

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

April 23, 2019

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

9:07 to 10:25 A.M.

MINUTES

The 307th meeting was called to order at 9:07 A.M. by the Chair, Ms. Michelle Pourciau.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2019 BRTB meeting was made by Ms. Pourciau. A motion was made by Ms. Heather Murphy to approve the minutes and was seconded by Ms. Mary Lane. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

There was no one from the public who wished to address the BRTB.

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda reported that staff are preparing to launch a comment period on *Maximize2045: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan and the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* and the associated *Air Quality Conformity Determination*. The BRTB is scheduled to release these documents for public comment from **Thursday, May 9, through Tuesday, June 18**.

During this time, the BRTB will host open houses in each of the jurisdictions:

- **Monday, May 20** from 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Harford County Government Center, Room 157
220 S Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014
- **Tuesday, May 21** from 5 to 7:30 p.m.
Enoch Pratt Free Library - Pennsylvania Ave Branch
1531 W North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21217
- **Thursday, May 30** from 5 to 7:30 p.m.
Kent Island Senior Center
891 Love Point Rd, Stevensville, MD 21666

- **Tuesday, June 4** from 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Arundel Mills Mall, Harmons Community Room
7000 Arundel Mills Circle, Hanover, MD 21076
- **Wednesday, June 5** from 6 to 8:30 p.m.
CCBC Essex. Administrative Building
7201 Rossville Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21237
- **Thursday, June 6** from 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Carroll County Government Ctr, Reagan Room #3
225 N. Center Street, Westminster, MD 21157
- **Tuesday, June 11** from 5 to 7:30 p.m.
Elkridge Public Library, Belmont/Hockley Room
6540 Washington Blvd., Elkridge, MD 21075

In addition, a virtual meeting will be scheduled for those who are unable to make the meeting in person. Details will be posted online at www.maximize2045.com.

Lastly, Ms. Haines Benkhedda reported that BMC is excited to celebrate the 22nd annual Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 17. The celebration will feature hundreds of cyclists at over 45 events throughout the region. Registration is open at biketoworkmd.com.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report for April 2019]

4. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Eric Norton reported the following from the April PAC meeting:

- Mr. Gary Blazinsky, Harford Transit Administrator and BRTB member, provided updates to Harford Transit LINK including: streamlined schedules, extended weekday hours and added bus stops.

Mr. Norton thanked Mr. Blazinsky for staying after his presentation to participate in the PAC meeting and offered the group some feedback on several items. The PAC appreciates BRTB member participation in the PAC meetings.

- Mr. Terry Freeland provided an update on *Maximize2045* and the Policy subcommittee met via conference call to discuss comments on the list of projects submitted to the BRTB for consideration in *Maximize2045*.

Subcommittee members developed a list of comments to share with the full PAC. After some discussion it was decided that the subcommittee needed more information including prioritization scores. Staff have provided this for the PAC.

- Mr. Norton reported that finding a space in Howard County this Spring has proven challenging. The PAC agreed to postpone the event until the fall.
- Mr. Norton also invited meeting attendees to participate in [Transportation Camp Baltimore](#) on Saturday, May 18th at the University of Baltimore Merrick School of Business. This transportation unconference, led by attendees, is an engaging forum about transportation

to the people who use, plan, design, build, advocate for, hack, or just feel passionate about transportation.

5. REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

Ms. Sara Tomlinson reported the following from the March ICG meeting:

- The members reviewed the list of proposed projects for the 2020-2023 TIP and *Maximize2045* to determine whether they were exempt from conformity requirements or not.
- Projects that are not exempt, and are regionally significant, are required to be reflected in transportation demand modeling and emissions modeling.
- The ICG also heard a presentation on Bike to Work Day, from BMC staff. Bike to Work Day this year will be held on May 17th. This event has been held in this region since 1998. One of the reasons for this event is to promote bicycles as an everyday safe mode of transportation.
- Ms. Alex Brun (MDE) mentioned that a limited maintenance plan for Queen Anne's County was submitted, addressing the 1997 ozone standard.

6. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Steve Cohoon reported the following from the April TC meeting:

- Resolution #19-18: BMC provided an overview of the FY 2020-2021 UPWP. As a reminder, UPWP activities are based on planning factors identified in the FAST Act. Work items were reorganized to better reflect changes in the FAST Act. The FY 2020 budget is \$7.9M, a slight increase of \$380K from FY 2019. Review included a 30-day public comment period between February 12 to March 14. The TC voted to recommend sending Resolution #19-18 to the BRTB for approval.
- Resolution #19-19: BMC provided an overview of the FY 2020 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal. The goal is set in conjunction with adoption of each UPWP. The goal assumed by the BRTB is based on a methodology developed by MDOT. The BRTB piggy-backs on the basis of being located in the same or a substantially similar market. The FY 2020 DBE goal is proposed for 31.7 percent. The TC voted to recommend sending Resolution #19-19 to the BRTB for approval.
- Resolution #19-20: BMC provided an overview of the Annual Title VI Report. The report identifies activities in the following areas: Program Administration, General Requirements, and MPO-Specific Activities. The report will be appended to the Title VI Plan which is updated every four years. The update will be presented for approval in May. The TC voted to recommend sending Resolution #19-20 to the BRTB for approval.
- Resolution #19-21: BMC provided an overview of the state-funded JARC Program. This is a new program based on legislation from the 2018 session of the Maryland General Assembly. This round of applications covers funding for three fiscal years: FY 2020 – 2022.

Funding totals \$2M over 5 years with \$280,000 per year to the urbanized areas. Since applications had just been received, BMC staff were not prepared to make recommendations to the TC. Recommendations will be sent as soon as they are ready.

7. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-18

Mr. Todd Lang asked to BRTB to consider Resolution #19-18 approving the FY 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Lang reviewed the process undertaken to prepare the UPWP, including focus areas and budget, as well as to publish for public review. No comments were received from the public. Several comments were prepared by the PAC for the BRTB's consideration. Responses were prepared in conjunction with several BRTB members and were distributed to the TC for review. In FY 2020 the total budget stands at \$7,898,500 and includes 3 subarea projects.

Ms. Pourciau asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Sally Nash motioned to approve and Ms. Lane seconded the motion. Ms. Pourciau commented that she enjoyed the retreat whereby development of the UPWP was discussed and agrees with a comment made by Ms. Lynda Eisenburg that the process should begin earlier in the year. The BRTB voted to approve Resolution #19-18.

[PowerPoint: Action Items for April BRTB]

8. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-19

Mr. Lang asked to BRTB members to consider Resolution #19-19 recommending a DBE goal for consultant contracts awarded under the FY 2020 UPWP. Per an earlier resolution, the board is to set an overall Disadvantaged Business Enterprise participation goal for each fiscal year. This resolution sets a DBE goal of 31.7% that matches the goal of the Maryland Department of Transportation Office of Planning and Capital Programming as a primary recipient of U.S. Department of Transportation funds located in the same or a substantially similar market as the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board. As a reference, in FY 2018, that last completed fiscal year, the DBE participation was only 5% on consultant contracts managed under the UPWP after several years of exceeding the goal.

Ms. Pourciau asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Steve Cohoon motioned to approve and Mr. Greg Carski seconded the motion. The BRTB voted to approve Resolution #19-19.

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-20

Ms. Regina Aris asked members to consider Resolution #19-20 accepting the Title VI Annual Report. The purpose of the Title VI 2018 annual report is to provide an update on implementation of the BRTB Title VI program. The annual report identifies activities in the following areas: Program administration, General requirements, and MPO-specific activities.

When approved the annual report will be appended to the Title VI plan. The main plan is updated every four years and will be brought to the BRTB in May.

Ms. Pourciau asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Gary Blazinsky motioned to approve and Ms. Heather Murphy seconded the motion. The BRTB voted to approve Resolution #19-20.

10. RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTION #19-21

Ms. Aris asked the BRTB to consider Resolution #19-21 in support of endorsing, or not endorsing, applications for funding under the new Maryland Job Access And Reverse Commute Program. This new state-funded program is based on legislation from the 2018 session of the Maryland General Assembly. This round of funding covers three fiscal years: FY 2020 – 2022. The Targeted populations include: Reside in low-income areas, Have limited or no access to use of a personal vehicle, Reside in an area that has limited access to fixed-route service. Targeted employment areas include those that have experienced significant growth in specific sectors. Funding totals \$2M over 5 years with \$280,000 per year to the urbanized areas. The six critical areas of the applications for scoring include: ability to determine and reach targeted population (15), ability to determine targeted employment centers w/ sig. growth (10), projected number of participants (10), marketing/outreach (15), ability to sustain project/services (20), and the ability to coordinate project/services (25). These points total 100. Of the three applications received, BMC staff recommend endorsing two and not endorsing one.

Ms. Pourciau asked for a motion to approve the three recommendations for this resolution. Mr. Blazinsky motioned to approve and Ms. Nash seconded the motion. The BRTB voted to approve Resolution #19-21.

11. APPOINTMENT OF A NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR BRTB OFFICERS

Ms. Pourciau suggested MDOT and Baltimore County serve on the Nominating Committee. Those two representatives agreed. They will present a slate of officers for FY 2020 at the May meeting.

12. PRESENTATION: BALTIMORE CITY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Theo Ngongang described efforts underway to address the fact that Baltimore City does not currently have a comprehensive transportation plan. Therefore, it is difficult to state where the City is headed, how to get there, and know what is needed to get there. This plan will focus on mobility and is projected to 2045 around equity, innovation and sustainability. The plan will consider shared mobility options, demographics, land use, and travel patterns. The plan will develop around three phases. Phase I, developing a baseline, is complete. Phase II is underway to build awareness with the public and other stakeholders, this will continue through the

summer. In Phase II a comprehensive plan will be developed with significant public involvement, lasting through the end of 2020.

Baseline information was collected from 65 agencies to populate a map and inform the discussion. Since 2007, 113 documents were published with 99 of them having transportation recommendations. Ms. Bineeta Sihota shared a GIS atlas depicting all of the planning documents with transportation recommendations. In response to a question from Ms. Bihui Xu, Ms. Sihota stated that this interactive map will be available online in about three weeks.

Baltimore City DOT will be releasing an RFP to assist with the plan development that is occurring in Phase III.

[PowerPoint: Baltimore City DOT Comprehensive Transportation Plan]

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Lang mentioned the following items:

- The BMC office will be undergoing renovation during the months of June, July, and August. During that time all meetings will take place offsite. While MDOT has made their rooms available there may be a need for some additional space.
- The next Regional Transit Plan Commission meeting will be on Thursday, April 25 at the BMC.
- A U.S. DOT Notice of Funding Availability for "BUILD" grants was distributed to members. Mr. Lang shared that \$900M is available with 50% directed at urban areas, 80/20 match funding, \$90M maximum to any state, and grants will range between \$5M to \$25M. These grants are due July 15, 2019 and if anyone needs a Letter of Support from the BRTB please provide adequate notice and documentation. If jurisdictions are proposing projects on state facilities please coordinate with MDOT.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 A.M.

Members

Kwame Arhin Ph.D, FHWA – MD Division

Gary Blazinsky, Harford Transit

Alex Brun (for Tad Aburn), MD Department of the Environment

Greg Carski, Baltimore County Department of Public Works

Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works

David Cookson (for Chris Eatough), Howard County Office of Transportation

Joel Gallihue (for Alex Rawls), Harford County Department of Planning

Mary Lane (for Lynda Eisenburg), Carroll County Department of Planning

Heather Murphy, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Sally Nash, City of Annapolis Department of Planning

Michelle Pourciau, Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT)
Ramond Robinson, Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
Kate Sylvester (for Holly Arnold), MDOT MTA
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)

Staff and Guests

Samuel Ailen – Morgan State University (MSU)
Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Jada Bennett - MSU
Robert Berger, BMC
Jaelyn Bowser, MSU
Cindy Burch, BMC
Tyson Byrne, MDOT
Ben Cohen, One Mile Consulting
Rebecca Deibel, BMC
Blake Fisher, BMC
Terry Freeland, BMC
Monica Haines-Benkhedda, BMC
Victor Henry, BMC
Dan Janousek, MDOT
Shawn Kimberly - BMC
Todd Lang, BMC
Theo Ngongang, Baltimore City DOT
Eric Norton, PAC Chair
Bineeta Sihota, PhD, Baltimore City DOT
Lisa Sirota, MDOT SHA
Sara Tomlinson, BMC
Andrea Turner, Greater Baltimore Committee
Mikah Zaslou, Baltimore City DOT

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board