



BaltimoreLink Ad-hoc Committee Meeting Summary

March 23, 2017

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Baltimore Community Foundation

2 East Read Street

Levi Conference Room, 8th Floor

Baltimore, MD 21202

Attendees: Roxana Beyranvand, **Baltimore Collegetown**, Andrew Bing, **MTA**, Father Michael Bishop, **Bus Rider**, Robin Budish, **Transit Choices**, Jade Clayton, **MTA**, Ben Cohen, **BWI Partnership**, Art Cohen, **b'more mobile**, George Frazier, **Baltimore Bike Out**, Laura Getty, **MTA**, Darcell Graham, **Enoch Pratt Free Library**, Paulo Gregory Harris, **Ingoma Foundation**, Tom Hewitt, **MTA**, Jim Leanos **Corporate Property Solutions**, Jackie MacMillan, **Bus Workgroup 14**, Herbert Malveaux, **Enoch Pratt Free Library**, Eric Norton, **Central Maryland Transportation Alliance**, Klaus Philipsen, **ArchPlan**, Kevin Quinn, **MTA**, Michael Romeo, **Transdev**, Jimmy Rouse, **Transit Choices**, Lara Spahr, **Enoch Pratt Free Library**, Sandy Sparks, **Charles Village Civic Association**, Marc Stein, **Johns Hopkins University**, Marc Szarkowski, **Urban Design & Illustration**

Jimmy Rouse, on behalf of Transit Choices welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. Jimmy 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 BaltimoreLink, less than 100 days away!

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: BaltimoreLink: Less than 100 Days Away!

1. **Summary of public hearing process**
 - Comment period was opened through February 21, 2017
 - Received 1,132 comments
2. **Preview of significant changes from Draft 1.3 to final plan**
 - Specific issues and solutions
 - Connectivity and Reliability; Building a Frequent Transit Network
3. **Bus stop optimization update**
 - Originally proposed 331 stops for elimination
 - Received 84 comments
 - Reversed decision on 25 stops due to public comment or other factors
 - Results: 6% reduction in stops
4. **New schedule design**
 - New Schedules!
 - Map Features That Respond to Rider Feedback
 - Timetable Features That Respond to Rider Feedback
 - New Maps!
5. **Capital projects update**
 - Dedicated Bus Lanes
 - Transit Signal Priority (TSP)
 - Bus Stop Signs
 - Transfer Facilities; West Baltimore

- Bike Share

6. Update on public education April 3-June 18

- MTA Inreach
- Active Rider Outreach
- Community Outreach
- Elected Official Outreach
- Advertising
- Media

Discussion Summary:

- Significant changes from v1.3 draft:
 - Access to Brightwood College; added peak reverse trips on Express Link 103
 - Frequency on 33rd street; CityLink Silver will have 24-minute headways during peak
 - Loss of downtown service on Druid Hill/McCulloh; extend and re-route Local Link 73 from Charles Center to State Center
 - Loss of downtown access from Turner Station to CCBC Essex; change endpoint for Local link 62 from Bayview back to Turner Station
- New network:
 - Redesigned network offers frequent access to 30% more people than current network
 - Expansion of frequent service in downtown and East and West Baltimore
 - The general trend from original BaltimoreLink (October 2015 draft) to final is adjusting the balance of frequency v. coverage; October 2015 draft focused more service on frequency
- Bus stop optimization:
 - First round of optimization on February 5th eliminated about 300 stops (6% reduction in stops)
 - Reporting a savings of 5-9 minutes per one-way trip
- New schedule design:
 - New schedules have updated timetables and improved map features
- Capital projects:
 - Dedicated bus lanes are scheduled to begin construction in May
 - 250 CityLink buses have been equipped with Transit Signal Prioritization (TSP); intersection upgrades have begun
 - W. Baltimore transfer facility on schedule for completion by June
- Public education:
 - MTA doing "inreach" to operators and non-operator staff
 - BaltimoreLink Info Bus will be on the streets with free rides and ambassadors
 - Street teams; 30 ambassadors
 - Pop-up events
- Buses/Fares:
 - All buses will be equipped with bike racks
 - It is mandated by state law to raise fares every two years. The next increase will occur on July 1, 2017 - fares will go from \$1.70 to \$1.80
 - There will be free transit on buses, light rail & metro from June 18 - 30, 2017

Next Steps:

- Kevin Quinn will make another presentation to the committee before the June 18, 2017 roll out 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.