



Baltimore
Metropolitan
Council

Partners in Progress

Harford County

Baltimore County

Baltimore City

2006
ANNUAL REPORT



Washington, D.C.
Prince Georges



Julia W. Gouge
Chair
President, Carroll County Board of Commissioners

“...it is more necessary than ever that our local governments work in concert...”

Message From the Chair

Over the years, the member jurisdictions of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council have consistently worked hard to address many common challenges in the Baltimore region. During my time as Chair, we have continued focusing our collaborative regional efforts on reservoir watershed protection, cooperative purchasing, homeland security and of course, long-range transportation planning. Working together, we've had tremendous success.

We completed a cross-jurisdictional agreement to protect our region's water supply and have now begun implementing several of the action strategies contained in the agreement.

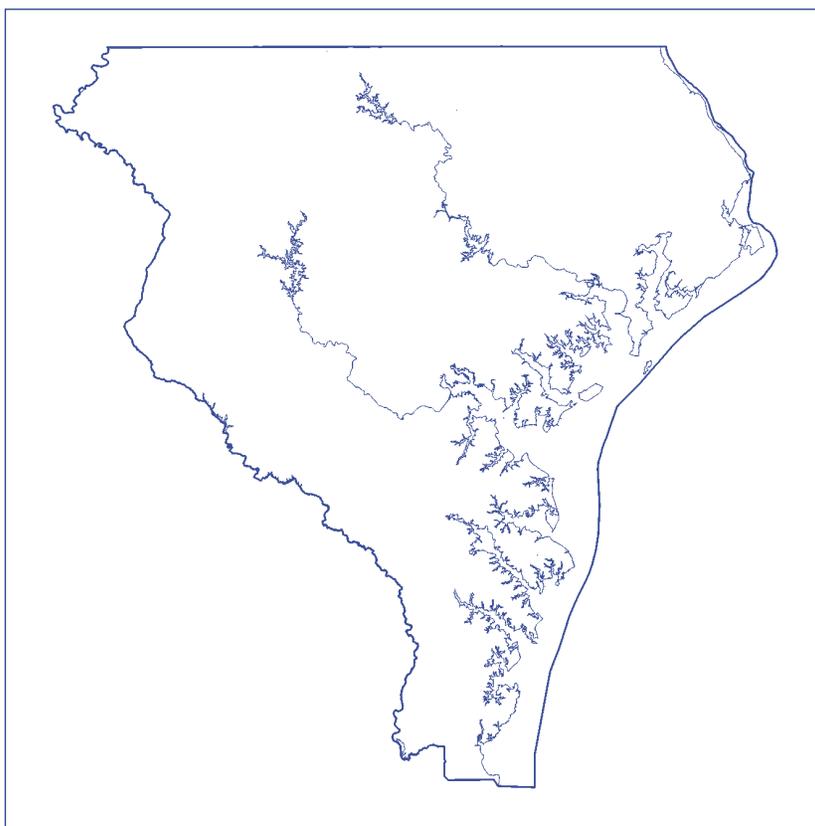
Our Strategic Energy Initiative is well underway and is saving taxpayer dollars. By changing the region's procurement strategy for purchasing electricity for our schools, libraries, community colleges and public safety buildings, we have saved the region \$1.5 million in fiscal 2006. These savings are expected to increase to roughly \$10 million by the end of fiscal 2007 as we continue to fully implement this initiative.

The region is more prepared and secure thanks to collaborative efforts made by our region's first responders. New emergency operations software and hardware is helping firefighters, police, and EMS communicate with each other to deal with potential incidents. We've also launched a public awareness campaign to help our citizens do their part to prepare for emergencies.

BMC staff continues to provide its expert technical assistance to local and state governments regarding transportation issues. Through this core program the region is more able to plan for projected economic growth and help prioritize the transportation investments that will be made in the future.

As the region grows, it is more necessary than ever that our local governments work in concert to address the common challenges that will face our communities.

Julia W. Gouge
PRESIDENT, CARROLL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Our Mission

The Baltimore Metropolitan Council is committed to identifying regional interests and developing collaborative strategies, plans and programs which will improve the quality of life and economic vitality throughout the region.

Who We Are

BMC is the organization of the region's elected executives. The BMC Board is composed of the Mayor of Baltimore, the executives of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford and Howard counties, and the President of the Carroll County Board of Commissioners. BMC's staff works closely with the staffs of the member jurisdictions.

History

BMC carries on a tradition of formal regional planning that began half-a-century ago in 1956, when the Baltimore Regional Planning Council was created within the Maryland Department of Planning. In 1963, the Regional Planning Council (RPC) emerged as a separate state agency. In 1989, the name of the organization was changed to Baltimore Regional Council of Governments (BRCOG), to reflect the RPC's resolve to serve as the regional voice of local government. In 1992, recognizing the need for a smaller, more efficient organization, the Maryland General Assembly dissolved BRCOG and created BMC as a private nonprofit organization of the region's elected executives.

Transportation Planning



Transportation planning is one of BMC's core activities, supporting the work of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB).

The BRTB, comprising representatives of Annapolis and Baltimore cities, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties, and the Maryland Departments of Transportation, the Environment and Planning, is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation in the Baltimore region.

Each year the BRTB adopts a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which lists studies and tasks to be performed by BMC staff or one of the local jurisdictions in the region. The UPWP includes cost estimates and identifies funding sources for the approved activities. The UPWP studies and activities are used in preparing the BRTB's two mandated documents.

The BRTB is required by law to develop plans for a coordinated transportation system that provides for the efficient movement of both people and goods. The plan must be updated at least every four years, and conform to the State Implementation Plan for air quality. Transportation 2030, the current plan, was adopted in 2004. Studies currently under way will be used in developing the 2007 update.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which is updated every year, identifies the immediate priorities for the region's surface transportation system. The 2006–2010 TIP includes a description of federal requirements, a discussion of fund sources, a project listing for the coming year, and a description of all projects requesting federal funds over the next 5 years.

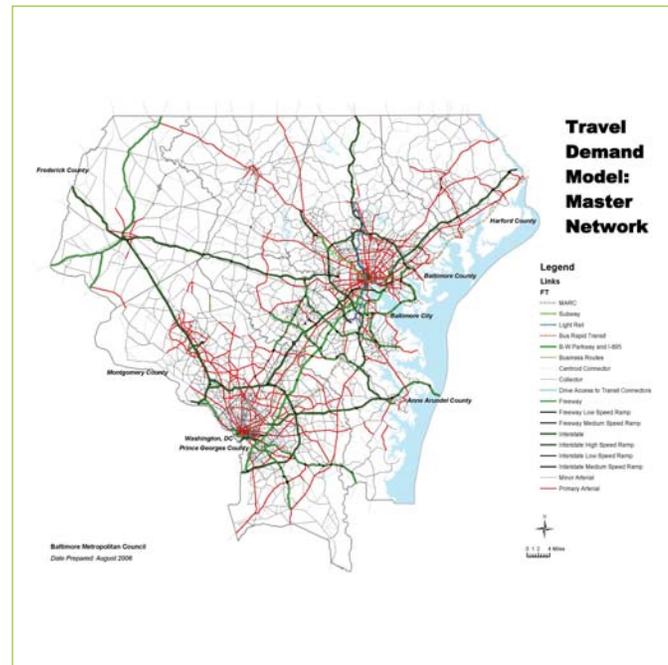


Tools of the Trade

BMC relies on a diverse set of tools to help transportation planners provide the most accurate and reliable information to decision-makers. Over the years, BMC has worked to enhance these tools using state-of-the-art technologies and best practices. These vital tools include:

Travel Demand Model: BMC maintains a complex multimodal travel demand forecasting model of the region's transportation network. The model is used to estimate travel demand and travel behavior that will occur years, and even decades, into the future. The model allows transportation planners to test various "what if" scenarios and is invaluable in helping prioritize future projects.

Socio-Economic Projections: BMC works with local planning agencies to collaboratively develop socio-economic projections, including population, households, employment, and labor force for the Baltimore region. The Cooperative Forecasting Group is a subcommittee of the BRTB which incorporates these projections into travel demand modeling and air quality modeling.



BRAC Transportation Impact Study

The Baltimore region will see a significant increase in employment and population over the next decade due to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) changes taking place at Fort Meade and Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG).

With this in mind, the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) commissioned four separate studies to address the statewide implications of

BRAC. The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) was charged with assessing implications of BRAC on education, housing utilities and transportation.

BMC worked with MDP to assess the regional transportation implications of BRAC. The area of focus included the entire metropolitan Baltimore region and the immediate jurisdictions to the south and north of Fort Meade and APG.

BMC staff utilized the Travel Demand Model to conduct the macro-level analysis and considered the current transportation network, local socio-economic projections, and planned network improvements to culminate in investment recommendations needed to meet the transportation needs associated with BRAC.

In FY 2007 BMC, working with local member jurisdictions, will conduct a more detailed analysis of the potential transportation implications. The product will provide refined local and state network forecasts that more accurately reflect current and anticipated roadway volumes and conditions.



Congestion Monitoring

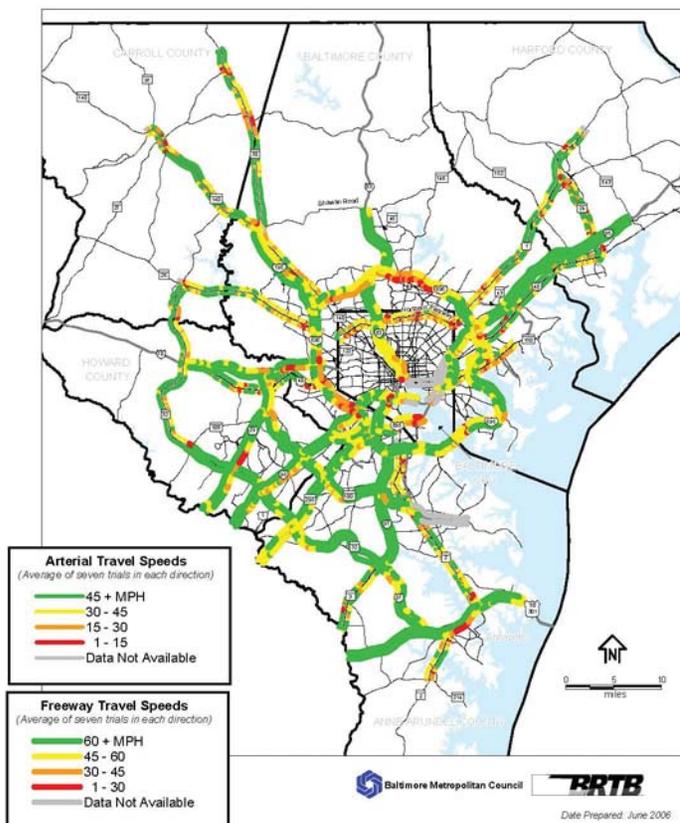
Throughout FY 2006, BMC staff used a variety of techniques and technologies to quantify traffic patterns in the Baltimore region as part of a broader cooperative congestion management program involving BMC and state and local agencies.



GPS Technology

BMC uses Global Positioning System devices to collect travel time and travel speeds on 30 of the most heavily-traveled roadways. To collect the data, drivers are equipped with a GPS unit and a laptop. Using their personal vehicle, the drivers collect travel time and travel speed for each corridor. Driving is generally conducted four days a week during the fall for the morning rush hour collection and during the spring for the evening rush hour collection. Within these periods drivers travel each corridor seven times in each direction to obtain a proper sample. For off-peak travel, drivers travel each corridor three times in each direction.

Baltimore Region GPS Travel Speeds
Spring 2006, Evening Peak 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Freeways and Arterials

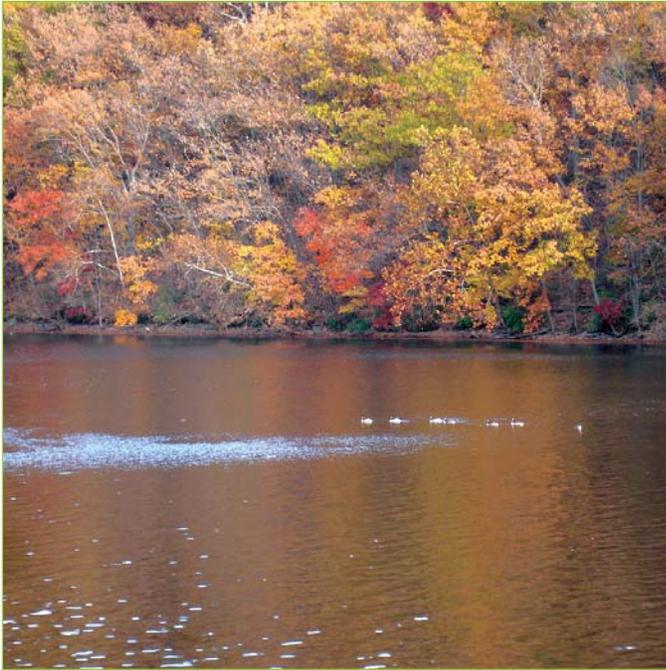




Aerial Photography

BMC staff also uses extensive aerial surveys to monitor traffic patterns on the freeway system in the metro area. The surveys measure traffic congestion over time, highlight trends and identify possible solutions to traffic congestion. BMC partnered with the State Highway Administration and the Maryland Transportation Authority to contract with Skycomp, Inc., to conduct a series of aerial photo-surveys of highway traffic conditions in the planning area. Approximately 530 miles of highways were surveyed during the peak morning and evening periods of commuter travel.

Reservoir Watershed Protection Program



Since 1984, BMC has managed a cooperative program to protect one of the region's most valuable assets — our water supply.

The Loch Raven, Prettyboy and Liberty Reservoirs together provide high-quality water for approximately 1.8 million people in Baltimore City and the five surrounding counties. In the past, the reservoirs were found to have high levels of phosphorus and excessive sedimentation. And, because the reservoir watersheds crossed jurisdictional boundaries, a regional effort had to be taken to strive for improvement in the reservoirs' water quality.

In 1984, Baltimore City, Baltimore and Carroll counties, the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District, the Carroll Soil Conservation District, the Maryland Departments of Agriculture and the Environment and BMC signed the landmark Reservoir Watershed Management Agreement. The signatories have since reaffirmed the agreement in 1990 and 2003, completely updated and strengthened the document in and 2005.

Each participating signatory contributed to the commitments and planning work has already begun on some of these important initiatives. The Reservoir Technical Group, composed of water quality staff from the signatory and participating organizations, has been meeting regularly to discuss and plan the work being done to implement the action strategies.



“...a regional effort had to be taken to strive for improvement in the reservoirs' water quality.”



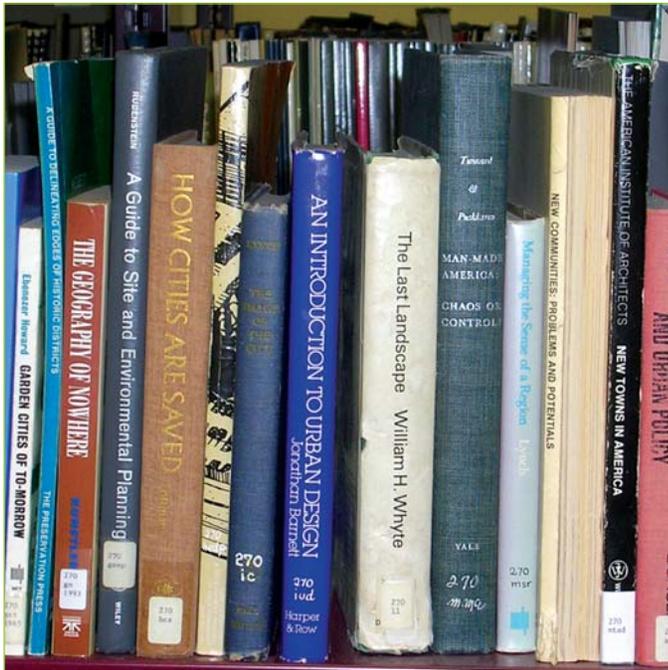
The Reservoir Watershed Management Program is intended to:

- Monitor water quality trends in the three metropolitan water-supply reservoirs
- Promote regulatory policies and actions which will protect the reservoirs
- Address emerging, new technical issues involving the reservoirs; and evaluate and comment on land-use trends, local government policies, utility plans, and proposed land-use decisions in the watersheds that could affect one or more of the three lakes

NEW Action Strategies *aimed at addressing emerging issues facing the watersheds accompanied the 2005 agreement, including:*

- A technical evaluation of all the existing stream monitoring programs
- A new comprehensive forest management program
- An evaluation of applicable land preservation programs
- New inspection and maintenance programs for sewers
- A new monitoring program for sodium and chloride levels in the reservoirs

Information Services



The BMC is a vast clearing house for information about the Baltimore region.

Regional Information Center

The Regional Information Center (RIC) at BMC, a branch of Baltimore City's Enoch Pratt Free Library system, is a repository for regional and urban planning materials with a focus on local demographic information, economic development, transportation planning, land use and environmental issues. RIC also continues to provide staff support to BMC's Building Permits Data System subscribers and BMC's web site content management needs.

Frequent users include small and large businesses; non-profit organizations and community groups; government agencies; students; and the media. In FY 2006, the RIC responded to more than 2,100 requests for information from walk-in visitors, e-mail and telephone.



Contact the RIC at 410.732.9570 to request information or make an appointment. The Center is open to the public by appointment between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.



www.baltometro.org

BMC's newly restructured web site contains thousands of pages of useful information. If you need information about the Baltimore region, transportation, land use and development or demographics you are likely to find what you need at the redesigned web site—and quickly.

Community Profiles, available for free on the BMC web site, are compilations of information and economic and census data about each of the 94 Regional Planning Districts (RPDs) in the Baltimore region.



Building Permit Data

BMC has been compiling the region's building permit information and organizing it into a standardized database for many years. The resulting information provides a continual record of plans for new and renovated residential, commercial/industrial and institutional building projects.

Specialty contractors, real estate analysts, economic development professionals and others may subscribe to this information, through either printed monthly, quarterly and annual reports or the searchable online database, which is updated weekly.

Regional Economic Indicators

BMC recently completed the 2006 edition of Regional Economic Indicators (REI). REI is the standard source for statistics on the Baltimore region and is used by market researchers, financial institutions, developers and government officials. It provides a complete, in-depth comparison of the six jurisdictions in the region, benchmarked against the region as a whole, and often the State of Maryland and the U.S. REI includes comprehensive, time-series data on:

- Employment
- Health
- Income & Wealth
- Business
- Government
- Environment
- Population & Households
- Education
- Social Indicators
- Transportation

REI contains hundreds of pages of information and analysis and for the first time has been published in .pdf format on CD-ROM for easy navigation. Copies of REI can be ordered through the Regional Information Center.



Photo Above: BMC Data Development Manager, Dunbar Brooks, presents commutation patterns to the Greater Baltimore Committee.

Custom Mapping and Data Services

BMC offers specialized services to organizations—both public and private—including demographic and economic forecasting, technical support for strategic planning, custom mapping, geocoding, and statistical analysis.

Contact BMC's Business Development Coordinator at 410.732.9561 if you think your organization may be interested in any of these services.

Cooperative Purchasing



The Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee has established subcommittees of experts for energy, public schools and public works.

The Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee (BRCPC), a standing committee of the region's procurement officers, collaborates on bid requirements and contract administration for local governments. BMC provides staff support to the committee. The cooperative purchasing program provides significant annual cost reduction and administrative costs savings in the million dollar range to local governments in the region. BRCPC has established subcommittees of experts for energy, public schools and public works.

Strategic Energy Initiative

The BRCPC energy board has established a new procurement strategy for the electricity needs of schools, libraries, community colleges, public safety buildings, and other local government facilities.

Throughout FY 2006, BRCPC worked with South River Energy Consultants to develop the new strategy and began implementation in June. As a result the participating entities saved \$1.5 million in June of FY 2006. Cost savings for FY 2007 are expected to be as much as \$10 million.



Small & Minority Business Regional Procurement Expo 2006

In June, BRCPC sponsored its first-ever procurement expo, providing over 450 small, minority and women-owned businesses an opportunity to network with regional procurement officials. Attendees were able to learn about upcoming procurement opportunities with local governments, including public school systems, libraries, community colleges and economic development agencies. The expo included a workshop on how to prepare an effective response to a government request for proposal.

Emergency Preparedness



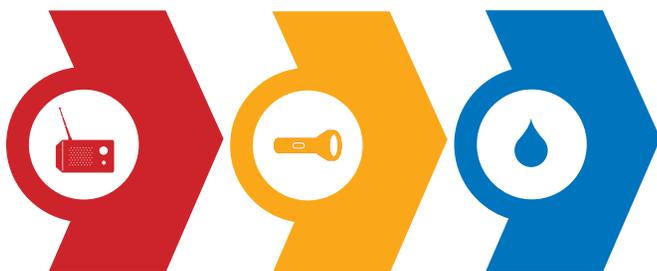
The Urban Area Work Group (UAWG) was created in 2003 to coordinate emergency preparedness activities in the Baltimore region.

The UAWG includes committees of fire, police, emergency medical services and public works personnel from BMC's member jurisdictions and the City of Annapolis. The first 72 hours of an emergency can be a time of confusion, deprivation and discomfort, and also a time when first responders may have difficulty reaching everyone who needs assistance. Knowing that, the UAWG commissioned the region's public information officers to develop a campaign to promote household emergency preparedness.

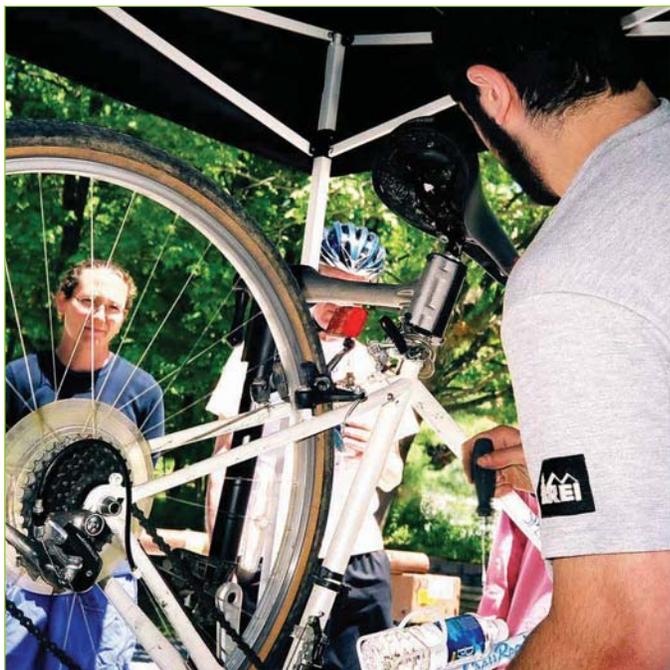
Working with the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, the committee determined that many people were not as prepared as they thought they were, and weren't sure how to prepare. After consulting with first responders, the committee based a campaign on the three most crucial items that any household should have: a battery-operated radio (with extra batteries) to

obtain up-to-date information, flashlights, and at least one gallon of water per person per day for three days.

The "Ready? Set? Good." campaign was launched in May, with TV spots on Comcast, WBAL, WBFF, WJZ, WMAR and WUTB; print ads in local newspapers; and web placement through the Baltimore Sun and Afro-American newspapers. A follow-up survey to measure the campaign's effectiveness is being conducted in the summer of 2006.



10 Ways to Get Involved



BMC is about improving the quality of life in the Baltimore region. Here are some ways you can help.

1

Check the BMC web site often for news, meeting schedules and interactive features. Add www.baltometro.org to your browser's bookmarks.



2

Attend meetings of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board, Citizens Advisory Committee, the Transportation Equity Task Force, or the Reservoir Watershed Management Program. Meeting schedules and agendas are posted on the BMC web site.

3

Complete a survey on the BMC web site and register your opinion. Surveys will change periodically, so check back often.



4

Sign up for one or more of BMC's e-newsletters. Our current e-newsletters cover general transportation issues, bicycling and pedestrian issues, environmental news, freight news, and a weekly update of activity during the legislative session. You can also register to receive BMC press releases.



5

Invite a BMC speaker to the next meeting of your community group. Topics include Transportation and Air Quality, the Regional Transportation Planning Process, Transportation 2030: Long Range Transportation Plan, Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning and Safety, and Demographics and Development Trends.



6

Participate in Clean Commute Month in May. Find an alternative to driving alone to work. Try transit. Share a ride. Ride your bike or walk to work. Ask your employer about telework. Look for a Clean Car Clinic in your area and have a free vehicle safety inspection.



7

Register for RideShare, a free carpool matching service. Reduce the number of cars on the road. Save money on gasoline. Make new friends. Your commute data is entered into a database of commuters from southern Pennsylvania to northern Virginia. You'll receive a list of potential matches, and are free to make your own arrangements.



8

Ride your bike to work, or to do errands in your neighborhood. Three-to-five mile trips in a city can often be faster by bicycle. You can also combine a bike trip with transit. You may take a bike on Light Rail and Metro, and some MTA buses are equipped with bike racks.



9

Observe air quality alerts and know what to do on Code Red and Code Orange air quality days to minimize pollution and protect yourself and your loved ones.



10

Protect our watersheds. Use fertilizer sparingly on your lawn and garden. Plant shrubs and groundcover on sloping areas to minimize soil erosion and runoff. And never dispose of garden chemicals or fertilizers in storm drains.



BMC Publications: FY 2006



2001 Household Travel Survey: Baltimore Region Analysis

August 2005 Task Report 06-2.

Presents results of a year-long survey of households in the Baltimore region, looking at availability of vehicles, trip purpose, miles of travel and travel time, mode, and time of day.

Online at: www.baltometro.org/reports/HHsurvey2001.pdf

2005 Regional Employee Alternate Commute Survey

August 2005 Task report 06-1

Reports on a survey designed to determine the awareness and attitudes of employees in the region about alternate commute options. It is a companion to the Report on 2004 Regional Employer Alternate Commute Study.

Online at: www.baltometro.org/reports/AlternateCommute2005.pdf

Baltimore Region FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program for Transportation Planning

April 2006

Annual report detailing work to be accomplished.

Also online at www.baltometro.org/UPWP/UPWP2007.pdf.

Baltimore Region Transportation Improvement Program 2006–2010

August 2005

Report issued annually by the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board, listing timing, cost and rationale for transportation improvements to be made in the region over the 5 year period.

Online at: www.baltometro.org/mambo/content/view/242/332/

Boston Street and Ponca Street; Freight-Related Intersection Evaluation

August 2005 Consultant Report C06-03

One of a series of consultant assessments of a specific intersection (this one in Baltimore City) to identify deficiencies related to freight movement and to determine if safety and operational improvements are necessary. Online at:

www.baltometro.org/reports/Intersection-Boston&Ponca.pdf

BRCPC 2005 Annual Report

Spring 2006

Annual report of the Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee.

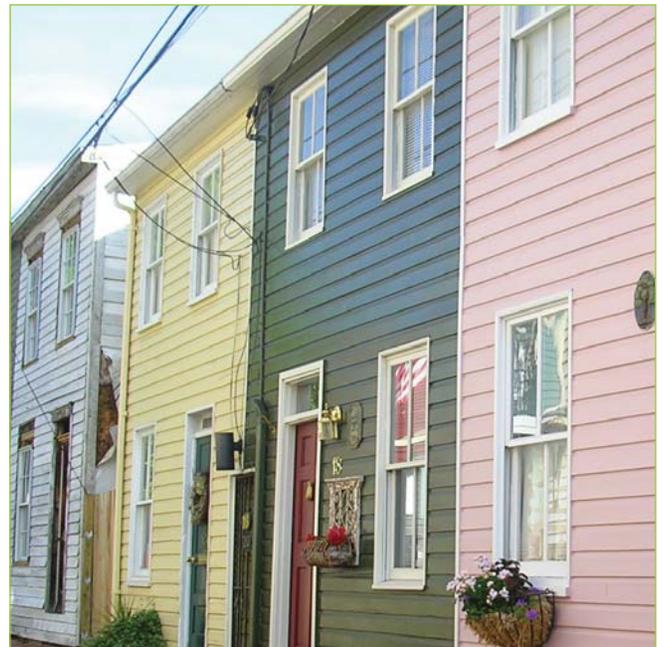
Online at: www.baltometro.org/brcpc/Report2005.pdf

Conformity Determination of the 2004 Baltimore Regional Transportation Plan and the FY 2006–2010 TIP; Fine Particulate Matter

December 2005

Supplements the Conformity Determination with an analysis of fine particulate matter on the region's air quality. Online at:

www.baltometro.org/reports/Conformity2006_10fpm.pdf



Congestion Monitoring Using GPS in the Baltimore Region: Travel Time & Travel Speed Data Archive 1998–2004

December 2005 Task Report 06-05

Compilation of travel speed survey data for six years. Introduction and data for 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2004 are also available in individual smaller pdf documents. No survey was done in 2003.

Online at: www.baltometro.org/reports/GPS1998_2004.pdf

Regional Economic Indicators, 2006: The Baltimore Metropolitan Area Compared to Maryland and the United States

June 2006

Comprehensive collection of demographic and economic data on the region. Includes time-series statistics on population & housing, employment and income, business conditions and government finances for region and individual jurisdictions, with comparisons to Maryland and US. *More information online at:*

www.baltometro.org/content/view/693/473/

Reservoir Watershed Management Agreement of 2005 with the 2005 Action Strategy. Reservoir Watershed Protection Committee

May 2006

Presents the 2005 Reservoir Watershed Management Agreement and the accompanying 2005 Action Strategy, along with an explanation of the Reservoir Program's origins and history, in its role of protecting the quality of drinking water in the Baltimore region.

Online at: www.baltometro.org/RWP/ReservoirReport2006.pdf

Metropolitan Report 2006

Impacts on the Region.

Online at <http://www.baltometro.org/content/view/34/190/>

BRTB Notes

A periodic newsletter highlighting transportation planning activities.

Online at: <http://www.baltometro.org/content/view/27/189/>



E-Newsletters

B'More Involved

Timely information about transportation planning, environmental justice and ways to participate in regional issues.

Sent out 2–4 times per month.

BikePed Beacon

Electronic newflash detailing current news, events, and more related to biking and walking in and around the Baltimore region.

Sent out once per month.

Environmental News Brief

Covers news related to air quality and transportation in the Baltimore region.

Sent out quarterly.

Legislative Weekly Report

Weekly update on transportation, community development, and environmental related legislation in the Maryland General Assembly.

January–April only

Maryland Moves: A Freight News Monthly

Updates on news and conferences of interest to the freight community.

Sent out once per month.

BMC Board of Directors



Janet S. Owens
Anne Arundel County Executive

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet S. Owens".



Martin O'Malley
Mayor, Baltimore City

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin O'Malley".



James T. Smith, Jr.
Baltimore County Executive

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James T. Smith, Jr.".



Julia W. Gouge
Chair
President, Carroll County Board of Commissioners

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julia W. Gouge".



David R. Craig
Vice Chair
Harford County Executive

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Craig".



James N. Robey
Howard County Executive

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James N. Robey".

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Harry Bain
Director, Cooperative Purchasing

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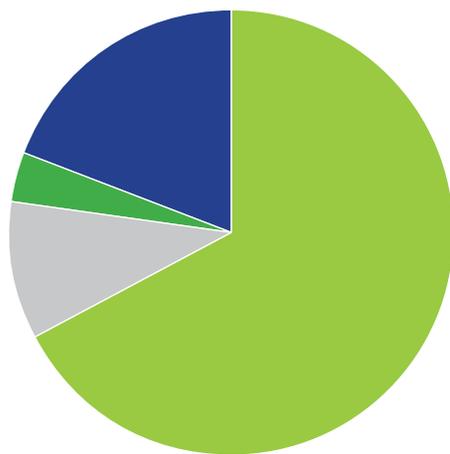
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Manager, Plan and Policy

Gene Bandy
Manager, Technical Services

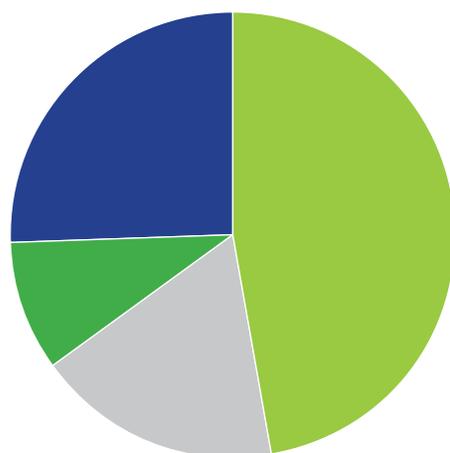
Dunbar Brooks
Manager, Data Development

Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Highlights

Revenue: \$4,836,509



Expenditures: \$4,711,192



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How Can BMC Help You?

-  Support for Strategic Planning
-  Custom Mapping
-  Geographical Coding
-  Statistical Analysis
-  Demographic/Economic Forecasting

www.baltometro.org