



Transit Choices Meeting Summary

August 22, 2017
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Maryland Institute College of Art (**MICA**)
Brown Center, Room 320
1301 W. Mt. Royal Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21217

Attendees:

Eunice Anderson (**Enoch Pratt Free Library**), Al Barry (**AB Associates**), David Benn (**Cho Benn Holback & Associates**), Father Michael Bishop (**Public Transit Rider**), Robin Budish (**Transit Choices**), Zach Chissell (**MTA**), Art Cohen (**b'more mobile**), Damon Crutchfield (**Maryland Institute College of Art**), Peter Duvall (**Strong City Baltimore**), Mark Edelson (**Goldman & Goldman, P.A.**), Jan Eveland (**Law Offices of Janet L. Eveland, Chartered**), Jennifer Goold (**Neighborhood Design Center**), Taffy Gwitira (**Impact Hub Baltimore**), Rodney Harris (**University of Maryland**), Mark Heishman (**Transdev**), Aaron Kaufman (**Central Baltimore Partnership**), Jim Knighton, Jeff LaNoue (**Baltimore City Department of Planning**), Mac MacLure (**Deutsch Foundation**), Hans Mayer (**Baltimore Transit Campaign**), Patrick McMahon (**MTA**), Robert Milner (**University of Maryland**), Matt Peterson, Jimmy Rouse (**Transit Choices**), Michael Romeo (**Transdev**), Jill Sorensen (**BEVI, Inc.**), Sandy Sparks (**Charles Village Civic Association**), Kristin Speaker (**Charles Street Development Corporation**)

Robin Budish, Director Transit Choices welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the attendees for coming. Robin then introduced the guest speaker:

Jennifer Goold, Executive Director – the Neighborhood Design Center.
Presentation: **North Avenue Now! *Integrating and Leveraging the Plans***

Presentation highlights: NORTH AVENUE NOW!

We need to create an experience, a buzz of human activity and nature intertwined into a healing city for all.

- **Streetscape Plan for Station North - CBP & SNAE (2011-2017)**
- **Streetscape Plan for East North Avenue CDC & BCDOT (2007-2017)**
- **Streetscape Plan for West North Avenue Coalition and NDC (2013-2015)**
- **North Avenue Rising - 2016 TIGER Program**
 - The nation's most competitive transportation grant program
 - For construction of surface transportation projects that:
 - a. Improve State of Good Repair (SGR)
 - b. Increase the nation's Economic Competitiveness
 - c. Enhance regional Quality of Life
 - d. Enhance Environmental Sustainability
 - e. Improve transportation Safety
 - f. Demonstrate innovative approaches
 - g. Leverage partnerships
 - Submission Deadline in April 2016
 - USDOT received 585 applications (over \$9.3 Billion) in FFY 2016
 - \$500 million was available nationally

- MTA awarded \$10 million toward North Avenue Rising (One of 40 applications awarded in FFY 2016). **This is the first time MTA has been the direct recipient of a TIGER grant since the program's inception in 2009**
- Project Location: From Hilton Street to Milton Avenue
- **Scope of North Avenue Rising**
 - Dedicated Lanes
 - Transit Signal Priority
 - Enhanced Bus Stops
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 - Enhanced Bus Stops
 - Metro Station Improvements
 - Intersection Reconstruction
 - Roadway Repaving
- **Dedicated Lanes**
- **Roadway Repaving**
- **Enhanced Bus Stops**
- **Streetscaping**
- **Bike Share Docks**
- **Project Budget by Element Project Element Cost (\$)**
 - Streetscaping \$8,473,000
 - Penn-North Station Improvements \$4,915,000
 - Dedicated Lanes \$3,739,000
 - Roadway Repaving \$3,470,000
 - Enhanced Bus Stops \$2,500,000
 - Penn-North Intersection Reconstruction \$2,000,000
 - Transit Signal Priority \$1,555,000
 - Bikeshare Docks \$252,000
 - Bike Boulevards and Lanes \$426,000
 - TOTAL \$27,330,000**

Additional Comments:

- The Neighborhood Design Center provides access to pro bono design services in underserved communities in Baltimore City and Prince George's County, MD. In collaboration with neighborhood groups, local government agencies and fellow nonprofits, they support locally driven initiatives for neighborhoods pursuing improved quality of life within their built environments.
- **Zachary Chissell, Office of Planning and Capital Programming with the Maryland Transit Administration provided supplemental information on the "North Avenue Now" project.**

Discussion Summary: Following the "North Avenue Now" presentation, there was an open discussion to solicit feedback about issues and projects Transit Choices should be addressing this year and beyond.

- David Benn: advocate for reducing lanes around McKeldin Plaza, giving priority to pedestrians. Explore other cities where lanes have been reduced.
- Art Cohen: develop an inventory of all existing government agencies, community groups, other entities and young people which currently do or should engage in public transportation planning for our Baltimore Metropolitan Region (city and surrounding counties).
- Jan Eveland: create a searchable database of Baltimore area transportation and transportation-related studies which already exist.
- Mark Heishman: help our elected officials begin to act on laws relating to autonomous vehicles, including buses, trucks, etc.
- Jeff LaNoue: identify which employers offer subsidies to those employees who do not park a car at work. This could include reimbursement for transit costs or a benefit for those who walk or bicycle.
- Kristin Speaker: the Charm Card, improve usage and accessibility.
- Jennifer Goold: encourage Baltimore Department of Transportation to institute a tactical urbanism program like this: <http://fayetteville-ar.gov/3268/Tactical-Urbanism>

- Zach Chissell: promote transit-friendly land uses in an around Baltimore, engaging directly with the planning departments of Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Anne Arundel County.

Other Business:

Jimmy Rouse, a Founding Member of Transit Choices provided the following update:

- The BaltimoreLink Ad hoc committee meeting held on August 8, 2017 was well attended and featured guest speaker, Kevin B. Quinn Jr. - Acting Administrator and CEO with the MTA. Kevin provided a detailed report and presentation on BaltimoreLink: Post-Launch Update. Since that meeting, Kevin has been officially named Administrator of the MTA.
- Jimmy Rouse and Robin Budish have met with Councilman Eric Costello - District 11, Councilman Ryan Dorsey – District 3, and Councilman Zeke Cohen – District 1 to discuss public transit issues that involve their respective districts. Upcoming meetings have been scheduled with Councilwoman Shannon Sneed – District13 and Councilman John Bullock – District 9. The ultimate goal is to meet with all City Council representatives.
- Transit Choices has received signed signatory letters in support of our mission to create great public transit and Transform Baltimore from the following:
 - Ronald Daniels, President Johns Hopkins University
 - Samuel Hoi, President Maryland Institute College of Art
 - Kurt Schmoke, President University of Baltimore
 - Dr. Jay Perman, President University of Maryland, Baltimore
 - Dr. Maria Thompson, President Coppin State University
 - Dr. Marylou Yam, President Notre Dame of Maryland University

Robin Budish acknowledged and thanked the Maryland Institute College of Art for providing meeting space.