



Transit Choices Meeting Summary

June 16, 2017
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

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

Attendees:

David Benn (**Cho Benn Holback & Associates**), Father Michael Bishop (**Public Transit Rider**), Robin Budish (**Transit Choices**), Luis Cardona (**Downtown Partnership of Baltimore**), Art Cohen (**b'more mobile**), Joseph Consoli, Councilman Ryan Dorsey (**District 3**), Peter Duvall (**Strong City Baltimore**), Mark Edelson (**Goldman & Goldman, P.A.**), Jan Eveland (**Law Offices of Janet L. Eveland, Chartered**), Chris Firehock (**Central Maryland Regional Transit**), Jenna Fischetti, George Frazier (**Baltimore Bike Out**), Josh Greenfield, Ben Groff (**Tidmore Group**), Wesley Guerrier (**Morgan State University**), Taffy Gwitira (**Impact Hub Baltimore**), Greg Hinchcliffe (**Bicycle Advocate**), Samuel Jordan (**Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition**), Jim Knighton, Kathleen Lane (**American Institute of Architects**), Jeff LaNoue (**Baltimore City Department of Planning**), Jim Leanos (**Corporate Property Solutions**), Steve Marker, (**Corporate Office Properties Trust**), Hans Mayer (**Baltimore Transit Campaign**), Sam Minnitte (**WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff**), Caroline Moore (**Ekistics LLC**), Klaus Philipsen (**ArchPlan**), Matt Peterson, Jimmy Rouse (**Transit Choices**), Larry Schoen, Jill Sorensen (**BEVI, Inc.**), Yolanda Takesian, (**Kittelson & Associates**), Raven Thompson (**Baltimore Development Corporation**), Brian Traylor (**Amtrak**)

Guest Moderator: Samuel Jordan, President and Convener - Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the attendees for coming. Samuel then introduced the first guest speaker:

Brian E. Traylor, Infrastructure Planning Manager – AMTRAK
Presentation: “**Amtrak’s Baltimore Penn Station: Investing in the Future**”

Presentation highlights: INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF BALTIMORE PENN STATION

1. AMTRAK OVERVIEW THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR

- Nationwide rail network, serving more than 500 destinations in 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian provinces on more than 21,300 miles of routes.
- 6th straight year ridership exceeded 30 million with 50% growth since 1998.
- The Northeast Corridor (Washington > Boston) is the flagship and North American prototype for high-capacity, shared-use railway with about 1/3 of system ridership and about 1/2 of the system revenue.

2. THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR (NEC)

- 260 million annual passenger trips; 750,000 daily trips.
- 457 mainline route miles; 363 miles Amtrak-owned (80%).
- 1,200 bridges and tunnels, many over a century-old.

3. DRIVING REVENUE GROWTH MAJOR STATION DEVELOPMENT

- Owns and operates over 2 million square feet of mixed-use station properties.
- 134 station construction projects totaling \$100 million and \$5 billion under design.
- Majority of Amtrak ownership is concentrated along the busy Northeast Corridor from Boston to Washington, DC.

4. **BALTIMORE PENN STATION INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

- Opened in 1911, today it is the 8th busiest station in the Amtrak national network.
- Over 3 million Amtrak and MARC passengers passing through Baltimore Penn.
- Identified as hub for expanded BaltimoreLink bus service and potential Bikeshare program.

5. **MASTER DEVELOPER PARTNERSHIP – PROJECT OVERVIEW**

- Attract a world-class master developer team to maximize the value of Amtrak’s portfolio with a bold, fully integrated mixed-use urban district and a vibrant transportation hub situated at its core.
- Prepare a comprehensive, buildable and financially viable Master Plan for the Station and adjacent Amtrak properties.
- Modernization of the Station to address state of good repair deficiencies and ADA upgrades.
- Expansion of the Station to accommodate increased passenger volumes through the year 2040 and beyond.

6. **MASTER DEVELOPER PARTNERSHIP RFQ SHORTLISTED TEAMS**

- Brandywine Realty Trust: Brandywine Realty Trust, Pinkard Properties, Perkins Eastman, Ayers Saint Gross, ARUP, Clark Construction, Madison Marquette, Langan Engineering and Environmental Services.
- Penn Station Partners: Beatty Development Group, Armada Hoffler Properties, Cross Street Partners, Gensler, HR&A, JLL, Mace, Network Rail Consulting, Stifel, WSP | PB.
- Peebles-AZ Baltimore Penn: The Peebles Corporation, AZ Group, MacFarlane Partner, Consolidated Contractors Group SAL, AECOM Technical Services Inc., Morganti Group, Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners, Lewis Contractors, Williams Jackson Ewing (WJE), Marks Thomas, Daroff Design.

Additional Comments:

- Amtrak is a minority user on the Northeast Corridor.
- Much of the Northeast Corridor was built in the early part of the 20th century and is in need of rehabilitation as it approaches capacity.
- Gross revenues from Acela and Regional services have risen steadily over the past decade.
- Baltimore Penn Station is the 8th busiest Amtrak Station.
- The selected master developer for the project will be announced summer 2017.
- Amtrak is committed to a successful partnership with the selected master developer.

Second Guest Speaker:

Klaus Philipsen, President – ArchPlan Inc.

Presentation: “**Baltimore: Reinventing an Industrial City, and what it means for transit**”

Presentation highlights: **Klaus Philipsen investigates the modern urban condition and the systematic problems involved with adapting metropolitan regions into equitable and sustainable communities.**

1. **We have a good DNA for transit**

2. **We know how to build transit**

3. **We need to understand where we are**

- Legacy cities will benefit the most from the next transportation revolution.

4. **We need to....**

- Change the discussion from bricks and mortar to equity and social justice.
- Achieve equity through systems more than modes or lines.
- See the future as something different than an extension of the past.

Additional Comments:

- Baltimore and other cities are defined by transportation.

- Transportation should be about people, equity and social justice.
- Automated vehicles can become creative transit solutions for the city.
- Baltimore is perfectly positioned to become a Legacy City.
- Baltimore: **Reinventing an Industrial Legacy City**, by Klaus Philipsen is his take on the post industrial American city and Baltimore after the unrest. *The book is now for sale and can currently be ordered online (<https://www.routledge.com/Baltimore-Reinventing-an-Industrial-Legacy-City/Philipsen/p/book/9781138230361>) directly from the publisher with free shipping.*

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

Other Business:

Jimmy Rouse, a Founding Member of Transit Choices:

- Thanked all attendees for their participation in support of Transit Choices advocacy to improve public transit in Baltimore.
- The weekend including June 18, 2017 will be historic with the rollout of BaltimoreLink, a major transformation of the bus system. On June 14, 2017 Governor Hogan invited Transit Choices to participate in a Press Conference to announce BaltimoreLink. Jimmy was given the opportunity to share his remarks on the podium, along with Mayor Catherine Pugh and MDOT Secretary Pete Rahn. For the last 18 months, Transit Choices has been working with the MTA on BaltimoreLink by providing many pages of comments, questions and criticisms on BaltimoreLink. The MTA responded to all of the feedback in an open and transparent manner. Kevin B. Quinn, Jr. (acting MTA Administrator) and his team were commended for being open, transparent and dedicated to make BaltimoreLink a success.
- If we are serious about addressing social injustice and equity issues in Baltimore, we need better public transit.
- Transit Choices has upcoming meetings scheduled with:
 - Councilman Ryan Dorsey regarding his proposed Complete Streets legislation.
 - Councilman Zeke Cohen to discuss the future of the Water Taxi as part of an overall transit system for Baltimore.
 - Representatives from the University of Maryland to discuss shared concerns about public transit in Baltimore, and the work Transit Choices is doing in the transit arena.
 - Jon Laria regarding a unified biking strategy for Baltimore.
- At a recent meeting of the new “Get Maryland Moving” coalition, it was discussed that 1) Transit Choices take the lead and continue its work on BaltimoreLink and 2) Get Maryland Moving would consider working on regional transit planning to include last mile solutions.

Robin Budish, Director Transit Choices acknowledged and thanked the following:

- Samuel Jordan for serving as guest moderator.
- Impact Hub Baltimore for providing meeting space.