



Transit Choices Meeting Summary

February 22, 2018
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Impact Hub Baltimore
10 E. North Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Attendees:

Roxana Beyranvand (**Baltimore Collegetown**), Father Michael Bishop (**Public Transit Rider**), Jim Brown (**Rails-to-Trails**), Robin Budish (**Transit Choices**), Jade Clayton (**MTA**), Ben Cohen (**BWI Partnership**), Richard Doran (**Action In Maturity**), Chris Firehock (**Center for Mobility Equity**), George Frazier (**Baltimore Bike Out**), Arthur Guzzetti (**American Public Transportation Association**), Taffy Gwitira (**Impact Hub Baltimore**), Avery Harmon (**Rails-to-Trails**), Mark Heishman (**Transdev**), Greg Hinchcliffe (**Bicycle Advocate**), Elizabeth Hines (**Mapcorp**), Jim Leanos (**Corporate Property Solutions**), Jackie MacMillan (**Bus Workgroup 14**), Michelle Pourciau (**Baltimore City DOT**), Jimmy Rouse (**Transit Choices**), Alex Shtogren (**Transit Advocate**), Sandy Sparks (**Charles Village Civic Association**), Kristin Speaker (**Charles Street Development Corporation**), Raven Thompson (**Baltimore Development Corporation**)

Guest Moderator: Chris Firehock, Executive Director with **Center for Mobility Equity** (formerly Central Maryland Regional Transit) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the attendees for coming. Chris then introduced the first guest speaker:

Jim Brown, Manager of Trail Development with the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Presentation: **“Baltimore Greenway Trails Network”**

Overview:

The Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition seeks to create a 35-mile network of world-class urban trails. The trail will provide equitable, healthy, low-stress access to open space and reliable transportation and recreation for people of all ages and abilities.

This modern-day trail vision is inspired by the 1904 Olmsted Plan for Baltimore, which called for creating a network out of the city's parkland. Today, they have identified new opportunities in the built environment to bring this vision to reality.

Presentation highlights: Baltimore Greenway Trails Network

- **Connecting Rails, Trails**
- **Creating Healthier Communities**
- **Looking at the History**
- **What this means for Baltimore**
 - Promoting Social Equity
 - Improving Health and Wellness
 - Protecting our Environment
 - Preserving Baltimore's Heritage

- Creating Active Transportation Connections
- Promoting Strong Businesses and Economies
- **Recreation and Quality of Life**
- **Public Health Equity**
- **Recent Progress**
 - Included in Planning Department's Green Network Plan draft
 - Increased stakeholder engagement
 - Connected with over 15 community associations over past 5 months
 - Developing Public Outreach Advisory group for Northwest and Southeast Baltimore
 - Gained 7 new coalition partners (5 community associations, 2 universities)
 - Trail segment kickoffs
 - Gwynns Falls Parkway
 - Middle Branch
- **Questions**
 - **Is Baltimore ready for a "Greenway Trail"?**
 - **How can we work with transit and transportation advocates?**
 - **How do we ensure the project is equitable?**
 - **What does the trail mean to you as a resident?**

Second Guest Speaker:

Arthur L. Guzzetti, Vice President - Policy, American Public Transportation Association

Presentation: **"Cashless / Wireless / Paperless / Driverless: Megatrends Affecting Transit Worldwide"**

Overview:

Technology, entrepreneurship and changing customer expectations are disrupting traditional models for mobility, and are challenging the ways public transportation operators approach their business. The American Public Transportation Association is immersed into researching and writing about these changing dynamics. APTA's Vice President for Policy, Art Guzzetti, described the forces driving the sharing economy and the likely scenarios through which automated vehicles will gain prominence. Yes, calamity can indeed be a time of opportunity. Public transportation can be the backbone of emerging multi-modal lifestyles, and taking advantage of the new array of choices available to travelers. In the coming months, public transit agencies will face important, strategic decisions, each of which will need to be considered through the lens of adaptation. Mr. Guzzetti framed and discussed many of the critical questions facing public transportation agencies today, and highlighted some of the innovations underway around the country.

Presentation highlights: **Cashless / Wireless / Paperless / Driverless: Mobility Trends in an Era of Changing Demographics & Transformative Technology**

- **Who Are We?**
 - Principal public transportation trade organization, with more than 1,500 transit, business, and other members in the United States, Canada, and worldwide.
 - \$68 billion industry.
 - 35 million boardings / day
- **Efficient Growth / Backbone of Multimodal Lifestyle**
- **Automated Transit Shuttles: Coming to a City Near You**
- **Key Findings of this Initial Study**
 - The more people use shared modes, the more likely they are to use transit, own fewer cars, and spend less on transportation overall.
 - "Supersharers" – people who routinely use several shared modes, such as bikesharing, carsharing and ridesourcing – report greater transportation savings and own half as many cars as people who use transit alone.
 - Ridesourcing services are most frequently used for social trips between 10:00 pm and 4:00 am, when transit runs less frequently or is not available.
- **APTA Policy Framework / Principles**
 - **Integrated Mobility / Transformative Technologies**
 1. Ensure Accessibility & Social Inclusion
 2. Encourage Innovation & Entrepreneurship
 3. Promote Integration & Coordination

4. Establish One-Stop-Shopping for the Complete Trip
5. Encourage Sharing and Cooperation
6. Identify Opportunities to Capitalize on Technology to Advance Mobility and Efficiency
7. Provide Appropriate Public Oversight
8. Invest in the Required Infrastructure
9. Develop Understanding & Best Practices
10. Identify New Business Markets
11. Assure Ongoing Availability of Transit
12. Protect the Privacy of Passengers
13. Enhance Sustainability of Overall System

Discussion Summary: Meeting attendees were given the opportunity at the conclusion of the presentation to share their feedback and to provide suggestions, ideas and concerns with the guest speaker.

Other Business:

- Jimmy Rouse, a Founding Member of Transit Choices acknowledged the wonderful presentations by Mr. Smith, and Mr. Guzzetti. He also thanked the meeting attendees for their participation stating that it gives the organization strength and validity. Mr. Rouse then asked Robin Budish, Director Transit Choices to provide the following update on recent activities:
 - Transit Choices has been participating in North Avenue Rising Community Advisory Panel Meetings to provide input on the \$27.3 million project to revitalize the North Avenue corridor.
 - A tour of the MTA Operations Control Center (OCC) will be held on Thursday, April 5, 2018 from 9 AM - 11 AM. Following the tour, Kevin B. Quinn, Jr. (MTA Administrator, MDOT MTA) and OCC Leadership will lead a group discussion.
 - The **Saving Baltimore's TIGERS** social media campaign has produced successful results. Transit Choices received 175 grassroots signatures supporting federal Transportation Investments to Maryland Federal Legislators which will be hand delivered in Washington, DC on March 1, 2018.
 - Transit Choices in partnership with the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance, 1000 Friends of Maryland, Citizens Planning & Housing Association, Bikemore, Global Shapers Baltimore, and the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition will host a **Gubernatorial Candidates Forum: "Leadership for Improving Transportation"** on Thursday, May 31, 2018. The event will be held from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM at The Real News Network, 231 N. Holliday Street – Baltimore, MD. Jayne Miller of WBALTV will serve as moderator.
 - After five successful years, Transit Choices has launched its first fundraising campaign. Contributions will help to ensure Transit Choices leadership on transit issues and its commitment to improving mobility and economic opportunity for all citizens of Baltimore City.
- Ben Cohen, Assistant Director, Workforce Transportation & Community Programs with The BWI Business Partnership, Inc. announced the following two bills from Delegate Pam Beidle: HB 1227 Tax-Credit Commuter Benefits-Alterations and HB1468 Transit-Job Access and Reverse Commute. Mr. Cohen also mentioned a new bi-monthly transportation forum in the upcoming issue of www.bizmonthly.com
- The Center for Mobility Equity, (formerly Central Maryland Regional Transit) a 501(c)3 organization founded in 1987, provides transportation information to over 300,000 people annually throughout Maryland. Their Travel Training Program empowers individuals with disabilities, students, Veterans, and older adults to explore fixed-route transportation options, understand their rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and more fully participate in their communities.

Robin Budish acknowledged and thanked Chris Firehock, guest moderator and the Impact Hub Baltimore for providing meeting space.