



Transit Choices Meeting Summary

October 16, 2018
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

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

Attendees:

Holly Arnold (**Maryland Transit Administration**), Father Michael Bishop (**Public Transit Rider**), Robin Budish (**Transit Choices**), Luis Cardona (**Downtown Partnership of Baltimore**), Susan Carlin (**Wexford Science & Technology, LLC**), Art Cohen (**b'more mobile**), Ben Cohen (**Last Mile Solutions**), Joseph Consoli (**iRealty Research**), Will Cowan (**Transit Advocate**), Chris Firehock (**Center for Mobility Equity**), Kenneth Good (**Maryland Transit Administration**), Ann Gordon (**Bus Workgroup 14**), Tony Green (**University of Maryland**), Josh Greenfeld (**Maryland Builders**), Taffy Gwitira (**Impact Hub Baltimore**), Don Halligan (**Baltimore Metropolitan Council**), Ethan Hasiuk (**Transit Advocate**), Michael Helta (**Maryland Transit Administration**), Greg Hinchcliffe (**Bicycle Advocate**), Jim Leanos (**Corporate Property Solutions**), Henriette Leanos, Emily Lewis (**Floura Teeter**), Sam Lynch (**JPZ Architects**), Megan Maffeo (**Floura Teeter**), Karina Mandell (**Green Smart Cities**), Patrick McMahon (**Maryland Transit Administration**), Michelle Pourciau (**Baltimore City DOT**), Klaus Philipsen (**ArchPlan, Inc.**), Kevin Quinn (**Maryland Transit Administration**), Michael Romeo (**Transdev**), Kwame Rose (**Baltimore City DOT**), Jimmy Rouse (**Transit Choices**), Renata Southard (**Transit Advocate**), Kristin Speaker (**Charles Street Development Corporation**), Danielle Sweeney (**City Paper**), Raven Thompson (**Baltimore Development Corporation**), Matt Warfield (**Baltimore City DOT**), Jed Weeks (**Bikemore**), Meg Young (**Baltimore City DOT**)

Opening Remarks: Robin Budish, Director Transit Choices welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the attendees for coming. Ms. Budish then introduced the following guest speakers:

Michelle Pourciau, Director, Department of Transportation
Matt Warfield, Bike City Planner II, Department of Transportation
Presentation: **Baltimore Dockless Pilot Program**

Overview:

Director Pourciau and Mr. Warfield discussed the Baltimore City Launch of the Dockless Technology Pilot Program and plans for future growth.

Presentation highlights: **Dockless Pilot Program**

- **Two operators participating, Bird and Lime**
 - Six Month pilot program began on August 15, 2018, set to expire on February 28, 2019
 - Each operator is allowed up to 1,000 of each dockless vehicle type
 - Bird operates scooters only
 - Lime operates scooters and bikes

- **Dockless Pilot Program Overview - Rules of the Road**
 - Under 16 you are required to wear a helmet
 - Scooters or bikes are not allowed to be ridden on the sidewalk
- **Addressing Equity**
 - Lime Access offers members a 95% discount on Lime pedal bikes and 50% discount on all Lime e assist vehicles.
 - Bird waives the \$1 fee to start a ride for individuals who can show proof of low-income status.
 - Operators are required to provide at least 25% of their fleet in 15 low-income community statistical areas.
 - The areas were identified as having the highest percentage of the households earning \$25,000/yr or less.
- **Data Reporting** - Operators are required to provide weekly reports, to include:
 - Number of Riders
 - Number of Vehicles in service
 - Anonymized origin/destination data
 - Point-map location of vehicles
 - Report on crashes, vandalism, theft, and customer raised issues
 - Report on daily average location
- **Program To Date**
 - Total Rides: 250,554
 - Total Unique Riders: 84,266
 - Total Miles Ridden: 324,534
 - Between 800 and 1,400 scooters on the street each day
- **Next Steps**
 - Working with operators to improve data reporting
 - Monitor social media and receive feedback from community
 - Community can provide feedback to dot-community@baltimorecity.gov
 - Committee formed to evaluate program and establish long term policy

Additional Comments:

- Director Pourciau acknowledged and thanked Transit Choices for the important work they are doing in the public transit arena.
- The new dockless bike and scooter programs are about offering the public more transit choices.
- The Downtown Partnership of Baltimore is assisting the city with the enforcement of the dockless program regulations. The goal is to provide information and education about the rules of the road.
- Addressing equity in the marketplace remains an important component of the dockless programs moving forward.
- Baltimore CityDOT is working to make all city sidewalks ADA compliant.
- Complete Streets is moving forward.
- Approximately 50% of the bike share docking stations have been removed to date. The remaining docking stations are in the process of being removed.
- Effective October 11, 2018, RMA is the new operator of the Charm City Circulator.

Open Discussion: Advancing a public transit agenda for all modalities to include new technology, future trends & sustainable solutions.

Jimmy Rouse, Transit Choices Co-Founder

Robin Budish, Transit Choices Director

Discussion Topics:

- The Next Round of BaltimoreLink Improvements
- Charm City Circulator – making it Sustainable & Routes
- Water Taxi integration of Both Systems
- Regulations for Dockless Scooters & Bikes
- Preparing for Autonomous Vehicles
- North Avenue Rising
- Regional Transportation Plan

Discussion Points:

- Mr. Rouse led the group discussion by asking meeting participants for their suggestions and recommendations regarding the above-mentioned discussion topics. Further, Mr. Rouse suggested the creation of on-line committees as an ideal way for those interested to be an active contributor, and work with Transit Choices on getting in front of these important issues.
- BaltimoreLink - Transit Choices has a real opportunity to work with the great staff at the MTA on continued improvements to the bus system.
- North Avenue Rising - it is important to have a vision and provide for a stream of money to ensure North Avenue's success beyond the 27 million (TIGER grant) that the project has received. A phase II vision would include both economic and transit oriented development.
- Get Maryland Moving - the coalition reconvened to discuss ideas for a regional transportation plan which would include updating the 2022 regional rail plan. Transit Choices is a member of the coalition steering committee.

Additional Comments:

- People Oriented Transit - pilots without regulations, create synergistic links within modalities.
- Budapest Bus System - bus announcement system is good at graphically showing and announcing next bus stops and intersecting lines.
- Autonomous Vehicles – will become a reality in the next 10 years, important to put right policies in place now for a good future outcome.
- Charm City Circulator – sustainable funding is an important part of the conversation, revise the RFP language to ask what is the best service we can get from you for “x” dollars.
- Funding should be added to the list of discussion topics. Advocating for a public transit agenda must include a funding component.
- Transit Choices - important to define the goal of the coalition and what it is trying to achieve.

Other Business:

- Mr. Rouse acknowledged the informative and interesting presentation by Director Michelle Pourciau and Matt Warfield. He also thanked the meeting attendees for their participation and ongoing support.
- The next Transit Choices meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2018:
 - Delegate Brooke Lierman will facilitate a discussion about the Transit Funding bill from last session. Attendees will be given the opportunity to share their thoughts on what the priorities at the state level should be.
 - Councilman Ryan Dorsey presentation: “Complete Streets - Legislation Update and How you can advocate”
- MDOT MTA held a press conference on September 27, 2018 to announce the launch of CharmPass (a mobile transit pass app) and a 90-Minute Free Transfer window with the use of the CharmPass. Effective this date, there have been 9,000 downloads of the new CharmPass. Robin Budish was invited to speak on the podium.
- Transit Choices received a generous grant from the Abell Foundation to continue working on improvements to the BaltimoreLink bus system.