their review and consideration. For the second task, Mr. Stuart Stainman has developed an outline for a new

brochure, borrowing from other materials as needed. The subcommittee also discussed other means for reaching the public such as testimonials and videos.

- **Policy and Legislation** – Mr. Shafer introduced the agenda item for an amendment to the FY 2014 – 2017 TIP for three MTA project – MARC Rolling Stock Overhauls and Replacement, MARC Improvements, and MARC Facilities. Mr. Chris Costello summarized the projects including descriptive items:
 - MARC Rolling Stock Overhauls and Replacement provides funding for several projects including the overhaul of MARC III, GP-39, and IIA coaches, federally mandated Positive Train Control safety features, and the procurement of 7 diesel locomotives. Funding for FY 2014 – 2017 is \$29.78 million.
 - MARC Improvements provides funding for several projects including Penn Station lighting, B&P Tunnel block ties, upgrades and expansion of the Jessup Yard, switch heater replacement, and MARC parking lot improvements. Funding for FY 2014 – 2017 is \$31.2 million.
 - MARC Facilities provides funding for several projects including the purchase of property and construction of storage tracks at Martin State Airport, improvements to the West Baltimore MARC Station, the purchase of the Riverside Maintenance Facility from CSX, and inspection and repairs at two BWI garages. Funding for FY 2014 – 2017 is \$6.6 million.

Mr. Costello made a motion to approve the amendments as presented and Ms. Louise Tinkler seconded. Mr. Stuart Stainman noted that most MTA TIP amendments seem to be for rail even though two-thirds of MTA customers use the bus system. After some discussion, PAC Resolution #2015-09 passed with unanimous approval.

[PAC RESOLUTION #2015-09]

Mr. Costello also noted that the policy and legislation subcommittee discussed the MTA Red Line. Much of the discussion revolved around the consequences of losing the federal funding associated with this project and what other projects could be implemented with the state portion of funds should the project not move forward.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The April minutes were approved as submitted.

6. REPORT ON RECENT AND UPCOMING BRTB MEETINGS

Mr. Freeland reported that, because of the recent unrest in Baltimore City, the April BRTB meeting with elected officials was canceled. The Executive Committee did meet and approved the TIP amendments on the April agenda. The other items on the April agenda have been carried over to the May meeting agenda.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was a request to have an update from the Opportunity Collaborative in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Christopher Boardman – Resident, Harford County

Chris Costello – Transportation Association of Maryland

Matthew Dolamore - Resident, Baltimore City

**Proxy designated by: Christina Moore*

David Fitzpatrick - Resident, Baltimore City

Benjamin Gilardi – Resident, Baltimore City

Mark Howard - Resident, Baltimore County

Angela Jones - Resident, Baltimore County

Mark Lotz - Resident, Harford County

**Proxy designated by: David Manly*

David Manly - Resident, Harford County

Christina Moore - Resident, Baltimore City

Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance

Gregory Shafer – Resident, Howard County

Stuart Stainman – Resident, Baltimore County

**Proxy designated by: Joseph McCulloch*

Louise Tinkler – Carroll Area Transit System

Sabrina Wells - Resident, Howard County

Beth Wiseman – Baltimore County Association of Senior Citizen Organizations

Staff and Guests

Terry Freeland– Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

Zach Kaufman – BMC

Jeff Snyder – Maryland Transit Administration

**A RESOLUTION REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE BALTIMORE REGION
FY 2014-2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)
BY THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)
OF THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

WHEREAS, the BRTB, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore region responsible for transportation planning and policy making for the Baltimore region; and

WHEREAS, the PAC serves as an advisory body to the BRTB, charged with providing independent, region-oriented citizen advice to the BRTB on issues related to the development of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Plan (BRTP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and amendments that affect the region's conformity with federal air quality requirements, the public involvement process, regionally significant land use issues, and other regional transportation-related issues, as appropriate, promotes public awareness and participation in the regional transportation planning process and promotes equity in the regional transportation planning process; and

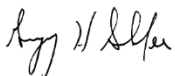
WHEREAS, the PAC has discussed the following FY 2014 – 2017 TIP Amendments:

- MARC Train Commuter Rail Preservation and Improvements (TIP ID # 70-1502-54)
- MARC Train Locomotive and Coach Overhaul and Replacement (TIP ID #70-1501-53)
- MARC Train Facilities Improvements (TIP ID #70-1503-55)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the PAC recommends approval of these three TIP amendments as presented.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the PAC thanks the BRTB for this opportunity to comment on the BRTB TIP Amendments and the PAC thanks the BRTB staff for facilitating its participation.

Submitted by:



Gregory H. Shafer
Chairman, BRTB Public Advisory Committee