

## PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 07, 2018  
Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
5:38 to 7:28 P.M.

### MINUTES

Mr. Eric Norton called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. He noted some changes in the agenda to allow for a presentation by the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA).

#### 1. I-95 SECTION 200 EXPRESS TOLL LANES

Mr. Michael Rothenheber, a project manager for the I-95 Section 200 Express Toll Lane (ETL), provided members with an overview of the project plans. The project is part of a series of funding updates to the *2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* and/or *Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan* for five Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) projects and one MDTA project. The amendment would add the \$210 million project to the *2018-2021 TIP* and *Maximize2040* using MDTA toll revenue.

The I-95 Section 200 ETL project includes the addition of a single Express Toll Lane that will stretch 4.9 miles, from north of MD 43 in Baltimore County, to one mile south of MD 152 in Harford County. MDTA will add an auxiliary lane from one mile south of MD 152 to the MD 152 off-ramp. Finally, MDTA plans to extend the on-ramp from MD 152 as an auxiliary lane to the MD 24/MD 924 off ramp. The project also includes various corridor improvements such as four noise walls and a new ITS system.

**[Presentation: [I-95 Express Toll Lanes, Northbound Extension](#)]**

#### 2. SUBCOMMITTEES REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

- **Policy and Legislation** – Mr. William Cowan reported the subcommittee conversed online several times in February to review the [proposed funding changes for several major congestion easement projects](#), open for public review through March 14. The PAC discussed the various projects and voted as follows:
  - **I-695: I-70 to MD 43** – The PAC *does not endorse* (3 For, 8 Against, 4 Abstain) this project.
  - **I-695: I-95 to MD 122 and I-70 at I-695: Triple Bridges Study** – The PAC supports (13 for, 3 against) removal of these two projects from the TIP.
  - **I-95 Express Toll Lane (Section 200)** – The PAC *does not endorse* (5 for, 10 against) this project as presented.

- **US 40: Bridge Replacements over Little & Big Gunpowder Falls project** – The PAC supports (8 For, 4 Against, 2 Abstain) the replacement of this bridge. However, members feel that protected bicycle facilities should be included on the bridge as US 40 is a bicycle route and part of the East Coast Greenway. Previous and current bridge reconstruction projects along US 40 did not provide any MOT for bicycles, forcing them to share the lane at 60+ mph. In addition, unlike along the typical section of roadway, a bicyclist has nowhere to bail out to the side of the road on a bridge. Although not required as part of AASHTO design guidelines, an 8-10' shoulder appears to be able to be incorporated without any major changes to the bridge design.
- **I-83: Bridge Replacement over Padonia Road project** – The PAC supports (14 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstain) the replacement of this bridge.

***[Handout: PAC Resolution #2018-01 on proposed amendments to the TIP and Maximize2040]***

- **Equity** – Mr. Norton reported that the subcommittee met on February 21 to discuss follow up steps on the [draft policy statement on equity to guide BRTB plans and programs](#). At their meeting, the subcommittee outlined recommendations for meetings with local jurisdictions and added some information to the equity briefing papers. Staff will be setting up meetings with BRTB representatives to review the PAC's proposal and will follow-up with the committee about the results.
- **Every Voice Counts Transportation Academy** – Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda reported the ad-hoc committee has continued to meet to implement the PAC sponsored Leadership Academy [event plan](#), based on the [USDOT Everyplace Counts Leadership Academy](#).

On Saturday, May 5 at Impact Hub, Every Voice Counts will bring together 75-100 residents, community leaders, and non-traditionally engaged participants for a daylong workshop where they will:

- Learn, in plain language, about the transportation decision-making process (i.e. how transportation is planned, funded, designed, built and maintained);
- Identify ways they can work with their local and state transportation agencies in a proactive, constructive way to improve transportation; and
- Understand how to be better engaged in the decision-making process by knowing who to contact and when.

Currently, sponsors are needed for the event in order to fund items such as printing transportation toolkits for community leaders; serve healthy food for participants; and provide childcare to ensure those with children can attend. Partnering organizations are also invited to share information at the end of the day. Forms for [Every Voice Counts Sponsors](#) and [Partners](#) are online. Ms. Haines Benkhedda asked members to reach out to potential sponsors and partners in their networks as the deadline is March 23.

- **Public Involvement** – Mr. Paul Kowzan, Subcommittee Chair, reported that the Subcommittee is looking to finalize a new standing meeting date and time. He will reach out to all subcommittee members within a week to schedule a meeting and discuss work tasks. The initial

focus this Spring will be on the Public Participation Plan and supporting work on the Every Voice Counts Transportation Academy.

### 3. UPWP FY2019 BUDGET AND WORK PLAN

Ms. Regina Aris provided an overview of the [BRTB's proposed updated Budget & Work Program for Fiscal Year 2019](#), otherwise known as a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), open for comment through March 23, 2018.

The UPWP lists the transportation studies and tasks to be performed by the MPO staff or a member agency during the coming fiscal year. This draft outlines a budget of \$7,517,700 for staff, consultant activities, and local projects. Several examples of new local and regional projects include:

- *Parole Town Center Transportation Master Plan* – Anne Arundel County will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the existing and future mobility needs in the Town Center area.
- *Columbia Gateway Transportation Improvement Implementation Strategy* – Howard County will conduct a study for the Columbia Gateway, the 8 million squared-foot complex of commercial and industrial space. The complex is an important and critical driver of economic activity in Howard and Anne Arundel counties, as well as the region. It is starting to experience additional development pressure as restrictive covenants on properties expire.
- *Kent Island Cox Creek Connector Study* – Residents and visitors of Kent Island continue to experience increased traffic on the island, particularly during the summer months when beach-bound vehicles increase along the US 50/301 Bay Bridge Corridor. The majority of the congestion experienced on the island is attributed to increasing traffic volumes on the Bay Bridge, although Kent Island has experienced some growth caused by new residential areas, and retail and business-development. This project is to take the concepts from the Kent Island Transportation Plan and refine them into preferred alternatives and initial design.

The BRTB also proposes adding several new focus areas for BMC staff to pursue, including:

- Assisting local jurisdictions in preparing project information for the Chapter 30 scoring and Priority Letter submittals;
- Studying and developing guidance on how to accommodate and utilize new or emerging transportation trends and technologies. Examples include: ride-hailing, shared-mobility, electric vehicles, connected and autonomous vehicles, or combination of them to support regional and local transportation, growth, and environmental goals; and
- Performing forecasted population and employment scenario analysis. Current forecasts predict shifts in labor exchange between the Baltimore and Washington regions and greater reliance on labor force markets outside of the former. This analysis will explore how changing labor market locations impact planned transportation improvements and what shifts in the local labor market could take place.

The vote on the FY 2019 UPWP will be at the BRTB meeting on April 24, 2018 and as such, the BRTB welcomes the PAC to review the draft this month and finalize comments at their April PAC meeting.

**[Presentation: [Overview of FY 2019 UPWP](#)]**

#### 4. PRIORITIZING PAC 2018 GOALS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Mr. Norton shared the results of the PAC's cardstorming exercise in January to share ideas and expectations about the PAC goals and potential activities. Due to time constraints, members will receive an electronic survey asking them to prioritize what they feel the primary areas of focus should be for the PAC in 2018.

**[Report: [2018 PAC Cardstorming Results](#)]**

#### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The PAC approved the [December 2017](#) and [January 2018](#) minutes.

#### 6. MAXIMIZE2045 UPDATE

Ms. Aris provided an update on *Maximize2045: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan*. She noted that the BRTB will issue a call for projects later this year. MDOT is reassessing their financial forecast and staff is working on performance measures. Mr. Norton asked if the PAC could receive a presentation on performance measures at an upcoming meeting. The PAC Chairs will discuss specifics of such a presentation and submit the request to staff. She also noted that Ms. Haines Benkhedda is working with other staff to develop a public involvement plan for Maximize2045. PAC ideas and suggestions are welcome.

#### 6. OTHER BUSINESS

Members and staff made the following announcement:

- [Citizen Jane: Battle for the City](#) – Ms. Haines Benkhedda invited members to attend Women Who Lead: Citizen Activism and Urban Planning, hosted by The Baltimore Metropolitan Council and Columbia Association, on Monday, March 26 in Columbia. This free event features a screening of *Citizen Jane: Battle for the City* about Jane Jacobs. In 1960, Jane Jacobs's book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* explored the consequences of modern reconfiguration of cities, sending shockwaves through the architecture and planning worlds. Ms. Haines Benkhedda noted that this is the first on a series of events BMC is planning on the topic of *Women Who Lead*.
- [Transportation 101](#) – Mr. Norton announced that the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance is doing a call for applicants for their third Transportation 101 course. CMTA has designed the 7-week tuition free series to help anyone who has a passion for improving transportation in her or his community deepen their knowledge, build a network of contacts, and develop advocacy skills. CMTA is accepting applications through April 5, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### ***Members***

Chris Costello – Transportation Association of Maryland

William Cowan – South Baltimore Neighborhood Association

Michael Davis – Resident, Carroll County

*Proxy Designated by: M. Bishop*

Janet Eveland – Resident, Baltimore City

Mark Howard – Resident, Baltimore County

Paul Kowzan III – Broadway Area Business Association

Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance

Karen Olsen – Resident, Baltimore County

Rita Ossiander – Resident, Baltimore County

Arthur Petersen – Resident, Baltimore City

Audrey Sellers – Accessible Resources for Independence (ARI)

Derick Sexton – Resident, Baltimore City

April Stup – Partners In Care

Jed Weeks – Bikemore

*Proxy Designated by: C. Chavis*

### ***Staff and Guests***

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

Monica B. Haines Benkhedda – BMC

Michael Rothenheber – Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.

Russell Walto – MDTA

**A RESOLUTION REGARDING AN AMENDMENTS TO MAXIMIZE2040 AND  
THE 2018-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)  
BY THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) OF THE BRTB**

**WHEREAS**, the BRTB, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore region responsible for transportation planning and policy making for the Baltimore region; and

**WHEREAS**, the PAC serves as an advisory body to the BRTB, charged with providing independent, region oriented citizen advice to the BRTB on issues related to the development of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Plan, Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and amendments that affect the region's conformity with federal air quality requirements, the public involvement process, regionally significant land use issues, and other regional transportation-related issues, as appropriate, promotes public awareness and participation in the regional transportation planning process and promotes equity in the regional transportation planning process; and

**WHEREAS**, the PAC has reviewed and discussed the amendments to the *2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* and/or *Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan* for five Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) projects and one Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) project;

**THEREFORE, be it resolved**, the PAC submits the following recommendations and comments:

- **I-695: I-70 to MD 43** – The PAC *does not endorse* this project as presented.
- **I-695: I-95 to MD 122 (Southwest Beltway) and I-70 at I-695: Triple Bridges Study** – The PAC supports removal of these two projects from the TIP.
- **I-95 Express Toll Lane (Section 200)** – The PAC *does not endorse* this project as presented.
- **US 40: Bridge Replacements over Little & Big Gunpowder Falls project** – The PAC supports the replacement of this bridge, however, members feel that protected bicycle facilities should be included on the bridge as US 40 is a bicycle route and part of the East Coast Greenway. Previous and current bridge reconstruction projects along US 40 did not provide any MOT for bicycles, forcing them to share the lane at 60+ mph. In addition, unlike along the typical section of roadway, a bicyclist has nowhere to bail out to the side of the road on a bridge. Although not required as part of AASHTO design guidelines, an 8-10' shoulder appears to be able to be incorporated without any major changes to the bridge design.
- **I-83: Bridge Replacement over Padonia Road project** – The PAC supports this bridge replacement.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, the PAC thanks the BRTB for this opportunity to participate by sharing comments on these amendments. The PAC thanks the BRTB staff for facilitating its participation.

Submitted by:

Eric Norton  
Chair, BRTB Public Advisory Committee