



BaltimoreLink Ad-hoc Committee Meeting Summary

December 8, 2016
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Baltimore Community Foundation

2 East Read Street
Levi Conference Room, 8th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Attendees: Eunice Anderson, **Enoch Pratt Free Library**, Roxana Beyranvand, **Baltimore Collegetown**, Father Michael Bishop, **Bus Rider**, Liz Briscoe, **Action In Maturity**, Robin Budish, **Transit Choices**, Luis Cardona, **Downtown Partnership of Baltimore**, Celeste Chavis, **Morgan State University**, Ben Cohen, **BWI Partnership**, Mike Franch, **Bus Workgroup 14**, Laura Getty, **MTA**, Jeffrey Grigg, **Johns Hopkins University**, Ben Groff, **J.D./Legal & Policy Professional**, Tom Hewitt, **MTA**, Chanan Lewis, **Office of Congressman Elijah Cummings**, Jackie MacMillan, **Bus Workgroup 14**, Eric Norton, **Central Maryland Transportation Alliance**, Michael Puma, **Loyola University**, Kevin Quinn, **MTA**, Michael Romeo, **Transdev**, Jimmy Rouse, **Transit Choices**, Sandy Sparks, **Charles Village Civic Association**, Kristin Speaker, **Charles Street Development Corporation**, Casy Stelitano, **Amalgamated Transit Union**, Marc Stein, **Johns Hopkins University**, Marc Szarkowski, **Urban Design & Illustration**, Raven Thompson, **Baltimore Development Corporation**

Robin Budish, on behalf of Transit Choices welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. Robin then introduced Kevin B. Quinn, Jr. (Director, Office of Planning and Programming with the MTA), and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to have Kevin provide a detailed update on the BaltimoreLink plan.

Kevin's responses were supplemented with the following PowerPoint presentation highlights. A copy of his complete presentation will be made available to the full committee.

MTA PowerPoint Presentation Overview: Highlights

- **Network Redesign Status**
 - 1st Draft Winter Outreach October 2015 – February 2016
 - 2nd Draft Summer Outreach July – September 2016
- **Significant Changes**
 - LocalLink 51
 - CityLink Silver
 - LocalLink 53
 - LocalLink 65
 - CityLink Yellow
 - LocalLink 81
- **Public Hearings**
 - January 4 – 19, 2017
 - 14 Public Hearings around Baltimore Region
 - 30 Day Comment Period ends February 21st
 - Comments can be submitted by:
 1. Submit comments to MTA staff at a public hearing

2. Mail comments to MTA, Office of Customer and Community Relations, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
 3. Email comments to HearingComments@mta.maryland.gov with "Written Testimony" as the subject heading
 4. Visit BaltimoreLink.com and submit a digital comment
- **Bus Stops**
 - Bus Stop Optimization
 - Public comment process simultaneous to Public Hearings
 - Rider notices will go up December 12th and include:
 1. Stop # and reason for potential elimination
 2. How to submit a comment
 3. Nearby stop locations and map
 - **Public Education Plan**
 - Draft Public Education Plan Overview - Public education begins early Spring
 - Key Elements of Public Education:
 1. Direct Rider Contact
 2. Media and Direct Mail
 3. Community Organizations Outreach
 4. Government Affairs Outreach
 5. June 2017: Ramp-up Activities
 - Direct Rider Contact: Talking One-On-One
 - Media and Direct Mail: One-to-Many
 - Community Organizations: Many-to-Many
 - Government Affairs: Top Down
 - **Capital Projects Update**
 - Dedicated Bus Lanes
 - Recommending roughly 5 ½ miles of dedicated bus lanes:
 1. Pratt (Greene to Market Place)
 2. Lombard (Penn to Market Place)
 3. Baltimore (Arch to President)
 4. Fayette (Arch to Gay)
 5. Charles (Madison to Oliver – PM Peak Only)
 6. St. Paul (Franklin to Pratt)
 7. Gay (Baltimore to Forrest)
 8. Hillen (Forrest to Guilford)
 9. Guilford (Pleasant to Baltimore)
 - **Bike Share Update**
 - **Transit Signal Priority Update**
 - **TSP Pilot Corridors**
 - **Bus Stop Signs**
 1. New bus stop signage will be a major improvement over our existing signs
 2. Signs will display routes, destinations, and stop numbers
 3. Increased visibility
 - **Bus Stop Sign Installation**
 1. Step One – Winter 2016-2017
 2. Step Two – June 2017
 - **Updates**
 - Bike Share
 - Transit Signal Priority
 - TSP Pilot Corridors
 - **Next Steps**
 1. Getting the word out about public hearings

2. Finalizing public education plan - we'd love input on best ways to do public education and places to go
3. Installation of new bus stop signs will begin as well as work on the West Baltimore MARC station

Discussion Summary:

- On December 5, 2016 the MTA announced BaltimoreLink v1.3 draft
- Maryland Avenue presents challenges for bus drivers who reported that it is a tight fit due to the width of the single travel lane and having parked cars on either side. Additionally, bus drivers have snow-related concerns. The MTA will be monitoring this route, and have staff working on an alternative solution if necessary.
- The MTA plans to have a final BaltimoreLink draft published by March 1, 2017 after the public hearings are finished. The targeted "go live date" is scheduled for June 18, 2017.
- Bus stop optimization will decrease the amount of curb space needed for bus stops resulting in additional parking for vehicles. The initial phase of optimization is scheduled for February 2017, with another phase included as part of the BaltimoreLink rollout in June 2017.
- Overall, the new BaltimoreLink plan will add 80-90 stops to the bus network.
- The MTA is currently working on changing their internal "phone tree" (MTA's phone call help line) to make it simpler and faster to access a customer service representative.
- To determine how the MTA will define the success of BaltimoreLink (comparing service existing/new), staff is working on defining "service standards" and metrics.
- The MTA will be using "Street Teams" to communicate critical BaltimoreLink service change information directly to riders at locations where BaltimoreLink service changes will be occurring, including on-board buses, at bus stops, and at transit/transfer locations.
The MTA encourages all transit advocates to join a "Street Team" to help spread the word.

Next Steps:

- Kevin Quinn will make another presentation to the committee in early 2017 to provide an update on the metrics and "service standards" that have been developed to measure the success of BaltimoreLink.

Robin Budish, on behalf of Transit Choices concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and acknowledged Kevin Quinn and his colleagues for their continued spirit of collaboration and cooperation. She also thanked the Baltimore Community Foundation for providing meeting space.