



Transit Choices Meeting Summary

October 25, 2017
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

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

Attendees:

Roxana Beyranvand (**Baltimore Collegetown**), Liz Briscoe (**Action In Maturity**), Father Michael Bishop (**Public Transit Rider**), Emily Bryson, Robin Budish (**Transit Choices**), Luis Cardona (**Downtown Partnership of Baltimore**), Ben Cohen (**BWI Partnership**), Richard Doran (**Action In Maturity**), Jan Eveland (**Law Offices of Janet L. Eveland, Chartered**), Chris Firehock (**Central Maryland Regional Transit**), George Frazier (**Baltimore Bike Out**), John Gasparine (**WSP**), Maurice Good (**Maryland New Directions**), Taffy Gwitira (**Impact Hub Baltimore**), Avery Harmon (**Rails to Trails**), Mark Heishman (**Transdev**), Mike Heslin (**Lyft**), Aaron Kaufman (**Central Baltimore Partnership**), Elizabeth Hines (**Mapcorp**), Jim Knighton, Grace Lee (**Maryland New Directions**), Joe Nathanson (**Urban Information Associates**), Matt Peterson, Klaus Philipsen (**ArchPlan, Inc.**), Jimmy Rouse (**Transit Choices**), Michael Romeo (**Transdev**), Sandy Sparks (**Charles Village Civic Association**), Kristin Speaker (**Charles Street Development Corporation**), Yolanda Takesian (**Kittelsohn & Associates**), Stephen B. Thomas (**Maryland New Directions**)

Guest Moderator: Janet L. Eveland, attorney and nonprofit consultant - **Law Offices of Janet L. Eveland, Chartered**. Chair, Transportation Task Force, Greater Baybrook Alliance. Ms. Eveland draws on her 30 plus years of experience and her passion to help organizations build capacity, prepare for transitions, minimize risk, achieve project goals, and engage a broad variety of community and economic stakeholders. She is currently working with economic development and transportation-oriented organizations.

The meeting was called to order and the guest speakers were introduced:

Mark Heishman, General Manager - **Transdev**
Michael Romeo, Operations Manager - **Transdev**
Maurice Good, Program Director - **Maryland New Directions**
Stephen Thomas, Lead Trainer - **Maryland New Directions**

Transdev is the largest private provider of multiple modes of transport in North America., operating in 19 countries on six continents. In the U.S. and Canada, they operate 9 modes of transit: bus, paratransit, BRT, streetcar, ferry, coach, taxi and private driver, shuttles.

Maryland New Directions mission is to train and coach people facing career and life transitions to overcome barriers, restore self-belief, and acquire the skills and tools needed to secure employment.

Presentation: "**Private, Nonprofit, Partnership**"

Presentation highlights: **Transdev & Maryland New Directions – A Unique Partnership, and How It Works**

- **Why A Partnership?**

- EMPLOYERS WIN: Solve the shortage of drivers
- JOB SEEKERS WIN: Gainfully-employed Baltimore residents
- NPO WINS: We fulfill our mission
- **Training Goals**
 - Increase accessibility for those who want to be professional drivers
 - Assist employers in finding and retaining quality, safe, licensed driver
- **Program Cycle**
 - Need
 - Develop
 - Recruit
 - Train & Certify
 - Recruit
- **Outcomes**
 - 13 enrolled, 12 completed Phase I
 - 3 weeks industry/job-readiness training
 - Learner's Permit Readiness
 - 9 of 12 passed DOT physical exam
 - 8 out 9 students (as of Oct. 13):
 - Obtain CDL-B Learner's Permit
 - Begin behind-the-wheel training
 - 4 pending Learner's Permit exams
- **Lessons Learned**
 - Committed leadership led to success
 - Joint efforts in program development
 - Model can be replicated
 - Streamlines client career path

Additional Comments:

- Transdev is the flagship partner for Maryland New Directions.
- A criminal record may be an impediment to obtaining a CDL, depending on the specific crime and length of time.
- Training for Paratransit drivers could be an adjunct program for Maryland New Directions.
- Last mile solutions may be resolved with an "on demand" type of service coordinated with employers. It is also important to determine who pays for it.

Discussion Summary: Meeting attendees were given the opportunity at the conclusion of the presentation 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 acknowledged the wonderful presentation by Transdev & Maryland New Directions, remarking that this type of collaborative effort has marked Transit Choices' success. He also thanked the meeting attendees for their participation which gives Transit Choices validity and life. Mr. Rouse then provided the following update on recent activities:

- Michelle Pourciau, Director Baltimore City DOT gave Jimmy Rouse and Robin Budish a very warm reception when they met on October 16, 2017. Ms. Pourciau shared her vision and goals for Baltimore City, and also agreed to be a guest speaker at the Transit Choices meeting on December 8, 2017.
- The "North Avenue Rising Launch" held on October 19, 2017 was a well-attended event. A press conference was held with Governor Hogan, Mayor Catherine Pugh, MDOT Secretary Pete Rahn, MTA Administrator Kevin Quinn and other dignitaries. Following the press conference Governor Hogan, Mayor Pugh and Secretary Rahn each acknowledged and thanked Mr. Rouse on behalf of Transit Choices for the work being done with BaltimoreLink and the full transit arena. The \$27 million North Avenue Rising project to revitalize the corridor will improve access to jobs, medical care and schools

through enhancements to public transportation. This project is extremely important for Baltimore. One idea from Transit Choices is to build a streetcar along North Avenue, connecting east and west.

- The MTA and Baltimore City DOT have announced their initial public forums for providing input to the North Ave Rising concepts. Open House dates are as follows:

November 13 (4:00 - 5:30 PM)

Impact Hub
10 E. North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202

November 14 (6:30 - 8:00 PM)

Bluford/KASA at Walbrook
200 Edgewood Street
Baltimore, MD 21216

November 15 (6:30 - 8:00 PM)

Rita R. Church Community Center
2101 Saint Lo Drive
Baltimore, MD 21213

November 16 (6:30 - 8:00 PM)

Parkview Recreation Center
2610 Francis Street
Baltimore, MD 21217

- Transit Choices continues to work on BaltimoreLink, meeting one on one with City Council members to receive feedback on public transit in their respective districts. Generally speaking, the meetings held to date have been informative and educational. All City Council members were encouraged to send a list of specific BaltimoreLink route issues and concerns to Transit Choices which in turn, will be shared with the MTA.
- Transit Choices organized a meeting with MTA Administrator Kevin Quinn, Delegate Brooke Lierman, Councilman Zeke Cohen and others to discuss shared concerns about BaltimoreLink SE routes. The meeting was admirable. There was real communication between all parties; a state agency and political representatives.
- The MTA and Transit Choices couldn't have a better relationship. Administrator Kevin Quinn demonstrates strong leadership and has assembled a dedicated team. At a recent meeting with the Administrator, there was discussion about plans to address and resolve bus bunching issues and a very high bus driver absenteeism rate.
- Brian O'Malley, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance will convene a meeting of the newly formed Get Maryland Moving Coalition steering committee within the next couple of months. Transit Choices is a member of the committee. The next project for the coalition is to put together the political support and will to create a regional transit vision and plan for implementation to include all modalities, Uber/Lyft and Autonomous vehicles. The new plan would replace the obsolete 2002 plan. The steering committee agreed that Transit Choices should continue to take the lead on BaltimoreLink.
- Transportation and workforce development will be two early focuses of the Greater Washington Partnership, a coalition of top executives from Baltimore to Richmond, Va., that formed last year to drive economic growth across the region:
<http://www.baltimoresun.com/business/bs-bz-greater-washington-partnership-priorities-20170920-story.html>
- Baltimore Bike Share - following a month-long shutdown sparked by widespread thefts and maintenance backups, approximately 50 bikes (a quarter of the initial Baltimore Bike Share fleet) returned to the streets on October 15, 2017. The refurbished bicycles have received upgraded GPS technology, paint and hardware.
- Discussions were held with Liz Cornish, Executive Director Bikemore regarding Bike Share in Baltimore, and Dockless Bike Share programs that have expanded into the U.S.

Dockless Bike Share takes the popular concept of U.S. and European bike share systems and un-tethers them from their docking stations. You can use a bike and when you're done with your ride the bike can be left anywhere. This solves the so called "last mile" issue with most forms of public transit and bike share. Each bike has a unique system that combines an app, GPS and smartlocks that makes the whole system work seamlessly. Mobike, LimeBike, Spin and Jump DC currently operate in D.C.

Robin Budish, Director Transit Choices acknowledged and thanked the guest speakers, guest moderator and the Impact Hub Baltimore for providing meeting space.