

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 7, 2018
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
5:36 to 6:53 P.M.

MINUTES

Ms. Tafadzwa Gwitira, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:36 P.M.

1. PRESENTATION: COMMUTER CHOICE MARYLAND

Ms. Gladys Hurwitz from the Maryland Department of Transportation shared information about the newly revamped Commuter Choice Maryland program. The vision of the program is to increase the use of public transportation, ridesharing, walking, biking, teleworking, and alternative work schedules, to enhance the quality of life of Maryland residents.

MDOT does this by providing commuters with alternatives to driving alone and promoting programs such as Guaranteed Ride Home. In addition, MDOT is offering employers webinars, marketing materials, and technical assistance in implementing commuter benefits programs and in reporting for the Maryland Commuter Tax Credit.

MDOT revamped the program after a series of interviews with businesses which found employers are motivated by financial savings and employee recruitment. A survey of commuters found they are also financially motivated, however they are largely unaware of commuter benefits and face multiple barriers to using alternative transportation options. MDOT also held a strategy session with key stakeholders to obtain feedback on their goals and vision.

Ms. Hurwitz reviewed the commuter tax benefits and the Guaranteed Ride Home program and closed by showing members the Commuter Choice Maryland website. She invited members to contact her with any questions or if they would like to receive information for themselves or an employer in the state.

[Presentation – Commuter Choice Maryland]

2. MAXIMIZE2045: SCORING METHODOLOGY + PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

Ms. Regina Aris reported that planning continues for *Maximize2045*. BRTB members have submitted their draft list of projects for *Maximize2045: A Performance Based Transportation Plan*. Staff are reviewing this list to confirm all details and then will conduct a scoring analysis often called prioritization. Ms. Aris shared details of the technical and policy scoring

mechanisms for evaluating projects submitted to be consideration in *Maximize2045*. At this time, BRTB members have submitted 82 projects for inclusion. Of these, 67 projects are road/bridge, 14 are transit, and one is a standalone bicycle/pedestrian project. Of the 82 submitted for consideration, 43 are in *Maximize2040*. Staff are currently reviewing the projects, obtaining additional information, and conducting a technical scoring. Staff hope to present initial project scoring to the Technical Committee in December or January. Following this, the BRTB will consider the mix of projects and develop a list of projects for public review in Spring.

[Presentation – Scoring for Maximize2045]

3. NOMINATIONS FOR 2019 PAC OFFICERS

PAC members nominated the following individuals for 2019 PAC Chair (1 position): Eric Norton and Vice Chair (2 positions): Taffy Gwitira and Mark Lotz. Additional nominations are welcome by email through Tuesday, December 4. The PAC will vote at their December meeting.

4. SUBCOMMITTEES REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

- **Membership** – Ms. Gwitira reported that the BRTB is accepting new member applications for terms beginning January 2019. The BRTB particularly seeks applicants from Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne's Counties, as well as individuals with the following interests or experience:
 - Leaders in community associations, including low-income, minority, or limited English speaking communities;
 - Individuals in the freight, transit, and private transportation industries;
 - People with disabilities or representative organizations; and
 - Pedestrians and bicyclists.

Ms. Gwitira and Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda asked members to share the information about openings with colleagues, community leaders, and organizations in the region.

- **Policy and Legislation** – The subcommittee did not meet.
- **Public Involvement** – Mr. Paul Kowzan reported that the subcommittee and PAC chairs had a conference call to discuss the proposal from the Technical Committee to obtain better geographic representation on the PAC by adding the option for members to participate remotely (via GoToMeeting for example) for at least part of the year. Proposed language for virtual participation in PAC meetings was developed as follows for Article IV: Membership:

Section 5. ~~Absenteeism~~ Participation in PAC Meetings

Maximum attendance by members is expected. Members missing three consecutive, regularly scheduled meetings ~~or a total of six regular meetings, during a twelve-month period shall be automatically reviewed by the Membership Sub-Committee. When a Committee member has been absent for the third consecutive time or has been absent for the sixth time in any twelve-month period, the PAC Chair shall contact the member, informing the member that another absence will result in his/her membership being~~

~~reviewed. If attendance does not improve, other actions including removal may be taken by the BRTB will be removed so that another volunteer may fill the vacancy.~~

The PAC recognizes that factors such as transportation challenges, illness, scheduling conflicts, and other issues can impact the physical presence of a member at a PAC meeting. Therefore, Committee members may participate virtually in up to half of regularly scheduled PAC meetings. In order to maintain quorum, virtual participation in Committee meetings is limited to up to 1/3 of the current Committee membership.

Ms. Haines Benkhedda reported that the BRTB will consider this proposed language, along with the other changes to the PAC bylaws on Tuesday, November 27. The Technical Committee will review the new language on November 12.

- **Transportation Equity** – Ms. Gwitira reported that Mr. Eric Norton presented PAC Resolution #2018-07 Regarding Calls to Close Light Rail Stations to the BRTB at their October 23rd meeting. The BRTB Chair, Ms. Michelle Pourciau stated that the BRTB will work with staff to discuss the PAC's comments and determine next steps.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The PAC approved the October 2018 minutes.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Celeste Chavis – Morgan State University
Michael Davis – Resident, Carroll County
Janet Eveland – Resident, Baltimore City
Ben Groff – Resident, Baltimore City
Tafadzwa Gwitira – Resident, Baltimore City
Yvette Hicks – Resident, Baltimore City
Mark Howard – Resident, Baltimore County
Paul Kowzan – Broadway Area Business Association
Derrick Sexton – Resident, Baltimore City
Sharon Smith – Partners In Care
Jennifer Weeks – Resident, Baltimore County
Daniel Yi – Resident, Howard County

Proxy Designated by: Jed Weeks

Proxy Designated by: Eric Norton

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Monica Haines Benkhedda – BMC
Gladys Hurwitz – Maryland Department of Transportation