

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

February 28, 2023
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
9:02 to 10:22 A.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Sam Snead.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023 BRTB meeting was made by Mr. Snead. A motion was made by Mr. Steve Cohoon to approve the minutes and seconded by Ms. Lynda Eisenberg. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

No members of the public wished to speak at this time.

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- Comments are currently being sought on the \$10.7 million draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). There are a range of interesting projects in the upcoming work program related to future demographic trends, transit and microtransit, coordinating affordable housing and transportation, and improving traffic signal infrastructure. Members of the public are encouraged to share comments by Thursday, March 9 at: publicinput.com/2024UPWP.
- Recently closed was a comment period on Phase II of the Development of a Concept Plan for Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements along a Stretch of US 40 in Harford County. The second comment period sought feedback on two refined options and was held from January 26 through February 22. The feedback gathered during the comment periods will be used to develop final recommendations and an implementation plan. Learn more at publicinput.com/us40bikeped.

- BMC, on behalf of the BRTB, Howard County and Baltimore County, is conducting a multimodal transportation study for Ellicott City in Howard County and Oella in Baltimore County to address parking, wayfinding, and multimodal access. A public open house was held on December 8 with a public comment period running from November 17 through December 22. As part of the process to develop this study, the project team has developed reports on existing conditions and an analysis of initial recommendations.

The next phase is to develop final recommendations including parking management strategies and implementation guidelines, plans for multimodal improvements and wayfinding upgrades. A public meeting to present the recommendations will be held on March 21 with a public comment period running from March 6 through April 5. A presentation to the Technical Committee with final recommendations would follow the comment period in April 2023. Learn more at publicinput.com/historictowncenters.

- In 2017, the BRTB approved a concept plan for the Patapsco Regional Greenway (PRG). Now, the BMC, on behalf of the BRTB and Baltimore County seeks public input on the preferred alignments and initial design for the Guinness to Southwest Area Park segment, which will add approximately 6 miles to the PRG. A comment period will run from March 1 through 30. Stay tuned to publicinput.com/PRG for more info.
- Lastly, the Resilience 2050 educational white paper series continues. The two most recent white papers discuss the financial forecast and another explores resiliency and climate change. Along with each white paper, members of the public can share their thoughts through a project website at publicinput.com/resilience2050whitepapers. To date, we have had over 3,600 visitors to the project page and 51 participants have shared over 100 comments.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report for February 2023]

4. REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

Ms. Anna Marshall (BMC) reported the following from the February 2023 ICG meeting:

- The methodology letter used for conducting the air quality Conformity Determination for the 2024-2027 TIP and LRTP was revised to use the 2012 Reasonable Further Progress mobile budgets instead of the 2023 MVEBs. This is because the EPA has not deemed the new budgets adequate yet, and the timing doesn't line up with our schedule for conformity.
- ICG approved the methodology letter, and it was sent to our federal partners at EPA, FHWA and FTA on Tuesday, February 14th.
- Information was shared about the Air Quality Dashboard BMC is working on that has data about temperature and precipitation and how it relates to ozone and PM_{2.5} in the Baltimore region.

5. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Joel Gallihue reported the following from the February 2023 TC meeting:

- Resolution #23-14: BMC staff introduced a request to amend the current TIP. Howard County is requesting this amendment to repair or replace 10 bridges that are currently rated in poor condition. These bridges must be added to the TIP in order for the County to request federal funds. The TC voted to move this resolution to the BRTB.
- Maryland Travel Survey Topic – Transit Hotspots in the Baltimore Region: BMC staff pulled data from the 2018-2019 Maryland Travel Survey (MTS), specifically, an Analysis of Transit Hotspots in the Baltimore region. Transit hotspots were defined as locations of intense transit activity, specifically bus transit.

The geographical unit of the study was the Census Tract and it was noted that there could be up to 69 trips and that transit destinations per Census Tract ranged from 1-2 trips up to 74 multiple bus stops in a Census Tract. Transit origins per Census Tract ranged from 1-2 trips. Transit destinations range slightly higher than transit origins, which by definition, destinations are trip attractors.

- Resilience 2050 Update: BMC staff shared that draft chapters of *Resilience 2050* are in process. BMC will start meeting with a graphic design consultant in early March to talk about public involvement and advertising materials for the public comment period. Last, members should start thinking about locations for hosting public meetings.
- Preparing for the UPWP Comment Period: BMC staff reviewed progress to date to prepare the draft UPWP for release. Staff also discussed the schedule for release, the 30-day comment period, review and response to public comment and the date of the BRTB vote. Members voted to release it for public comment.
- Updates on current and upcoming Focus Areas: BMC then reviewed the status of work on previously approved focus areas. Six tasks have been completed and twelve tasks are underway. Still to be released are five tasks.
- Carbon Reduction Program: Members were introduced to the new FHWA Carbon Reduction Program. The BIL establishes the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), which provides funds for projects designed to reduce transportation emissions, defined as carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from on-road highway sources. A long list of eligible activities was shared as well as information about funding levels. To start a discussion, staff reviewed 2022 Priority Letters and provided one possible project from each member's letter. MDOT is also working on a process for awarding projects for this funding.

6. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #23-14

Mr. Keith Kucharek introduced the resolution. In Resolution #23-14, Howard County requested to amend the FY 2023-2026 TIP to add 10 bridges to the existing Bridge Repair and Deck Replacement project.

Mr. David Cookson provided an introduction to the amendment. The existing project has an estimated total of \$18.01 million. The additional projects will add \$7.35 million (\$5.88 million federal STBG/\$1.47 million local matching funds) for a new estimated total cost of \$25.36 million.

Howard County is requesting this amendment to repair or replace 10 bridges that are currently rated in poor condition. These bridges must be added to the TIP in order for the County to request federal funds.

Mr. Prasoon Shrestha detailed the location of each structure, the year it was constructed and the type of structure being repaired or replaced. Mr. Shrestha then outlined the types of repairs needed for each structure. These ranged anywhere from minor culvert paving (repairing rusted culverts) to full replacement of two of the ten structures.

Mr. Snead requested a vote on Resolution #23-14. Ms. Eisenberg recommended approval of the resolution, and Mr. Alex Rawls seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the resolution.

[PowerPoint: TIP Amendment 2023-2026 TIP for Howard County]

7. PRESENTATION: MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES FY 2024 MDOT BUDGET REVIEW

Mr. Steven McCulloch, Maryland Department of Legislative Services, is an analyst that has been tasked with transportation issues for 10 years. Mr. McCulloch discussed the upcoming MDOT budget by referencing a document prepared by the Maryland Department of Legislative Services. Several highlights include: COVID hit transit ridership and revenues hard. There was a discussion of the status of the Maryland Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) due to COVID – those funds are now recovering. At the closeout of FY 2022 actual funds surpassed projected funds. Also reviewed were TTF 6-year forecast by source of revenue and expenditures, as well as looking at the 6-year capital budget by source and a comparison of last year to now. Looking at Capital trends, there was an increase in 2013 due to increase in fuel tax. The TTF for 2024 shows half of all dollars going to capital needs. An overview of the 2022-2024 budgets by mode show over 60% of operating dollars go to MDOT MTA. Regarding capital funding by mode, here MDOT SHA has largest share. Sixty nine percent of IIJA funds went to MDOT SHA and 18% to MDOT MTA. A comment was made that the MDOT needs to be engaged in discussion of mileage based fees due to the continuing expansion of EVs in the marketplace.

8. PRESENTATION: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE REGARDING THE 2023 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Michael Kelly prepared a presentation on transportation-related legislation moving through the 2023 session of the Maryland General Assembly. The information reflects the status of bills as of February 27 and a [link to locate the bills](#) was provided.

Mr. Kelly identified 3 bills on transit reform, 4 more on equity and 1 on LOTS. Regarding transit issues, HB0491/SB is a bill to create a Commission to study a Baltimore Region Transit Authority, HB0794/SB is to establish a Baltimore Regional Transit Commission, and HB1072/SB is a bill to create a Taskforce to study the Reconstitution of the MD Transportation Commission.

Regarding equity issues, HB0009/SB Equity in Transportation looks to establishing guidelines and analyses, HB0012/SB establishes a grant program for Equitable and Inclusive TOD (revolving loan fund) which is a priority of Greater Baltimore Committee and Greater Washington Partnership. HB0341 would require an analysis of equity impacts in TIPs and the STIP, HB1052 would require certain goals and measures to score certain projects in the CTP.

HB1125/SB would create a LOTS grant program and tie LOTS funding to inflation.

[PowerPoint: Legislative Update – MD General Assembly]

9. PRESENTATION: BALTIMORE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ATTITUDE & AWARENESS STUDY FINAL REPORT

Mr. Bala Akundi and Ms. Adrienne Dealy (Sherry Matthews Group) provided an update on the 2022 Look Alive campaign to promote pedestrian and bicyclist safety in the Baltimore region. The campaign was launched in 2019 when the region had 61 pedestrian fatalities and 1,835 injuries. The number of fatalities increased to 67 in 2021, while injuries dropped slightly to 1,515. The campaign is funded by the Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO) and supports regional and statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) goals. BRTB representatives on the Safety Subcommittee and the Look Alive Steering Committee provide input and direction for the campaign.

In 2022, the campaign expanded the content toolkit with the addition of a new video targeting drivers (backseat driver) and several social media clips with a broad range of messaging. Since the outbreak of the COVID pandemic in early 2020, much of the outreach efforts have centered on social media such as you tube, Instagram and twitter.

Ms. Dealy outlined the social and paid media outreach that was done in 2022. The objective was to provide tips to everyone in the Baltimore region to ensure the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. The target audience was all persons between the ages of 21 and 54. Paid media was concentrated over a 6-week period between September 19 and October 31. Outdoor media included bus ads on MDOT MTA buses – in the form of bus tails (120) and interior cards (120).

Signal people street teams dressed as walking billboards took to some of the busiest streets in the Baltimore area to remind drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to practice traffic safety and obey laws. Between September 26 and October 5, they were at 8 locations visited in the region. Several of these are areas with high vulnerable population index (VPI) addressing equity and underserved populations.

The Look Alive virtual reality (VR) challenge that includes signal people, a crosswalk box photo booth and a real car equipped with a pedestrian safety VR experience was brought to the Westfield Annapolis Mall and attracted a number of mall goers.

The campaign received good media coverage in 2022 by leveraging the team's strong relationship with local media and covering every aspect of the campaign from enforcement

activations to events and promoting safety tips. Overall, the 2022 campaign activities which began in April garnered over 36 million impressions and 1.3 million engagements.

Towards the end of the year, a safety attitude and awareness study was conducted to measure awareness of the Look Alive campaign and general attitudes and behaviors towards safety. A randomized sample of 352 members of the region resulted in the following:

- Without any visual aid, 22% of respondents recalled advertising for the Look Alive Signal Woman pedestrian safety campaign.
- Respondents who recalled Look Alive ads, cited key campaign messages, including “eyes up, phones down,” crosswalk use, signal woman herself, and the need to look out for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Forty seven percent of respondents recalled seeing at least one of the five Look Alive ads.
- Each of the five ads was judged to be relevant, memorable and motivational for the majority of respondents.
- The main source of Look Alive ad awareness was online, accounting for 50% of awareness.

The presentation concluded with several recommendations on how to continue and expand the campaign in 2023.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

The April meeting will be on Friday the 21st with the BMC Board beginning at 9 A.M. and the BRTB at 9:30 A.M.

Mr. Lang noted that the recently approved Public Participation Plan called for posting recordings of meetings online. This will start for all committees in April.

Members

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

Angelica Daniel (for D’Andrea Walker), Baltimore County Department of Public Works & Transportation

Kwaku Duah, City of Annapolis Department of Transportation

Lynda Eisenberg, Carroll County Department of Planning

Bruce Gartner, Howard County Office of Transportation

Elizabeth Gordon, MDOT Maryland Transit Administration

Eric Leshinsky, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning

Heather Murphy, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Theo Ngongang, Baltimore City Department of Transportation

Alex Rawls, Harford County, Department of Planning

Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment

Sam Snead, Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation

Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)

Staff and Guests

Bala Akundi, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Regina Aris, BMC
Cindy Burch, BMC
Tyson Byrne, MDOT
David Cookson, Howard County Office of Transportation
Adrienne Dealy, Sherry Matthews Group
Rebecca Deibel, BMC
Joel Gallihue, Harford County
Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC
Don Halligan, BMC
Dan Janousek, MDOT
Zach Kaufman, BMC
Mike Kelly, BMC
Shawn Kimberly, BMC
Keith Kucharek, BMC
Todd Lang, BMC
Sheila Mahoney, BMC
Anna Marshall, BMC
Steven McCulloch, Maryland Department of Legislative Services
Charlene Mingus, BMC
Lisa Minnick, MDOT SHA
Eric Norton, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Shane Sarver, BMC
Prasoon Shrestha, Howard County Department of Public Works

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board