

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 6, 2019
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
5:31 to 7:29 P.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Eric Norton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW PAC MEMBERS

Mr. Norton welcomed the new members to their first meeting of the Public Advisory Committee. All members introduced themselves and briefly shared their interest in the PAC.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, EQUITY AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Ms. Tracee Strum-Gilliam, AICP, thanked the PAC for this opportunity to share additional information about environmental justice and equity. She began her presentation by reviewing definitions, laws and federal guidance on environmental justice, Title VI, and equity. She noted that Title VI includes protections for those traditionally underserved and as such are included in documents such as Public Participation Plans and Limited English Proficiency Plans to ensure non-discrimination and process for reaching vulnerable populations.

Ms. Strum-Gilliam also noted the difference between equality and equity. Equality is treating everyone the same or providing the same resources, however equity understands that equality only works if everyone starts from the same place. Therefore, equity is a process that address differing levels of abilities and access.

Ms. Strum-Gilliam also shared ways in which agencies such as the BRTB can engage in regional equity analysis by understanding the location, needs, and transportation choices of underserved populations, creating balanced investments by doing a benefits and burden's analysis, and doing continuous public outreach and engagement.

She noted a challenge that project level plans typically connect more with vulnerable populations and other stakeholders, however, staff can work to include advocates and staff resources for the elderly, people with disabilities and Limited English proficiency, and other Title VI populations, as well as utilizing information gathered from traditional and grassroots outreach with vulnerable populations.

[Presentation: Equity, Environmental Justice, and Title VI for Regional Planning]

Mr. Norton provided members with the steps the PAC have taken to date to promote an equity framework with the BRTB. In December 2017, the PAC submitted a draft policy statement on equity to guide BRTB plans and programs. Of the four items requested by the PAC, the BRTB has updated the PAC bylaws to reflect the mission of the PAC to include the promotion of equity, and made the Transportation Equity Subcommittee a formal subcommittee of the PAC.

In 2019, the Equity Subcommittee will continue to work on the other two items: (1) BRTB adopt an equity framework that provides performance indicators on equity that enable decision-making based on the principles outlined here; and (2) Apply the equity framework to BRTB work products, including, but not limited to, the long-range plan, the short range program, amendments, and the UPWP.

Ms. Monica Haines Benkhedda noted that PAC Chairs met with staff and several BRTB empowered representatives about the proposed equity framework. Also, several staff attended an intensive training on EJ analysis and are working now to identify ways to update the BRTB's analysis for the short- and long-range plans, additional data sources that could be included in the Vulnerable Populations Index mapping tool, and meeting with local government staff about their public involvement and outreach practices with EJ populations as a way to identify current practices and opportunities for additional training and resource sharing.

[Presentation: Proposing an Equity Framework]

3. UPWP FY2019 BUDGET AND WORK PLAN

Ms. Regina Aris provided an overview of the BRTB's proposed Budget & Work Program for Fiscal Years 2020-2021, otherwise known as a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The BRTB plans to release the draft for public comment from February 12 through March 14, 2019.

The UPWP lists the transportation studies and tasks to be performed by BMC staff or a member agency during the coming fiscal year. This draft outlines a budget of \$7.89 million for FY 2020 and \$6.28 million for FY 2012 for staff, consultant activities, and local projects.

Several examples of new local and regional projects include:

- Elderly trip characteristics and patterns
- Developing regional guidelines for traffic impact studies
- Best practices related to new mobility (automated vehicles, car sharing, bike share, etc.)
- Data analysis of pedestrian related crashes in traffic roundabouts and recommendations for improving the design of roundabouts to increase safety for non-motorists.

The vote on the UPWP will be at the BRTB meeting on April 23 and as such, the BRTB welcomes the PAC to review the draft this month and finalize comments at their March PAC meeting.

[Presentation: Overview of FY 2020-2021 UPWP]

4. PAC SUBCOMMITTEES & CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

The following subcommittee reports were given:

- **Policy and Legislation** – Ms. Jennifer Weeks reported that the subcommittee met via conference call to discuss the FY 2020-2021 UPWP in preparation for the comment

period. In addition, they spoke about upcoming review and comment periods this spring for the long- and short-range transportation plans. In February, the subcommittee will review the UPWP and prepare comments for the PAC to discuss at their March meeting.

- **Public Involvement and Transportation Equity** – Mr. Norton reported that the subcommittee held a joint meeting to discuss plans for the upcoming Every Voice Counts Transportation Academy. The group is working to finalize a date and location for April in Howard County and Fall in Harford County. The subcommittee will host conference calls this month to continue planning for the event. PAC members were asked to assist in soliciting sponsors and identifying potential participants and organizations to partner with to promote the event and find participants.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The PAC approved the January 2019 minutes.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The January 22 BRTB meeting featured presentations on BMC's launch of a GIS-based regional bicycle mapping application and Visualize 2045, the long-range transportation plan of the Transportation Planning Board. The BRTB approved the following resolutions: BRTB Resolution #19-16 in support of updated performance targets related to highway safety; and BRTB Resolution #19-17 in support of applications for funding under the Baltimore and Bel Air Urbanized Areas of the FY 2020-2021 5310 Program.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Yinka Bode-George – Resident, Baltimore City
Michael Davis – Resident, Carroll County
David Drasin – Member, Howard County Multimodal Transportation Advisory Board
Janet Eveland – Resident, Baltimore City
Kira Gardner-Marshall – Neighborhood Housing Services Baltimore
Yvette Hicks – Resident, Baltimore County
Ricarra Jones – 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
Nicole Katsikides – Resident, Baltimore County
Bruce Kinzinger – Bike Harford
Bari Klein – Healthy Harford
Paul Kowzan – Broadway Area Business Association
Ian Moller-Knudsen – Howard County Sierra Club
Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Karin Olsen – Resident, Baltimore County
Matt Peterson – Resident, Baltimore County

Proxy Designated by: Ben Groff

Mary Presley – Maryland Motor Coach Association
Arjan van Andel – Resident, Anne Arundel County
Paul Verchinski – Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA)
Jennifer L. Weeks – Resident – Baltimore County
Jedediah Weeks – Bikemore
Cynthia Wyatt – Resident – Anne Arundel County
Daniel Yi – Resident – Howard County

By phone

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Monica Haines Benkhedda – BMC