



2024

Federal Certification Review



Thank you to everyone who participated in this opportunity to give feedback!

The BRTB has posted responses to comments received at publicinput.com/BRTBcertification and www.baltometro.org.

The federal review team is expected to issue their certification findings in a report and presentation to the BRTB in late summer 2024. BMC will post the report on the project page and the BMC website.

1) Dale McClinton - Focus on ADA compliance

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review. The Pedestrian Infrastructure Assessment Toolkit (PIAT) was developed by the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) in partnership with member jurisdictions. The PIAT includes three toolboxes designed to help member jurisdictions identify pedestrian infrastructure needs and prioritize potential pedestrian infrastructure projects. This tool can serve as a basis for future ADA analysis.

2) Robert Reuter - Listen to feedback and make changes

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review. In 2021, the BRTB launched its new Public Engagement Hub through PublicInput.com. PublicInput is an engagement platform designed to facilitate community engagement and public participation in the BRTB's decision-making processes. To date the Engagement Hub has received over 43,000 visitors and 1,660 participants in 68 specific BRTB projects. The Hub has documented over 7,500 survey responses and over 2,185 comments. The BRTB uses the comments to guide the planning process. As documented in the response to comment #14, the BRTB has evolved its spending priorities incrementally over a series of annual Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs).

3) Robert Reuter - Changes plans with political changes

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review. The BRTB is made up of state and local government members whose priorities do naturally change with changes in Administrations. The collective regional body of the BRTB does act to provide a transparent continuous process to document changes in planning and programming.

4) David Larsen - Document meetings and look for Innovative ways to address transportation issues

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review. The BRTB has initiated the provision of video recordings of meetings to accompany the traditional posting of agendas, minutes and presentations. The BRTB also does look to address new planning areas and issues facing the region. In addition, as mentioned in the response to comment #2, in 2021, the BRTB launched its new Public Engagement Hub through PublicInput.com. PublicInput is an engagement platform designed to facilitate community engagement and public participation in the BRTB's decision-making processes.

5) Heather Patti - Need for proactive control of pollution and storm water runoff

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review. Your comment has been forwarded to Baltimore County. The BRTB is very active in regional air quality planning and pollution control. The BRTB also addresses storm water control in transportation projects, including in various funding programs such as the Transportation Alternatives Program.

6) Heather Patti - Need to inspect bridges more often

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review. Your comment has been forwarded to Baltimore County. The BRTB regularly reviews and adopts pavement and bridge condition targets including a recent update in 2023. Through this reporting and target setting, state and local agencies can track the share of bridges in good and poor condition and adjust preservation funding accordingly. There are federally required inspection schedules for all bridges based on length.

7) Lori Hippensteel, Thomas Morehouse - Provide great support for local jurisdictions in developing and maintaining Strategic Highway Safety Plans and Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) programs

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review. The BRTB, in conjunction with the Maryland Highway Safety Office, fund a staff member to work with our local jurisdictions in developing and maintaining local and statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plans (SHSPs). These plans also encourage applications to the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program.

8) Jamie Konopka - BRTB rubber stamps work of local jurisdictions and MDOT modes

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review. The BRTB membership includes the local jurisdictions and state agencies representing the Baltimore region.

As such, the plans and programs of the BRTB are meant to be a companion to local and statewide planning and programming and to provide a regional framework for those plans.

9) Frank Enko - Support for Safe System Approach

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review. The Safe System Approach is a holistic framework for achieving the goal of eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes. Between November 2022 and February 2023, the BMC held three workshops with staff from Baltimore County, Carroll County, and the City of Baltimore to understand how the Safe System Approach principles and elements are being integrated into the current planning and implementation efforts at each agency and throughout the region.

10) Alfred Sundara, Jeff Bronow, Rick Fisher - Robust process for socioeconomic projections, transparent meetings

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review. The Cooperative Forecasting Group (CFG) is a subcommittee of the BRTB. The CFG develops data sets of population, household, and employment controls and small area forecasts vital to BRTB transportation planning activities that include travel demand modeling and air quality conformity testing. These data sets are available to federal, state, and local government agencies, private sector businesses, and members of the public.

11) Michael Smith - Use of the term "Climate Change"

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review. The BRTB has provided a resource guide to local governments to respond to recent weather related changes that are impacting our local Departments of Public Works (DPWs) and Departments of Transportation (DOTs). The resources develop a shared understanding of expected challenges, the primary expected impacts on infrastructure service areas, and the options available to build a more resilient community.

12) Dan Prives - Educating the public including improved outreach to younger people

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review. We appreciate your comment regarding improving outreach including outreach to youth. This recommendation is also included in the November 2023 USDOT Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making. In 2021, the BRTB launched its new Public Engagement Hub through PublicInput.com. PublicInput is an engagement platform designed to facilitate community engagement and public participation in the BRTB's decision-making processes. To date the Engagement Hub has received over 43,000 visitors and 1,660 participants in 68 specific BRTB projects. The Hub has documented over 7,500 survey responses and over 2,185 comments. The BRTB uses the comments to guide the planning process. In addition, our staff has been provided training materials to support using more "plain language" to enhance citizen access to government information and services. In addition, we have been working with

our Transportation CORE to develop infographics to better explain processes to the public and younger age groups.

- 13) Dan Prives - Equity: Baltimore/Washington disconnect, inadequate consideration of sprawl, transit by county, and uneven technical support for highway vs transit.

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review. There is considerable coordination between the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and the appropriate state agencies. Both MARC and Amtrak serve BWI and have stops in Baltimore and Washington. Corridors in the MTA Regional Transit Plan are being studied and will continue to be considered for a range of transit options. Considerations for a new regional transit authority to provide service for the region was studied at the direction of the Maryland General Assembly but was not pursued at this time. However, the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission has been formed and, among other responsibilities, they are charged with oversight and advocacy duties. Highway projects in Resilience 2050 consist of widening existing facilities. Therefore, a greater degree of information is available compared to entirely new transit service.

- 14) Baltimoreans for People-Oriented Places, Bikemore, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance - Meaningfully incorporate public feedback and changes in spending priorities

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review. The BRTB understands the frustration that changes to transportation programming do take time and potentially several years to see significant changes. The BRTB tries to convey that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a companion piece to the Maryland State Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) and local Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) which are adopted by state and local legislative bodies. These companion documents adopt the matching funds for the federal funds programmed in the TIP. The BRTB does provide a forum for the public to provide comments that cause an eventual shift in programming. The evolution of funding by category in the TIP from 2022 to the currently proposed 2025 TIP demonstrates this shift. The table below shows how funding by category has changed over the last four TIPs by category.

Comparison of TIP Funding by Category (2022 TIP through 2025 TIP)

	2022	%	2023	%	2024	%	2025	%
Highway Preservation	\$1,329,426,974	32.9	\$1,498,736,000	35.3	\$1,768,876,000	41.7	\$1,693,438,804	37.4
Highway Capacity	\$959,798,000	23.7	\$905,973,000	21.3	\$918,162,000	21.6	\$606,271,000	13.4
Transit Preservation	\$728,267,000	18.0	\$798,465,899	18.8	\$787,105,296	18.5	\$864,453,209	19.1
Ports	\$455,309,000	11.3	\$449,445,000	10.6	\$243,548,000	5.7	\$462,588,000	10.2
Emission Reduction Strategies	\$287,817,000	7.1	\$276,082,274	6.5	\$260,015,005	6.1	\$336,352,000	7.4

Commuter Rail Preservation	\$150,308,000	3.7	\$187,949,301	4.4	\$127,638,780	3.0	\$251,039,841	5.5
Environmental & Safety	\$94,650,000	2.3	\$101,250,000	2.4	\$106,627,000	2.5	\$109,941,000	2.4
Enhancement Program	\$31,580,000	0.8	\$29,600,000	0.7	\$32,600,000	0.8	\$38,600,000	0.9
Miscellaneous	\$5,487,000	0.1	\$1,804,000	0.0	\$265,000	0.0	\$45,000	0.1
Transit Capacity	-		-		-		\$162,027,000	3.6
Total	\$4,042,642,974	100	\$4,249,305,474	100	\$4,244,837,081	100	\$4,524,755,854	100

The Highway Capacity category is **decreasing** from 23.7% in 2022 to 13.4% in the 2025 TIP.

*Note: nearly 74% of these highway capacity funds are accounted for by **one** project, the I-95 Northbound Express Toll Lanes by the Maryland Transportation Authority that is under construction with anticipated opening by 2027.*

Transit Preservation is **increasing** from 18% in the 2022 TIP to 19.1% in the 2025 TIP, as well as Commuter Rail preservation **raising** from 3.7% in 2022 to 5.5% in the current 2025 proposed TIP.

In addition, the 2025 TIP now includes 3.6% in the category of transit capacity improvements. Similarly, the most recently adopted Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), *Resilience 2050*, includes 41.1% transit capacity projects versus 58.9% highway capacity projects, showing a significant increase in transit programming from the 21.1% transit capacity versus 78.9% highway capacity programmed in the previous LRTP, *Maximize 2045*.

17. David Larsen – Positive about regional planning, meetings and solutions

Thank you for taking the time to comment during the federal Certification Review and for participating in the regional process.

For more information or to reach us, please visit:

publicinput.com/BRTBcertification or baltometro.org.