

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 4, 2019
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
5:40 to 6:55 P.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Eric Norton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:40 P.M. Mr. Norton welcomed Mr. David Cookson representing Howard County and as the Chair of the BRTB Technical Committee.

Mr. Norton continued with a review of recent activities, the PAC retreat, release of an RFP to evaluate public involvement activities, and participation at PAC meetings by BRTB/TC members. He also noted that it was decided to retain the current roster through June for several reasons: 1) January is a tough month for onboarding new members with the first half of the year fairly busy, 2) the current roster is better situated to assist with the consultant evaluating public involvement activities, and 3) before bringing on new members, the PAC wants to be clear on its mission and the relationship to the BRTB.

1. ELECTION OF 2020 PAC OFFICERS

Mr. Norton reviewed the prior email discussion and was prepared to take a vote. However due to the lack of a quorum the vote will be taken by email over the next few weeks.

2. FINALIZE COMMENTS ON POTENTIAL REGIONAL AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE FY 2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Ms. Jennifer Weeks shared the subcommittee has struggled a bit with how to present the material that they have developed. It was agreed that all comments would be shared and it was not necessary this year to prioritize them. Both the comments related to proposed tasks as well as comments related to criteria for how proposed tasks are selected will be included. Ms. Weeks will package all of the material and it will be sent for PAC approval via email. This is necessary to be useful for the BRTB/TC retreat in early January.

3. PROJECT UPDATES

- **Evaluation of BRTB Public Involvement Activities** – Ms. Regina Aris shared that the review team had utilized the criteria the PAC had developed when reviewing the five proposals. In fact, the criteria, in some fashion will be considered for all RFPs that are issued by the BRTB. One team was selected, yet was not named since the contract has not been signed. Once available the PAC will be notified.

- **Report on recent and upcoming BRTB meetings** – Ms. Aris reviewed the previous BRTB meeting, highlighting the MDOT SHA presentation on their Transportation Asset Management Plan. The upcoming meeting will include a vote on the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan. Ms. Sharon Smith is familiar with this plan and made a few comments on the value and use in planning for the elderly and individuals with disabilities.
- **Update on MDOT MTA's Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan** – Ms. Aris noted that the next Commission meeting is Friday, December 13 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Charles L. Benton Building, 417 E. Fayette St, 8th Floor, Phoebe B. Stanton Board Room, Baltimore, MD 21202).

4. OTHER BUSINESS

- **Presentation by Howard County** – Mr. Cookson introduced himself and shared that he is responsible for long-range and regional transportation planning for Howard County. He is also the Chair of the Technical Committee under the BRTB. The presentation began with an overview of how transportation is organized within Howard County Government and the associated committees and councils. Next he listed the myriad ways that public input is incorporated into their process. From a survey and meeting of the state required Priority Letter, how bike and road resurfacing is shared with communities a year in advance, an annual Bike Howard Open House, an annual Transportation Forum, and budget hearings. There are also project specific types of engagement as well as 3 committees: multimodal, bicycle, and transit & pedestrian.

Then there was a discussion of some of the demographics and characteristics of the County as well as the impacts of congestion. The presentation included a section on local transit which is operated by RTA. This was followed by several comments on how to modernize the regional transit system. In addition, Mr. Cookson discussed bicycle and pedestrian transportation, a commitment to safety, and the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program.

Members were impressed with the array of activity and especially noted the type and amount of public input. Mr. Norton commented that offering a survey and meeting to discuss the content of the Priority Letter was noteworthy.

- PAC members thanked Mr. Norton for his third year of serving as the PAC Chair and the time commitment he has made to this role.

[PowerPoint: Howard County Transportation]

The following announcements were made:

The Transportation Committee of the Baltimore City Council will be meeting to discuss the RTP on Wednesday, December 11 at 3 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Michael Davis – Resident, Carroll County

Tafadzwa Gwitira – Resident, Baltimore City

Bruce Kinzinger – Bike Harford

Paul Kowzan – Resident, Baltimore City

proxy to Eric Norton

Mark Lotz – Resident, Harford County

Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance

Matt Peterson - Resident, Baltimore County

Sharon Smith – Partners In Care

Michael Thompson – Resident, Baltimore County

Paul Verchinski – Howard County Citizens Association

Jennifer Weeks – Resident, Baltimore City

Daniel Yi - Resident, Howard County

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

David Cookson – Howard County Office of Transportation