

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

April 26, 2022
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
9:02 to 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

The 341st meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M. by the Vice Chair, Ms. D'Andrea Walker.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2022 BRTB meeting was made by Ms. Walker. A motion was made by Ms. Lynda Eisenberg to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Bruce Gartner. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

No one asked to address the BRTB.

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda reported on the following public Involvement activities:

- This year staff is updating the Public Participation Plan. As part of this process there is advanced consultation with interested parties through an online survey. The survey includes questions such as: What are the barriers to your participation and what suggestions do you have to improve the process? Do you attend public meetings? Do you prefer virtual or in person? and Do you feel as if your comments make a difference?

Survey responses will help to shape the update to the Plan, which will be released for a 45-day comment period during the summer. The survey is available online at publicinput.com/2022publicparticipation. This survey can be translated into over 100 different languages using the embedded google translate tool. You can also take the survey via text message and If you want a print copy or to have your responses recorded, you can request this from the Public Involvement Coordinator. Comments are welcome through May 27, 2022.

- Staff continue to develop a series of educational white papers and surveys to share with the public on a range of topics related to *Resilience 2050*. Three white papers have been released so far. Additional white papers will be released every month this year, including the

next paper on transit. Once you read the white paper, email us your thoughts, leave us a voicemail, or take our survey online at publicinput.com/resilience2050whitepapers.

- May 2-6, is Air Quality Awareness Week. Every May, Clean Air Partners, which BMC is a member of, joins the U.S. EPA in sharing information on air quality, how it affects health, how to reduce air emissions, as well as encouraging people to incorporate use of the Air Quality Index (AQI) into their daily lives. There are every day, simple actions you can take to protect lung health and the environment. To learn more join the discussion on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with the hashtag #CAPAirWeek and tag us @CleanAirPartner.
- Volunteers are still sought to serve on Transportation CORE. Transportation CORE is a new form of public engagement that will bring together people from around the region to provide feedback on a range of transportation and planning topics. We have received over 50 applications, however, volunteers are still needed from Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne's counties. Applications are now being accepted on a rolling basis. To apply, visit baltometro.org.
- Staff have been using PublicInput.com for a little over a year now to share information and engage the public and key stakeholders in the regional planning process. Stay up to date with current opportunities to participate by visiting the engagement hub at publicinput.com/Portal/J5348.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report for April]

4. REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

Ms. Nicole Hebert reported the following from the April 6th ICG meeting:

- ICG approved the exempt/nonexempt conformity status recommendations for proposed 2023-2026 TIP projects.
- A delay is expected in the 2023-2026 TIP conformity analysis schedule, but the exact date adjustments are unknown. The target date for completing the conformity analysis is early June.
- ICG approved conformity exemption of the April 2022-2025 TIP amendment for the MD 91: Bridge Replacement over the North Branch of the Patapsco River and MD Midland Railroad.
- A high level overview of recent Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) planning efforts was given, including regulatory overview and performance measures overview. The next major planning milestone occurs October 1, 2022, when two performance reports are due to FHWA. The First Full Performance Period Progress Report and the Second Baseline Performance Period Plan.
- EPA has proposed a bump-up for the Baltimore region from marginal to moderate ozone nonattainment. The updated MDE SIP documentation will likely need to be ready for public review in October 2022. MDE has convened a working group including ICG voting members to discuss potential reasonably available control measures (RACM) for mobile sources for analysis and consideration in the SIP.
- The next ICG meeting is May 4th at 9:30am.

5. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Joel Gallihue reported the following from the April TC meeting:

- MDOT SHA requested to amend the FY 2022-2025 TIP to add the MD 91 bridge replacement project over the North Branch of the Patapsco River and Maryland Midland Railroad. You will hear a presentation this morning, however the TC recommends approval of this amendment.
- BMC staff presented the draft 2023 UPWP Addendum to the TC for review. You will hear a presentation this morning, however the TC recommends approval of work budget for BRTB consideration.
- BMC staff presented the draft DBE goal based on a methodology developed by MDOT. The TC recommends approval of the work program budget for BRTB consideration.
- MDOT SHA, began the coordination process with the BRTB/TC for the Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP) for bridge and pavement targets due in October 2022. MDOT SHA is looking to continue working collaboratively to meet federal reporting requirements through information sharing. Ms. Lassiter outlined the TAMP development schedule. In April there will be coordination with local owners of NHS segments.
- BMC staff continued the Maryland Travel Survey Series with survey results around travel differences by age and gender. Several highlights include:
 - Females make more daily trips than Males.
 - Males travel more daily miles than Females.
 - With the exception of Seniors, Males and Females are equally likely to be licensed drivers.
 - At most ages, Males make a larger share of work trips than Females
 - The largest shares of both Male and Female travel days are Work trips,
- BMC staff shared a draft survey seeking feedback before sharing with stakeholders. The results of the survey will be used to inform the update to the PPP policies and public involvement procedures.
- Staff are looking for member support in helping staff recruit volunteers to serve on a newly formed group, Transportation CORE. This is an opportunity for a diverse group of 30-50 stakeholders to be engaged in the regional planning process and serve as a sounding board for regional decision-makers and planning staff.
- BMC staff reviewed the instructions that went out to initiate the Call for Projects phase of *Resilience 2050*. Project submissions are due by June 15. Submittal of candidate projects will be followed by technical scoring of projects.
- BMC staff and TC members discussed the format for upcoming meetings. Members agreed to participate in-person at the May 3rd meeting and decide on the schedule.

6. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #22-11

Mr. Keith Kucharek introduced resolution #22-11. In Resolution #22-11 MDOT SHA requested to amend the FY 2022-2025 TIP to add the MD 91 bridge replacement project over the North Branch of the Patapsco River and Maryland Midland Railroad.

Ms. Lisa Minnick Sirota presented the details of the project. The MD 91 bridges over the North Branch of the Patapsco River and Maryland Midland Railroad are located in Carroll County, just across the Baltimore County line. Both bridges were constructed in 1965 and are currently listed in fair condition. MDOT SHA desires to replace these bridges before they deteriorate to poor condition.

The existing bridge conditions contain two 12-foot lanes with 3-foot shoulders for a total width of 30 feet. The new bridges will continue to carry two 12-foot lanes, however shoulders will be widened to 8 feet to accommodate bicycles. The total bridge width will be 40 feet.

The project is scheduled to advertise for construction on October 2022. Notice to Proceed is scheduled for January 2023 with project completion and Open to Traffic in the winter of 2023/2024. The total cost of the project is \$11.337 million including \$10.763 million in federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funds.

Ms. Walker asked for any comments or questions. No one requested the opportunity to comment or ask questions. Ms. Walker requested a vote on Resolution #22-11. Ms. Lynda Eisenberg moved approval of Resolution #22-11 and Mr. Steve Cahoon seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

[PowerPoint: TIP Amendment for MD 91]

7. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #22-12

Mr. Todd Lang introduced the resolution to adopt the Addendum to the FY 2022-2023 UPWP. Mr. Lang reviewed the amount of funding available, what the source of funding is, and where the dollars are going (BMC, local jurisdictions, or consultants). The updated budget is the primary purpose of the addendum. Mr. Lang also covered a range of focus areas with available funding, ranging from phase II of a climate resource toolkit to RTP corridor analysis.

Mr. Lang described the 30-day comment period and stated that two parties (the Greater Washington Partnership and an individual) submitted comments. One comment urged the BRTB to find a way to take on the focus areas that were identified as contingent and the other urged transit connections between Carroll County and other locations. A response was prepared and sent to both parties.

Ms. Walker asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Theo Ngongang moved to adopt the UPWP Addendum with Ms. Tanya Asman seconding the motion. Ms. Walker asked the members if there was further discussion, there was none. Then she asked if anyone from the public had anything to ask or add. No one from the public voiced comments. Ms. Walker asked Ms. Deibel to begin a roll call vote, the resolution was unanimously approved.

[PowerPoint: April Action Items]

8. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #22-13

Mr. Lang shared that the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal is set in conjunction with each UPWP. The goal adopted by the BRTB is based on a methodology developed by MDOT. The BRTB piggybacks based on being located in the same or a substantially similar market. The FY 2023 DBE goal is proposed for 26.2 percent.

Ms. Walker asked for a motion from the committee. Mr. Bruce Gartner moved to adopt the DBE goal with Ms. Heather Murphy seconding the motion. Ms. Walker asked the members if there was further discussion. Then Ms. Walker asked if anyone from the public had anything to ask or add. No one from the public voiced comments. Ms. Walker asked Ms. Deibel to begin a roll call vote, the resolution was unanimously approved.

[PowerPoint: April Action Items]

9. PRESENTATION: LOOK ALIVE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Mr. Bala Akundi provided a summary of the regional pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign, LOOK ALIVE, first developed and launched in 2019 and implemented over the past two years with a preview of the next phase of the campaign.

By way of background, the Baltimore region accounts for roughly 50 percent of statewide pedestrian fatalities, ranging from 60 in 2019 to 64 in 2021 (statewide 124 in 2019 and 127 in 2021). While 2021 data is not yet finalized, it is very troubling to see the increasing trend despite lower volumes as a result of the pandemic. This trend is not just in pedestrian fatalities but across all categories (aggressive, impaired, distracted, etc.) resulting in an overall increase in the number of fatalities in the state and US in 2020 and 2021. At a recently held statewide safety summit, leaders of MDOT and the Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO) called for stepped up action from all stakeholders to help meet the state's goal of zero fatalities by 2030.

The LOOK ALIVE campaign featuring Signal Woman was created specifically for the Baltimore region in 2019 with grant funding from the MHSO. A steering committee made up of state and local jurisdiction representatives helped guide the process and continue to play an active role. The cornerstone of the campaign are 30- and 15-second video spots featuring signal woman (available at www.lookalivemd.org). Outreach includes paid media, outdoor advertising (transit, gas pump TV) and active engagement on social media. The FY 2020 and FY 2021 campaign implementation strategy had to be modified as a result of the pandemic with a shift to more outreach via social media. Pre-recorded messages featuring BMC Executive Director Mike Kelly, MDOT MVA Administrator Chrissy Nizer, and Baltimore County Police Officer Frank Enko were distributed to media outlets to promote the campaign. In 2021, teams of signal people (ambassadors) were sent to several high crash corridors wearing highly visible safety campaign messages. Some of these deployments garnered significant media attention. Details on locations, enforcement activations and media impressions are included in the presentation.

BMC is currently working to develop the next phase of the LOOK ALIVE campaign to include more messaging targeting drivers, specifically when turning at intersections. A new video spot will be produced and shot over the next few months and will be ready for implementation at the beginning of October which is National Pedestrian Safety month.

[PowerPoint: LOOK ALIVE Summary]

10. PRESENTATION: ABOUT CLEAN AIR PARTNERS

Ms. Nicole Hebert provided an update regarding recent Clean Air Partners (CAP) activity, as well as a general overview of the organization and its mission. Ms. Hebert serves as the Baltimore Region Coordinator for CAP on behalf of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, who founded this public-private partnership in 1995 in conjunction with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to inspire behavior changes in the Baltimore-Washington region that reduce emissions.

Recent CAP activity includes an education outreach program to middle and high school students, making air quality forecasts accessible and understandable to the general public, social media campaigns, and car emissions demonstrations. Ms. Hebert invited the group to touch base with her to learn more about monthly partner social media toolkits which can be tailored to member audiences.

[PowerPoint: CAP Update]

11. OTHER BUSINESS

There was interest in when/if the BRTB would resume in-person meetings. Mr. Lang indicated that the Technical Committee was meeting in-person on May 3 and would explore options for themselves and offer a template to other committees.

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

Members

Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration, Maryland Division
Heather Murphy, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
D'Andrea Walker, Baltimore County Department of Public Works & Transportation
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works
Theo Ngongang, Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Lynda Eisenberg, Carroll County Department of Planning
Bruce Gartner, Howard County Office of Transportation
Eric Leshinsky, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning
Alex Rawls, Harford County, Department of Planning
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment

Tanya Asman, (for Sam Snead), Anne Arundel County, Office of Transportation
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)

Staff and Guests

Maggie Adams, HDR
Bala Akundi, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Regina Aris, BMC
Cindy Burch, BMC
Tyson Byrne, MDOT
David Cookson, Howard County Office of Transportation
Rebecca Deibel, BMC
Blake Fisher, BMC
Joel Gallihue, Harford County Planning & Zoning
Elizabeth Gordon, Kittelson & Associates, Inc.
Monica Haines-Benkhedda, BMC
Nicole Hebert, BMC
Victor Henry, BMC
Dan Janousek, MDOT
Keith Kucharek, BMC
Todd Lang, BMC
Sheila Mahoney, BMC
Charlene Mingus, BMC
Lisa Minnick Sirota, MDOT SHA
Molly Porter, MDOT SHA
Greg Wissman, RS&H

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board