TRANSIT CHOICES

Bringing real mass transit to Baltimore.

Transit Choices is a coalition of business organizations, universities, cultural institutions, developers, environmental groups, community groups, transportation planners, young entrepreneurs, and concerned individuals joined together by the vision of creating a real mass transit system in Baltimore. The list of signatories in support of our mission is included and continues to expand.

THE PROBLEM

The Problem:

BALTIMORE'S TRANSIT OFFERINGS INCLUDING BUS, LIGHT RAIL AND METRO – ARE DISCONNECTED AND NOT RUN OPTIMALLY. THE LACK OF A REAL TRANSIT SYSTEM HAMPERS OUR CITY'S ABILITY TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES. OUR CITY'S PIECEMEAL TRANSIT DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTES TO PATCHWORK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INTRACTABLE QUALITY OF LIFE FRUSTRATIONS FOR RESIDENTS IN NEIGHBORHOODS, AND PERSISTENTLY SEGREGATED COMMUNITIES. WHILE COMPLEX, THESE PROBLEMS ARE FIXABLE.

The Solution:

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE, EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL TO THE CITY OF BALTIMORE'S LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY, PROSPERITY AND RELEVANCE. TRANSIT CHOICES SUGGESTS THAT RUNNING WHAT WE HAVE OPTIMALLY AND EFFICIENTLY IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS BETTER TRANSIT.

THE SOLUTION

The Effects:

A HIGHER QUALITY OF LIFE MARKED BY TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES THAT ARE BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HEALTHIER FOR THE INDIVIDUAL, AND MORE BENEFICIAL FOR THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMY.
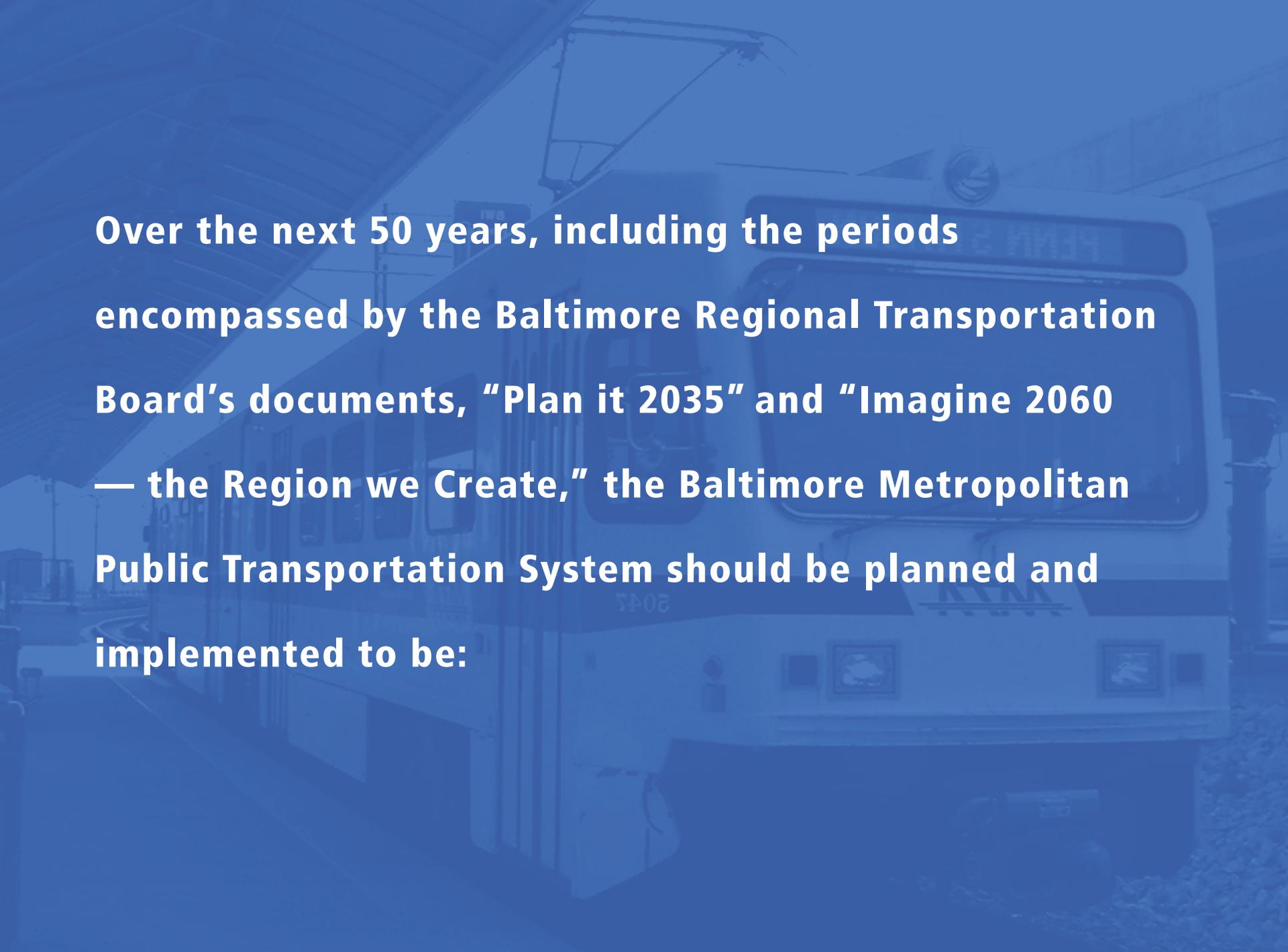
Over the next 50 years, including the periods encompassed by the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board's documents, "Plan it 2035" and "Imagine 2060 — the Region we Create," the Baltimore Metropolitan Public Transportation System should be planned and implemented to be:

Comprehensive:

broad in its geographical coverage, serving both the urban core and the larger metropolitan area — it will link all population and commercial centers in the five-county and Baltimore City Region.

Multi-Modal:

composed of a range of modes — heavy rail, light rail, streetcar, bus and circulator, water taxi or ferry, bicycle, pedestrian, etc. with selection of the most appropriate modes for different areas of the City and surrounding counties.

Integrated:

totally integrated among modes allowing convenient, safe, economical and seamless transfer from one mode to another within a regional public transportation system.

Equitable and Sustainable:

- **Develop transit hubs**
- **Build community and neighborhoods through economic and enterprise development**
- **Fiscally Sustainable**
- **Environmentally Sustainable**

User-Oriented:

- **Frequent and Reliable**
- **Accessible**
- **Simple**
- **Desirable**

Transit Choices formed work groups around each mode of transit and charged these groups with two tasks.

(1) Develop a "Quick Hits" list of low cost, high visibility and high impact improvements to our transit system that could be implemented in 2014

(2) Develop plans for longer term improvements to transit infrastructure that would result in an integrated, effective and efficient transit system
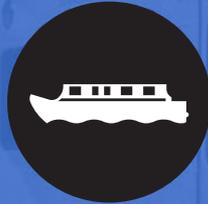
Ride the Rails. QUICK HITS:

- Install comprehensive and clear maps and signage at all stops and brand transit vehicles by color-code

- Maintain shelters

- Consider fare free zones

- Install bike share and car share at all stops

- Implement express light rail lines and increase service during downtown events in frequency and duration

- Ensure full implementation of signal priority

- Install WiFi on light rail and in underground metro stations

RIDE THE RAILS
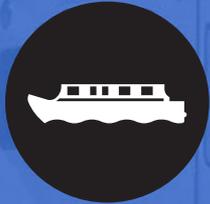
Buses and Circulator. QUICK HITS:

- Enhanced maps accessible both physically and electronically

- GPS tracking for real-time data

- Advocacy for Circulator extensions

- Require fixed-route public transit providers to publish schedule data using General Transit Feed Specification

- Improve bus rider experience with clear road markings, resurfacing, and enhanced lighting

Water Taxi. QUICK HITS:

- **Safer waiting areas, including year round shelters and well lit pathways, and/or security cameras**

- **Enhanced dock safety, including ramps for handicapped accessibility**

- **Digital Signage installations and a 'next taxi' app**

- **Enhanced car parking at landings**

- **Enhanced bike racks on and off taxis, and/or bike share stations at landings**

- **Expansion of 'on demand' water taxi service**

WATER TAXI
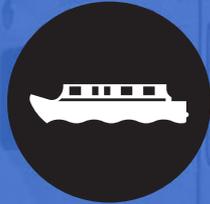
Bike Baltimore. QUICK HITS:

- **Build Downtown Baltimore Bicycle Network**

- **Jones Falls Trail Improvements**

- **BCDOT staff educated on bicycle planning and engineering**

- **Enhance public access to transportation planning and resurfacing documents and data**

- **More bike racks and corrals and web-based bicycle rack requests**

- **Establish and support bikeshare**

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Walk Baltimore. **QUICK HITS:**

- **City-wide adoption of a Complete Streets policy**

- **Improve streetscaping around Penn Station**

- **Provide adequate crossing times**

- **Routine crosswalk maintenance**

- **ADA Accessible**

- **Eradicate rush hour traffic lanes**

We know Baltimore City and the State of Maryland must invest in a 21st Century mass transit system. We also unequivocally believe that a 21st Century transportation investment in greater Baltimore must be comprehensive, reliable and fiscally feasible to be effective.

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