

BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

May 27, 2025
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
9:01 to 10:16 A.M.

MINUTES

The 374th meeting was called to order at 9:01 A.M. by the Chair, Mr. Tony Russell.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A request for a motion to approve the minutes of the March and April BRTB meetings was made by Mr. Russell. A motion was made by Mr. Sam Snead to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Alex Rawls. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

There were no prior requests to address the board and no members of the public were present who wished to address the BRTB.

3. REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda presented the May Public Involvement Report

- The region's public engagement platform has been rebranded and is now live at YourRegionYourVoice.org, where folks can find current initiatives and provide input. In April, the site received over 3,500 visits, with 53 individuals actively participating and submitting more than 100 comments.
- A key focus of current outreach is the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Air Quality Conformity Report, public comments on the draft TIP are being accepted through June 15 on the engagement hub at YourRegionYourVoice.org/BRTB-TIP. The TIP contains \$6.2 billion in federal, state, local, and toll revenue investments across 172 projects.

- Recruiting continues for new members for the Transportation CORE, a virtual volunteer group that provides feedback on regional transportation planning through surveys and virtual meetings.

[PowerPoint: Public Involvement Report]

4. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Dan Janousek reported the following from the May Technical Committee:

- In this meeting, five proposed amendments to the 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) were introduced and approved to be forwarded to the board. A key highlight was the introduction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge Transit Incentives Project, a new MDOT pilot program responding to the recent bridge collapse.
- Additionally, a Nominating Committee was established to prepare a slate of officers for the Technical Committee for Fiscal Year 2026. This committee includes representatives from Anne Arundel County, Queen Anne's County, and MDOT. The slate will be presented in June, with officer elections scheduled for July.
- The committee also entered a closed session to discuss upcoming Requests for Proposals (RFPs). During that session, BMC staff presented details on two FY 2026 tasks—crash data analytics and telematics review and the Henryton Road Bridge Spur project—both of which were approved for RFP release.

5. REPORT FROM THE INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

Ms. Anna Marshall provided a report on the May Interagency Consultation Group:

- The primary focus of the meeting was the regional emissions analysis for the 2026–2029 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report, which is currently out for public comment alongside the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- The analysis results were approved and confirm that the region is below the approved emissions budgets for both nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), key precursors to ozone formation. The results mark a positive step toward continued progress in regional air quality.
- The ICG reviewed the five TIP amendments on today's agenda and confirmed that each is exempt from air quality conformity requirements.

6. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #25-29

At this meeting, the BRTB was asked to consider Resolution #25-29, which involves a request from the Maryland Department of Transportation - Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) to amend the Fiscal Year 2025–2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for five transit-related projects. Ms. Jamie Richardson provided an overview of the proposed amendments.

The Bus and Paratransit Vehicle Overhaul and Replacement project replaces MTA buses and paratransit vehicles to support fleet capacity and remove aging equipment. The amendment obligates \$44.85 million in CMAQ funds and \$7.5 million in state match in FY 2025.

The Zero Emission Infrastructure and Rolling Stock project supports the purchase of battery electric buses and related infrastructure. Through the purchases, this project reduces greenhouse gas emissions and grow the economy. The amendment obligates \$393,000 in CMAQ funds, \$18.8 million in Carbon Reduction Program funds, and \$3.3 million in state funding in FY 2025.

The Urban Transit Systems – Operating Assistance project supports locally operated transit systems in the region. Funding from this amendment will cover CY 2024 and 2025 operational costs in Harford County. The amendment obligates \$4.6 million in 5307 funding and \$4.6 million in local match funds in FY 2025.

The MARC Facilities project encompass both facility improvements and equipment for MARC maintenance facilities and stations, supporting both state-of-good-repair and rider experience. Along with adding funding, this amendment updates the project description and project benefits. The amendment obligates \$28 million in 5337 funding and \$7 million in state match in FY 2025.

The Francis Scott Key Bridge Transit Incentives project is a new project and an addition to the FY 2025-2028 TIP. MDOT MTA is piloting a program to support businesses and residents affected by the March 2024 Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse. The program will offer short-term cost sharing incentives to employers who participate in transit pass subsidization. The amendment obligates \$1 million in CMAQ funds and \$250,000 in state match in FY 2025, when all funds will be obligated.

Following the presentation Mr. Lang reminded the group that these TIP amendments were recommended for approval by the Technical Committee, Mr. Russel then called for a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Snead called for the approval of the resolution and Mr. Trey Dickerson seconded the motion. Following a call for member and public comment, the board voted with no objection to approve Resolution #25-29.

[PowerPoint: 2025-2028 TIP Amendments for MTA]

7. PRESENTATION: POST PANDEMIC TRENDS

Mr. Lang introduced members of the consultant team from AECOM to present on the UPWP Post Pandemic Trends project. Mr. David Roden introduced the presentation along with team members Mr. Kevin Pullis, Ms. Toni Horst and Mr. Adriano Chernoff. This presentation examined how shifts in work, commuting, land use, and policy are reshaping regional dynamics. The research was conducted in two phases, included surveys, travel demand modeling, and real estate analysis. The findings highlight a lasting shift toward hybrid and remote work, particularly within finance, insurance, real estate, and professional services. This has contributed to a permanent reduction in work-related trips, with especially low travel

activity on Mondays and Fridays, prompting a rethinking of travel forecasting and transportation infrastructure needs.

In the Central Business District (CBD), traditional office occupancy and weekday foot traffic have declined significantly. This has led to increased vacancies, a rise in sublease space, and reduced transit use—trends that contrast with signs of recovery and growth in surrounding areas like Midtown, Baltimore County, and regional corridors. At the same time, flexible workspaces and office-to-residential conversions are gaining traction, suggesting a transition toward more mixed-use environments.

The presentation emphasized the importance of policy levers to support recovery and adaptation with Ms. Horst providing detailed case study examples from similar metro and urban areas. Baltimore is already applying a diverse mix of strategies, including affordable housing development, incentives for building reuse, government office relocations, and transit accessibility enhancements. These are intended to revitalize downtown, attract and retain residents and employers, and reinforce regional equity. Importantly, while foot traffic and downtown vitality remain below pre-pandemic levels, there are indicators of stabilization and potential for regrowth. The region's strong transit accessibility and ongoing public and private sector efforts position it to respond effectively to evolving urban and workforce patterns. Ms. Horst concluded the presentation by framing the current moment as part of a longer cycle of downtown transformation, underscoring the need for ongoing monitoring and flexible planning to adapt to a workforce and economy increasingly defined by mobility, choice, and change.

[PowerPoint: Post Pandemic Trends – Real Estate Market Report]

8. DISCUSSION WITH MDOT SHA ON PROJECT COORDINATION

Ms. Cheryl LaDota of Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) provided an update on efforts to improve the administration of local programs, including Transportation Alternatives, Recreational Trails, Safe Routes to School, the Carbon Reduction Program, Protect, and the Local Bridge Program. She summarized key feedback received from a recent C-Meeting where local partners identified concerns related to design review delays, overly complex processes, lack of clarity on the use of local vs. SHA standards, and the need for updated manuals and innovative project delivery options.

To address these issues, SHA has reestablished the internal Local Public Agency (LPA) Council, bringing together staff from across relevant departments to improve coordination and streamline internal processes. Additional employee and consultant resources have been added to support federal aid programming and project management. New contracts are also being developed to provide locals with faster access to design support, reducing reliance on time-consuming procurement procedures.

Efforts are underway to develop IT tools for greater transparency, allowing local stakeholders to track project milestones and timelines. SHA is also revisiting policies and procedures to ensure they are efficient, up-to-date, and better aligned with current practices. Ms. LaDota closed by emphasizing SHA's commitment to continuous improvement and invited participants to complete the SHA Local Program Survey. The short survey will help identify

pain points and guide further enhancements. She reiterated that improving LPA program delivery is a high priority for MDOT SHA leadership and that local feedback is critical to that effort.

[PowerPoint: MDOT State Highway Administration Local Programs Survey]

9. RECOMMENDATION OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Russel informed the BRTB that the Nominating Committee presented its proposed slate of officers for Fiscal Year 2026, following a survey of BRTB members regarding their interest in serving. The committee recommends Howard County for chair and Queen Anne's County for vice chair. Formal nominations will remain open, and the election of officers will take place at the June BRTB meeting.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Amanda Hinn of MDOT's Secretary's Office provided an update on the development of the Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (ZEVIP). The ZEVIP is being developed in response to the Governor's climate executive order and aims to guide the strategic deployment of infrastructure to support the growing use of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) across Maryland. The plan will assess both corridor and community-level infrastructure needs and will be shaped through a multi-agency and multi-partner approach, including collaboration with local governments and private sector stakeholders.

The ZEVIP will also include scenario planning to help the state respond to federal funding and policy uncertainties, particularly in light of pending regulatory developments such as Advanced Clean Cars II. The plan is expected to be published in September 2025, and MDOT plans to release accompanying planning tools for public and local government use.

Ms. Hinn also encouraged participation in an ongoing public survey related to zero emission vehicle use and infrastructure needs, which is open to all Marylanders—regardless of EV ownership status—through June 13. The survey targets residents, fleet operators, and industry professionals and is intended to inform the ZEVIP's development.

There was no other business. Following a vote to close, the meeting ended at 10:16 am.

Members

Geoff Anderson, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Jasmine Champion, Federal Highway Administration, Maryland Division
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works
Trey Dickerson, Howard County Office of Transportation
Elizabeth Gordon, MDOT Maryland Transit Administration
Mary Lane, Carroll County Department of Planning
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Sam Snead, Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
Tony Russell, Baltimore County Department of Public Works & Transportation

Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

Tim Briggs, BMC

Adriano Chernoff, AECOM

Monica Haines Benkhedda, BMC

Matt Hancock, BMC

Victor Henry, BMC

Amanda Hinh, MDOT

Toni Horst, AECOM

Andrea Jackson, BMC

Dan Janousek, MDOT

Zach Kaufman, BMC

Keith Kucharek, BMC

Cheryl Ladota, MDOT SHA

Todd Lang, BMC

Anna Marshall, BMC

Eric Norton, CMTA

Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, BMC

Kevin Pullis, AECOM

Jamie Richardson, MDOT MTA

David Roden, AECOM

Andrea Sherman, HDR

Marium Sultan, BMC

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Lang, Secretary
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board