

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

February 25, 2020
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
9:16 to 10:20 A.M.

MINUTES

The 316th meeting was called to order at 9:16 A.M. by the Vice Chair, Mr. Ramond Robinson.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2020 BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Robinson. A motion was made by Mr. Theo Ngongang to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Bruce Gartner. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

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

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda reported that the updated FY 2021 annual budget and work program is open for comments through March 12, 2020. A virtual public meeting was held on February 19 at noon via GoToMeeting. The recording is available at baltometro.org.

Looking ahead, Ms. Haines Benkhedda noted the following comment periods and asked the BRTB members to note these dates on their calendars:

- 2020 Federal Certification review of the BRTB
March 31 through April 30, 2020
Public meeting: Wednesday, April 22 at 6 p.m. at BMC
- 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Air Quality Conformity
May 19 through June 19, 2020 (tentative)
Transportation fair / public meeting: date and location TBD. Ideas welcome!

[Handout: Public Involvement Report for February 2020]

4. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ms. Haines Benkhedda reported the following:

- Due to a conflict with the Baltimore City Mayoral Transportation Forum being scheduled for the same date and time, the February 26 PAC meeting was cancelled.
- In March and May the PAC is scheduled to meet with the consultant team from WSP/PRR about the Evaluation of the BRTB's Public Involvement process.
- In April, the PAC will support the public meeting on Wednesday, April 22 for the Federal Certification of the BRTB.

5. REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

Ms. Sara Tomlinson reported the following:

- The ICG finalized and approved the draft methodology and assumptions letter for the upcoming conformity determination of the FY 2021-2024 TIP and *Maximize2045*.
- Additionally, a table of modeling inputs, separate from the letter, was discussed. The table included modeling inputs used for three different conformity determinations, was discussed (conformity determinations in 2018, 2019, and 2020). The conformity determination in 2018 used vehicle population data, meteorological data, and fuel formulation data from 2014. The determinations in 2019, and the one this year will use updated data from 2017. MDE updates their data every three years for these categories based upon National Emission Inventory requirements.
- There was a presentation by MDOT on Maryland's Draft Greenhouse Gas Plan. The draft plan was released in October 2019. MDOT modeled emissions from the transportation sector using EPA's MOVES model. Once 2020 National Emission Inventory data is available, the State will be able to determine whether the 25% reduction below 2006 levels by 2020 was achieved. The draft plan aims to achieve a 40% reduction by 2030. State agencies will be working to finalize the plan.
- Following the presentation, there was a discussion about the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) draft MOU.

6. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Ms. Regina Aris reported the following from the February TC meeting:

- Staff stated that this updated Planning Agreement enables and describes how the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) is to administer the metropolitan planning process, establishes a performance-based planning program, and includes the relatively new partner of Queen Anne's County into the process.
- MDE gave a presentation on the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI). This collaboration involves the development of a potential regional "cap-and-invest" policy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. The policy mirrors the

existing Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which addressed emissions from power plants.

- BMC staff described the role of Public Safety Coordinator which is to provide support to the Baltimore Urban Area Work Group. Regional planning efforts are executed by Committees that focus on specific mission areas such as Law Enforcement, Specialist Operations, Transportation and Public Works etc. Recently, the region won a Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant (RCPGP), for a three-year program. The Baltimore project will focus on the Logistics and Supply Chain Management (Food and Water).
- BMC provided an update on regional evacuation activities. On behalf of the region, the Transportation & Public Works Committee has been the lead for most of the regional evacuation planning activities. Past activities have included resource documents and exercises. The region recently held two evacuation workshops to make sure all stakeholders know what resources and plans each have, discuss concerns, and address areas needing improvement. Also, BMC will contract with the UMD CATT Lab to add the evacuation routes by scenario and the traffic control point diagrams to RITIS. This work will begin soon.
- BMC staff reviewed the four key financial tables that will be included in the Addendum to the FY 2020-2021 UPWP. There was a review of the new planning tasks that were agreed upon at the Retreat and where members agreed to participate. A 30-day public review period is set to begin on February 11 and extend through March 12. Mr. Lang mentioned a presentation by BMC at the January BRTB meeting on transportation legislation in the Maryland General Assembly session that is being tracked. The presentation is available online under the January BRTB materials.

7. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #20-12

Mr. Don Halligan presented Resolution #20-12, a resolution to endorse the updated Metropolitan Planning Agreement governing the MPO Process in the region. Mr. Halligan reminded the Committee that this is an update to the existing Agreement based upon U.S. DOT guidance requiring MPO's to update all agreements to reflect new planning requirements and other important changes. Specifically, this new Planning Agreement enables and describes how the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) will administer the Metropolitan Planning process, establishing a performance-based planning program, and include the relatively new partner of Queen Anne's County into the process. In 2016, U.S. DOT issued guidance requiring MPO's to define this effort and update all agreements, memoranda and letters of understanding to reflect the performance-based requirements and generally update these documents. The current agreement was executed in 2014.

The Chair asked for a motion from the Committee. Ms. Sally Nash moved to approve the minutes with Mr. Greg Carski seconding the motion. The Resolution was unanimously approved.

[PowerPoint: Planning Agreement On Performance-Based Metropolitan Transportation Planning Responsibilities For The Baltimore Region]

8. UPDATE ON CURRENT UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM TASKS

Maryland Travel Survey

Mr. Lang spoke for Mr. Robert Berger. The surveys have all been completed at this point with the review process underway. Coordination between MDOT, BMC and MWCOG has been crucial and continues with tasks such as confidentiality agreements for data users and weighting of variables. An initial report is likely to be released in March with individual jurisdiction data following shortly thereafter. In comparison to the 2007-2008 survey, modes such as ride-hailing are showing up.

Development of a Strategy for a Congestion Management Process for the Baltimore Region

Ms. Eileen Singleton presented an update on the Congestion Management Process consultant project. The project will coordinate closely with the region's performance-based planning and programming activities. There are five tasks as part of the project. In particular, Task 3 is a foundational task that included three deliverables: 1) review of existing plans, studies, and data sources, 2) summaries of interviews with regional CMP stakeholders, which included interviews with representatives from law enforcement, Baltimore City, MDOT SHA, MDOT MDTA, MDOT MTA, freight, and Public Advisory Committee, and 3) a summary of CMP good practices from other MPOs, including Philadelphia, Washington DC, Pittsburgh, Wilmington, and Hampton Roads.

Task 4 includes the development of the CMP. Work on the first four steps has been completed or is in progress and work on the remaining four steps will begin soon. The deliverable for the final four steps will be a process to complete each step (collect data and monitor system performance, analyze areas of congestion, identify and apply strategies that implement regional objectives, and evaluate effectiveness of the CMP strategies). The products will be posted in the CMP section of the BMC website when available.

The CMP Steering Committee will meet over the course of the project to provide input on each step. Ms. Singleton said that the intent is to have the CMP Steering Committee continue to meet after the consultant project has been completed to follow the CMP process developed in the project. There was a question about which corridors will be selected for corridor studies using the template that is being prepared. Ms. Singleton responded that we have not selected any corridors at this point, and Ms. Aris added that jurisdictions should think about what corridors they might want studied.

Development Review And New Mobility

Mr. Halligan presented an update on the task to the Board. Team led by Kittelson & Associates and includes Nelson/Nygaard, Four Square and Nspiregreen and will interview local development review staff and new mobility providers and inventory and document best practices. The team will then develop case studies and a report on the region. The BMC staff has reached out to local contacts (i.e. BRTB members, Planning Directors and development review staff) to seek their cooperation, support and engagement. The contractor has begun to schedule interviews to understand the development review process in each jurisdiction.

Patapsco Regional Greenway – Elkridge to Guinness

Ms. Sheila Mahoney presented an update on the preliminary trail design of the Elkridge to Guinness Open Gate Brewery. AMT is leading the consultant team to complete 30% design of this approximately 2-mile segment. A Steering Committee has been convened and a kickoff meeting took place on February 6. Steering Committee members include Baltimore County and Howard Counties as project sponsors, as well as Baltimore Gas and Electric, Diageo, MDOT SHA, MDOT MdTA, Maryland Park Service and Patapsco Valley State Park. The project has been well received by members, and the Steering Committee will continue to provide input at key decision points/deliverables.

In addition to the 30% design documents, consultant deliverables include three technical memorandums: #1 Concept Alignments, #2 Preferred Alignment Selection (documenting Steering Committee and public input), #3 Next Steps (outstanding comments, regulatory approvals needed, additional design and survey requirements). Additional deliverables include preparations for and attendance of five steering committee meetings and two community outreach meetings. All tasks are scheduled for completion in December 2020; it is anticipated that Baltimore and/or Howard Counties will then apply for a grant in the 2021 cycle to complete final design.

In addition to the consultant tasks, BMC will also host two supplementary public meetings and, based on expressed interest from groups such as Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park and Patapsco Heritage Greenway, a 5-8 member Public Advisory Committee is being assembled. Members of the business community and bike and pedestrian groups have been invited to participate in the group, which will be engaged at the same points as the Steering Committee. Finally, BMC will notify elected officials of the design efforts for this segment of the trail.

Evaluation of Public Involvement Activities

Ms. Aris shared that WSP won the contract with PRR as the single DBE partner. There are three task areas: 1) evaluate the effectiveness of current public involvement activities, 2) review public involvement activities with key participants, and 3) recommend tools, trainings, and recommendations to improve. The team is scheduled to meet with the PAC in both March and May for input as well as comment.

Regional Traffic Impact Study Guidelines

Ms. Aris spoke for Mr. Bala Akundi who is the lead on the project, working with AECOM. There are three task areas involved: 1) review and document the current traffic impact study guidelines/requirements currently in use by the nine jurisdictions; 2) review new research and best practices for improving traffic impact studies, specifically to consider the current use of level of service criteria, and to potentially include assessment of multi-modal impacts; and 3) suggest recommendations for best practices to be used in conducting traffic impact studies.

A diverse steering committee has met and has received the draft technical memorandum in advance of the next meeting. In general, the guidelines used by most of the jurisdictions appear to provide a sound and practical basis for the preparation of traffic impact studies. However, there are significant variations in the levels of emphasis and specificity attached to a number

of the tis parameters. The Tech Memo will be discussed at the next steering committee meeting in March.

[PowerPoint: Update on FY 2020 Consultant Tasks]

9. UPDATE ON CENSUS 2020 REGIONAL PLANNING AND OUTREACH EFFORT

Mr. Brian Shepter, Director of External Relations & General Counsel to BMC, made a presentation on a regional marketing campaign to promote 2020 Census participation. The following jurisdictions in the Baltimore region pooled \$82,000 in funds to purchase radio ads: Baltimore City and the counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard. The radio campaign targets the following "hard-to-count" populations: African American adults (18 to 64 years old); Seniors of color (65+ years old); Renters; Persons with limited access to the internet; Parents/guardians of children under the age of five; and Spanish speakers. Messaging aligns to State and local efforts and emphasizes that the Census is "Safe, Easy and Important," "10 Questions, 10 Minutes, 10 Years," and "We All Count (even children)." The campaign will run from January 14 to June 14, 2020 in English and Spanish on seven stations serving the Baltimore media market.

[PowerPoint: 2020 Census Regional Marketing Coordination]

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Lang reiterated that the deadline to submit projects/project info to the database is Friday, February 28. Mr. Lang also shared that the April meeting of the BRTB has been moved to Friday, May 1 at 9:45 A.M. to accommodate the schedules of the elected officials.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

Members

Gary Blazinsky, Harford Transit
Greg Carski, Baltimore County Department of Public Works
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works
Lindsay Donnellon, Federal Highway Administration, FHWA, MD Division
Lynda Eisenberg, Carroll County Department of Planning
Heather Murphy, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Theo Ngongang, Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Kate Sylvester, MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)
Bruce Gartner, Howard County Office of Transportation
Sally Nash, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning
Alex Rawls, Harford County, Department of Planning
Ramond Robinson, Anne Arundel County, Department of Planning & Zoning

Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

Charles Baber, BMC

Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC

Tyson Byrne, MDOT

Don Halligan, BMC

Vicotr Henry, BMC

Robert Infussi, MDOT MTA

Dan Janousek, MDOT

Mara Kaminowitz, BMC

Sheila Mahoney, BMC

Todd Lang, BMC

Brian Shepter, BMC

Eileen Singleton, BMC

Lisa Sirota, MDOT SHA

Sara Tomlinson, BMC

D'Andrea Walker, Baltimore County DPW

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board