

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

May 23, 2023
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
9:02 to 10:25 A.M.

MINUTES

The 353rd 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 March 28 and April 25 BRTB meetings was made by Mr. Snead. A motion was made by Mr. Alex Rawls to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Theo Ngongang. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

There was no one who wished to address the BRTB.

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda shared that the current opportunity for public comment includes the 2024-2027 TIP, Resilience 2050 and the associated Conformity Determination. To dig into the plans, learn more about potential projects near you and share your thoughts, go to publicinput.com/Resilience2050. Let us know what you think by June 20.

Also, anyone wishing to discuss the plans in more detail is welcome to join one of eight public meetings – seven in person and one virtual – during the comment period. These will include guided overviews of the plans and planning processes, more details about local impacts and opportunities to ask questions and weigh in. The meetings will launch on Wednesday, May 24 and run through Thursday, June 15 at locations around the region.

In terms of closed comment periods, 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 meeting to present the recommendations was held on March 21 with a public comment period running from March 6 through April 5. Nearly 800 people visited the project website and over 40 people shared comments or completed a survey. Learn more at publicinput.com/historictowncenters.

Also In March, BMC, on behalf of the BRTB and Baltimore County sought public input on the preferred alignments and initial design for the Guinness to Southwest Area Park segment, which will add another approximately 6 miles to the Patapsco Regional Greenway. During the comment period, over 1,500 people visited the project website and 20 participants shared comments online. An additional 20+ people attended an in person public meeting and shared comments. Learn more or sign up for updates at publicinput.com/prg.

[Handout: Public Involvement Report for May 2023]

4. REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

Ms. Anna Marshall reported about the ICG meeting from May 2023:

- ICG meets to discuss and vote on decisions about the air quality conformity determination process for the TIP and LRTP.
- This year, the emission analysis results from the air quality modeling for ozone completed by staff from both BMC and MDE show that the projected mobile emissions for the Baltimore region are below the approved mobile emission budgets for all 5 test horizon years.
- Since the Baltimore region is in a moderate nonattainment area for ozone, emissions modeling is completed for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emissions which are precursors for ozone pollution. The approved mobile emissions budgets and the 5 horizon years are detailed in the methodology letter that was sent to our federal partners in February.
- ICG approved the projected emissions results, which are shown in detail in the draft conformity determination document, which is currently available for public comment.

5. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Joel Gallihue reported the following from the May 2023 Technical Committee meeting:

- BMC staff shared a requested amendment to the FY 2023-2026 TIP. Howard County is asking to add the Patapsco Regional Greenway: Elkrige to Guinness Open Gate Brewery trail segment for Final Design. After some discussion, a vote was taken with unanimous support from the members.
- BMC staff introduced a requested amendment to the FY 2023-2026 TIP. MDOT MD Port Administration asked to add the Masonville Cove Connector: Shared-use Path Design and Construction. After a discussion, the vote was taken with unanimous support from the members.

- Mr. Gallihue asked MDOT and Howard County to develop a slate of Officers for FY 2024. Both parties accepted the invitation to develop a slate of Officers. The slate will be presented in June with elections in July.
- BMC staff provided an overview of the Concept Plan for Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements along US 40 in Harford County that is currently in the final stages of completion. There is a five mile study area extending from the City of Aberdeen to the City of Havre de Grace. The concept plan includes planning-level design of a comfortable, convenient, and safe shared-use path along US 40 that connects to transit and neighborhoods and provides a foundation for the future development, implementation, and maintenance of a shared-use path serving bicyclists and pedestrians along the corridor.
As part of the process to develop this Concept Plan for Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements along US 40, three potential concept options were explored. Based on design considerations and community feedback received at multiple public meetings, the project website, and an online survey the Westbound Option and Combined Option were recommended for further study.
- Resilience 2050: BMC staff thanked TC members for their reviews of the draft chapters of *Resilience 2050*. BMC staff continue to prepare for the public comment period planned for May 17 – June 20. BMC staff created a public involvement plan for the comment period and are preparing advertisements for digital and print media including social media, newspapers and radio.
- Maryland Travel Survey: Walking in the Baltimore Region: BMC staff discussed results from the Survey using regional data. The group that walked the most is 18-44 years old at 38.7% and the group that walked the least is teenagers 16-17 years old at 1.9%. Individuals with incomes of \$150,000 or more (21.7%) walked the most and those earning between \$15,000 to \$24,999 (7.1%) walked the least. Whites (72.4%) walk the most and American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander walked the least at 0.1%. The most walking trips by Purpose was for Shopping and Meals at 29.8% and the lowest walking was for School trips at 10.8%.
- ICF Consultants gave an update on the equity scan project, including results from the April 26th Transportation CORE focus group. Following the presentation, ICF conducted an interactive exercise using a Mural whiteboard to elicit ideas from TC members and guests for recommendations to advance equity through four key products. Feedback will be used to inform final recommendations on these areas for the BRTB.
- There was a closed session to begin discussions of upcoming RFPs from the FY 2024 UPWP. The May meeting featured PRG: Stoney Run Trail, Signal Infrastructure Assessment and Post-Pandemic Trends.

6. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #23-21

Mr. Keith Kucharek presented Resolution #23-21. Howard County has requested to amend the FY 2023-2026 TIP to add one new project, the Patapsco Regional Greenway: Elkridge to Guinness Open Gate Brewery trail segment for Final Design. This project was presented to the Interagency Consultation Group at its April 5th meeting and was determined to be exempt

according to the conformity rule. The Technical Committee recommended sending the amendment to the BRTB for approval at its May 2nd meeting.

The project consists of a 1.5 mile hard surface trail that extends from the Guinness Open Gate Brewery in Baltimore County to historic Elkridge in Howard County. The trail will begin at the Guinness Open Gate Brewery and travel south under I-895 towards the Patapsco River. The trail follows the river, crossing under I-195 before turning north towards the I-895 ramp to US 1. The trail will parallel the ramp utilizing a 290-foot boardwalk to traverse a large wetland area. A bridge across the Patapsco River will lead the trail to intersect Main Street and then follows Main Street to Levering Avenue where the trail terminates.

Amending the project into the TIP is necessary to obtain NEPA approval. The amendment includes \$1.25 million in construction funds provided by a Howard County DPW grant. Baltimore County is also contributing \$500,000 for final engineering. Additional funding to complete construction will be necessary. This could come in the form of a Transportation Alternatives Program award or other sources identified by the counties.

In early 2021, 30% design was completed and is the basis for final design. The current schedule is for 60% completion in August/September 2023, 90% completion in winter 2023/2024 and 100% design completion in spring 2024.

Mr. Bruce Gartner recommended approval of the resolution, and Mr. Tyson Byrne seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the resolution.

[PowerPoint: PRG Elkridge to Guinness TIP Amendment]

7. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #23-22

Mr. Kucharek introduced the resolution. In Resolution #23-22, the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) requested to amend the FY 2023-2026 TIP to add one new project, the Masonville Cove Connector: Shared-use Path Design and Construction. This project was presented to the Interagency Consultation Group at its April 5th meeting and was determined to be exempt according to the conformity rule. The Technical Committee recommended sending the amendment to the BRTB for approval at its May 2nd meeting.

Mr. Joseph Ross, MDOT MPA, and Mr. Andrew Bing, Kramer Associates, presented the details of the project. This project was previously in the 2017-2020 TIP utilizing FHWA Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funds to develop a feasibility study.

In 2023, MDOT MPA was awarded an additional FLAP grant to design and construct a shared-use path along Frankfurst Avenue in Baltimore City from Masonville Cove to South Hanover Street. Masonville Cove is the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.

The Masonville Cove Connector will establish safe, convenient and equitable access to the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center. The shared-use path will also provide a connection to local communities and other trails and recreational areas throughout the city.

The project began in September 2022. Thirty percent design completion is expected in fall 2023 with 100% design completion in fall 2024. Construction is anticipated to be complete in fall 2025.

Mr. Byrne recommended approval of the resolution, and Ms. D'Andrea Walker seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the resolution.

[PowerPoint: TIP Amendment 2023-2026 TIP: Masonville Cove Connector]

8. REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Byrne shared that the Nominating Committee is recommending a slate of Officers for the BRTB to serve during Fiscal Year 2024. A representative of Public Transportation for FY 2024 is also being considered. The committee consisted of MDOT and Carroll County and they are nominating Baltimore County for Chair and Howard County for Vice Chair. The vote will take place at the June meeting.

9. PRESENTATION: 2050 MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Ms. Michelle Martin (MDOT) presented about the 2050 Maryland Transportation Plan. The MTP is a federal and state requirement that is a long-range transportation plan, and is currently being developed, due by January 2024. The MTP is a policy-based plan, as opposed to a project-based plan. The MDOT State Report is a state required, annual report on transportation which contains three documents: the MTP, the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), and the Attainment Report (AR) on Transportation System Performance. It is typically submitted to the General Assembly during the third week in January.

When MDOT develops the new MTP, the Governor's Attainment Report Advisory Committee (ARAC) is convened to advise MDOT on the selection of performance measures and targets to be included in the AR. There are various inputs to the 2050 MTP including other MDOT and MPO transportation plans, federal and state priorities, peer State Plans, and public input, all to help guide the draft vision, principles and goals.

The MTP is developed in Phases. Phase 1 looks at existing conditions, trends and challenges including Maryland's population, economy, and transportation challenges. Phase 2 is when the draft vision, guiding principles goals and objectives are written, and public engagement takes place. Phase 2 also includes an assessment of future needs, revenues, and gaps. Phase 3 includes developing the draft plan and releasing the Draft Plan for public review. Phase 3 will start in Summer 2023.

[PowerPoint: MDOT 2050 Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP) & Attainment Report Advisory Committee]

10. DISCUSSION: EQUITY SCAN

Ms. Sherry Steine (ICF) presented an overview of the project purpose, process and activities. The overview included ideas generated from meetings with the Transportation CORE and Technical Committee. Ms. Steine also provided a high-level overview of the draft recommendations for each key planning document, as well as a synthesis of vulnerable population characteristics and desired outcomes.

Ms. Hannah Twadell (ICF) led a group discussion with the Board around the recommendations. Ms. Twadell asked for immediate reactions based on the presentation. Ms. Bihui Xu noted that the recommendations were separated into four areas. For the UPWP, are those recommendations to the UPWP or suggested UPWP studies? There are four documents that the team reviewed to see how they can consistently include equity. All recommendations came from a combination of peer agency research and discussions with the CORE and Tech Committee. These UPWP recommendations would be activities that can be incorporated into the next UPWP. Mr. Lang noted this work should take advantage of what is happening in local jurisdictions, such as helping put together a standing committee.

Mr. Byrne noted that he was looking for some more in-depth, how-to handbook that they can use. For example, what equity definition should we pick – rather than tell us to adopt an equity definition. Also, how do you do an analysis of a group of projects vs individual projects. Looking at a program/group of projects can get messy, and we would like to get more assistance in this. How to go from individual/micro to a regional approach.

Ms. Twadell noted that for adopting a definition, ICF has collected a group of example MPO statements from peer agencies. We also pulled out some info from BMC existing documents and definitions at BMC. The desired outcomes are a synthesis of overarching themes we have heard throughout this project. These themes can be guiding principles and BMC can set goals or establish a definition through this information. These desired outcomes can be what BMC means by equity.

Establishing a standing committee could further finalize an equity definition. It is important to discuss with the equity committee and engage stakeholders further to fine tune characteristics of issues and what is important to the region.

Members contributed information on equity. Mr. Fred Lippert (MDOT MTA) shared this link: <https://www.transportation.gov/priorities/equity>, and Ms. Catherine Salarano shared a relatively new resource at MDE called the MDE EJ Screening Tool: <https://mdewin64.mde.state.md.us/EJ/>.

[PowerPoint: Draft Equity Recommendations]

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Lynda Eisenberg shared information about the upcoming APA meeting. The APA Meet & Greet will feature the Secretaries for the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Department of Transportation on Thursday, June 15 at 5:30 - 6:30 pm, at BMC. You can

register at: <https://apamaryland.org/activities/2023/6/15/apa-meet-amp-greet-with-maryland-secretaries-of-planning-amp-transportation>.

There was no other business. The meeting ended at 10:25 am.

Members

Tyson Byrne (for Heather Murphy), Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Justine Champion, Federal Highway Administration, Maryland Division
Kwaku Duah – Annapolis Transit
Lynda Eisenberg, Carroll County Department of Planning
Bruce Gartner, Howard County Office of Transportation
Liz Gordon, MDOT Maryland Transit Administration
Eric Leshinsky, City of Annapolis, Department of Planning
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
D'Andrea Walker, Baltimore County Department of Public Works & Transportation
Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)

Staff and Guests

Bala Akundi, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Regina Aris, BMC
Andrew Bing, Kramer Associates
Rebecca Deibel, BMC
Haley Eggert, ICF
Blake Fisher, BMC
Joel Gallihue, Harford County
Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC
Don Halligan, BMC
Dan Janousek, MDOT
Aviva Klugh, MDOT
Shilpa Kodkani, Michael Baker International
Keith Kucharek, BMC
Todd Lang, BMC
Fred Lippert, MDOT MTA
Anna Marshall, BMC
Michelle Martin, MDOT
Charlene Mingus, BMC
Joseph Ross, MDOT Maryland Port Administration
Fritzen Royer
Shane Sarver, BMC

Andrea Sherman, HDR
Eileen Singleton, BMC
Sherry Steine, ICF
Corey Stottlemyer, MDOT
Darren Swift
Kelly Tarver, MDOT
Hannah Twaddell, ICF

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board