



Transit Choices Meeting Summary

January 30, 2019
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

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

Attendees:

Robin Budish (**Transit Choices**), Damon Crutchfield (**Maryland Institute College of Art**), William Dorfman (**Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, Inc.**), Peter Duvall (**Strong City Baltimore**), Chris Firehock (**Center for Mobility Equity**), George Frazier (**Baltimore Bike Out**), Ben Groff (**Tidmore Group**), Avery Harmon (**Rails to Trail**), Lewis Hubbard (**Baltimore Water Taxi**), Seema Iyer (**University of Baltimore**), Jeff LaNoue (**Baltimore City Department of Planning**), Jim Leanos (**Corporate Property Solutions**), Fred Lippert (**Toole Design**), Sam Lynch (**JP2 Architects**), Kira Gardner-Marshall (**Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore**), Joe McAndrew (**Greater Washington Partnership**), Lindsey Mendelson (**Sierra Club**), Joe Nathanson (**Urban Information Associates**), Anikwenze Ogbue (**Toole Design**), Caroline Paff (**VI Development**), Klaus Philipsen (**ArchPlan, Inc.**), Jimmy Rouse (**Transit Choices**), Sandy Sparks (**Baltimore Transit Campaign**), Renata Southard (**Transit Advocate**), Danielle Sweeney (**Writer, Transit Advocate**), Raven Thompson (**Baltimore Development Corporation**), Jed Weeks (**Bikemore**), Mikah Zaslow, (**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 first guest speaker:

Joe McAndrew, Director, Transportation Policy - Greater Washington Partnership
Presentation: “**Capital Region Blueprint for Regional Mobility: Baltimore Strategy**”

Overview:

Mr. McAndrew discussed the creation of the blueprint, and what our region's future could look like.

Presentation highlights: **Greater Washington Partnership: From Baltimore to Richmond, Fostering Unity, Advancing Growth**

- **The Capital Region**
 - Our region has great diversity, tremendous assets and immense potential.
 - Our region has the 3rd largest economy in the United States and the 7th largest in the Global Economy.
- **Who We Are**
 - The Greater Washington Partnership is a team of civic-minded CEOs, drawing from the leading employers and entrepreneurs, who are committed to making the Capital Region from Baltimore to Richmond one of the world's best place to live, work and build a business.

- We are leveraging our unique strengths, our diversity and the power of commerce to tackle issues holding us back. We bring long-term perspectives and fact-based solutions to drive our impact.
- **Why Transportation?**
 - A successful transportation system
 1. Connects the region's economy
 2. Strengthens talent retention and attraction
 3. Diversifies and deepens labor pool
- **TAKING ACTION ON REGIONAL MOBILITY**
 - Developed the Capital Region's first CEO led Blueprint for Regional Mobility, an action plan that prioritizes investments and policies to bind the region.
- **KEY FOCUS AREAS**
 - Public Transportation
 - Performance-Driven Tolling
 - Commuter Rail
- **Quick Hits**
 - Employer-led solutions
 - Integrated Mobility
 - Regional Trail Networks
 - Performance Metrics

Additional Comments:

- We have a great opportunity to transform the region's transportation system. Transit connectivity and racial equity is extremely important to address in the plan.
- The Regional Transportation Plan should be action oriented, and supported by the collective.
- Trains, Buses, People: An Opinionated Atlas of US Transit by Christof Spieler makes the argument that to build good transit, the discussion needs to focus on what matters - quality of service (not the technology that delivers it), all kinds of transit riders, the role of buildings, streets and sidewalks, and, above all, getting transit in the right places.
- The Northeast Corridor (NEC) is one of the busiest, most complex, and economically vital transportation systems. We need funding mechanisms that actually pay for public transit.

Second Guest Speaker:

Caroline Paff, Principal, VI Development
Presentation: **"Get Maryland Moving Coalition"**

Overview:

Ms. Paff discussed the vision, mission and objectives of the coalition in 2019.

Presentation highlights: **Get Maryland Moving - 2019 Campaign**

- **What is Get Maryland Moving?**
 - Coalition of business, labor, non-profits, and transit riders advocating for inclusive, equitable and accountable transit.
 - Successful campaigns
 1. 2013 to increase the Maryland gas tax
 2. 2017 to repeal the MTA's farebox recovery mandate
- **What are Get Maryland Moving 2019 Objectives?**
 - Launch 2019 campaign
 - Grow GMM membership
 - Raise funds for an effective campaign

- Populate the Regional Transit Plan Commission with people who will fight for a strong transit plan
- Engage the counties and Baltimore City to support a strong transit plan
- See the MTA define clear, measurable goals for the plan
- **What Get Maryland Moving is Not**
 - The Coalition won't create the Regional Transit Plan (that's the role of the MTA!)
 - It will won't replace the legislated Commission
 - The Coalition won't set its sights on the plan document itself; it will set its sights on the measurable changes resulting when a well-designed plan is implemented
- **Why Does Get Maryland Moving Care?**
 - Regardless of your primary mode of transportation - car, transit, bike, or walk - no one can deny that we are in need of a 21st century transit system to serve this area.
 - The growth of our economy depends on workers having access to jobs that are accessible by means other than driving.
- **OK Get Maryland Moving, but why should I care?**
 - A strong transit plan helps greater Baltimore prioritize projects, win federal funding and attract private sector investment.
 - The Regional Transit Plan is an opportunity to produce better outcomes that are directly related to transportation such as...
 - Among the 100 largest counties in the U.S., Baltimore City children have the worst odds of escaping poverty.
 - Transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland (*and greater Baltimore is a nonattainment area under the Clean Air Act - too many days when ground level ozone is harmful to human health*).
 - Within an hour's commute the typical resident of greater Baltimore can reach 100 percent of the region's jobs by car, **but only 9 percent of the region's jobs by transit.**

Additional Comments:

- We need to build ladders of success in all communities for access to jobs.
- Transit is the Achilles' heel for Baltimore.
- Transit Choices can play an important role in validating the need for a Regional Transportation Plan by amplifying the message, and encouraging people to use their social media to spread the word regionally.
- The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance (CMTA), is an initiative of the Baltimore Community Foundation and the parent organization of Get Maryland Moving.

Other Business:

- Jimmy Rouse, on behalf of Transit Choices acknowledged and thanked all of the guest speakers for their informative and interesting presentations. He also thanked the meeting attendees for their participation and valuable input. The Transit Choices meetings are designed to be an important forum for the exchange of ideas and information regarding public transit.
- Transit Choices has formed online (email) committees to examine the following topics relative to public transit. All are welcome to participate. Each committee has a designated chair person, and has been given specific goals/objectives to achieve.
 - **The next round of BaltimoreLink improvements**
Chair: Jacq Jones
 - **Charm City Circulator & the Water Taxi**
Chair: Sandy Sparks
 - **Regulations for Dockless Scooters & Bikes**
Chair: Renata Southard
 - **Future Mobility**

Chair: Klaus Philipsen

➤ **North Avenue Rising**

Chair: Jennifer Goold

➤ **Regional Transportation Plan**

Chair: Jimmy Rouse

➤ **Funding & Governance**

Chair: Jim Knighton

- Michelle Pourciau – Director, Department of Transportation will make a presentation titled "**An Inside Look at DOT Transportation Plan**" at an upcoming Transit Choices meeting.