



Transit Choices Meeting Summary

December 8, 2017
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

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

Attendees:

Holly Arnold (**MTA**), Roxana Beyranvand (**Baltimore Collegetown**), Father Michael Bishop (**Public Transit Rider**), Robin Budish (**Transit Choices**), Sue Carlin, (**Wexford Science & Technology, LLC**), Art Cohen (**b'more mobile**), Liz Cornish (**Bikemore**), Damon Crutchfield (**Maryland Institute College of Art**), Richard Doran (**Action In Maturity**), Mark Edelson (**Silverman|Thompson|Slutkin|White|LLC**), Jan Eveland (**Law Offices of Janet L. Eveland, Chartered**), Chris Firehock (**Central Maryland Regional Transit**), Josh Greenfield, Taffy Gwitira (**Impact Hub Baltimore**), Don Halligan (**Baltimore Metropolitan Council**), Avery Harmon (**Rails to Trails**), Mike Helta (**MTA**), Mike Heslin (**Lyft**), Greg Hinchcliffe (**Bicycle Advocate**), Lewis Hubbard (**Baltimore Water Taxi**), Aaron Kaufman (**Central Baltimore Partnership**), Jim Knighton, Valorie LaCour (**Baltimore City DOT**), Jeff LaNoue (**Baltimore City Department of Planning**), Jackie MacMillan (**Bus Workgroup 14**), Hans Mayer (**Baltimore Transit Campaign**), Frank Murphy (**Baltimore City DOT**), Joe Nathanson (**Urban Information Associates**), Eric Norton (**Central Maryland Transportation Alliance**), Theo Nygongang (**AECOM**), Matt Peterson, Klaus Philipsen (**ArchPlan, Inc.**), Michelle Pourciau (**Baltimore City DOT**), Jimmy Rouse (**Transit Choices**), Sandy Sparks (**Charles Village Civic Association**), Kristin Speaker (**Charles Street Development Corporation**), Yolanda Takesian (**Kittelson & Associates**), Raven Thompson (**Baltimore Development Corporation**), Jed Weeks (**Bikemore**)

Guest Moderator: Mike Heslin, **Lyft** - Market Manager, Baltimore welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the attendees for coming. Mike then introduced the first guest speaker:

Michelle Pourciau, Director, Department of Transportation
Presentation: "**Baltimore City Department of Transportation**"

Presentation highlights: Framework for Baltimore City Dot

- **Comprehensive Transportation**
 - Understand where we are going?
 - What is a multimodal integrated transportation plan?
- **Comprehensive multimodal plan Base Land Use**
 - Grounded in Land Use & Provides Connectivity
 - Considers all needs
- **Need all elements done with public**
 - Teamwork, built from Public Input and Partnerships
- **Asset Management Based Department**
 - We need to understand where we are, where we are going
- **Informed Decisions**
 - Know people
 - Know public
 - Tools

- **What's Next?**
 - Transportation Plan Baseline

Additional Comments:

- Director Pourciau has spent a lifetime in city and regional transportation planning.
- Frank Murphy (Senior Advisor) and Valorie LaCour (Chief Transportation Planning Division) with Baltimore City DOT were recognized and acknowledged by Director Pourciau for their strong support.
- It is important to know where we are as a City and where we are going - dialogue is key.
- Land Use is important and paramount to Baltimore's success.
- From a resources standpoint, the city must think about what is the cost of investing in the future, and the risk of not investing today for the future.
- Baltimore City DOT is working to better define the Circulator, and finding a more financially sustainable solution.
- It is important to involve Baltimore's youth in the comprehensive transportation plan discussion.
- A solid multi-modal transportation plan should have guiding principles.
- Partnerships with both the City and State are essential to moving Baltimore's transportation agenda forward. Director Pourciau stated that she enjoys working with Kevin Quinn (MTA Administrator) and is happy to have a state partner.
- Priorities for Baltimore City DOT
 1. Transportation Planning
 2. Asset Management Based Department
- Immediate next steps:
 1. State of the transportation plan
 2. Compile all of the transportation plans into one document
 3. Timeline: with consultant support, the initial phase of the multi-modal transportation plan is targeted for completion in summer 2018, followed by a road show with input from stakeholders, community groups and residents

Second Guest Speaker:

Liz Cornish, Executive Director - Bikemore

Presentation: "**State of Biking in Baltimore Update 12/8/2017**"

Presentation highlights:

- **What city just unanimously approved one of the largest downtown transformation packages (\$33M) in the country? *Des Moines, Iowa***
 - Converting one way to two way
 - Upgrading sidewalks
 - Slowing auto traffic
 - Creating a bike network that connects the entire downtown with protected bike lanes
 - Connects downtown to a regional trail system
- **Baltimore Downtown Bike Network \$7M**
 - Bike master plan adopted in 2015, 17 miles of bike infrastructure per year
 - 2016: 0
 - 2017: 12018:??
 - Entering 2018 with a 33 mile deficit.
- **Baltimore Separated Bike Network \$25-30M**
 - MDOT Bikeways Awards Baltimore City
 - FY15 \$174K
 - FY16 \$310K
 - FY17 \$212.6K
 - FY18 \$70K
- **Complete Streets**

- Introduced July 2017
- Working on Disparity Study
- Hope to pass by Summer 2018
- Will create SOP of Complete Streets
- Create systems of Accountability in terms of metrics
- Equity driven

Additional Comments:

- We need to design safe facilities for bikes.
- The Bike Network is still under construction.
- On the biking issue, the City is working hard with the fire department to reach a solution regarding access on our streets.
- Baltimore City DOT needs a staff advocate to focus on Biking issues and policy.
- Ms. Cornish is working with Councilman Ryan Dorsey on a Complete Streets policy, advocating for a “standing operating procedure” in our communities.
- It is important to prioritize funding to create equity in low income communities.
- For more information on Bike Share visit: <https://www.bmorebikeshare.com/>
- For more information on Bike more visit: <https://www.bikemore.net/>
- District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has adopted dockless Bike Share programs. This new concept takes the popular concept of U.S. and European bike share systems and un-tethers them from their docking stations.

Discussion Summary: Meeting attendees were given the opportunity at the conclusion of the 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 acknowledged the wonderful presentations by Director Michelle Pourciau, and Liz Cornish. He also thanked the meeting attendees for their participation stating that it gives the organization strength and validity. Mr. Rouse then provided the following update on recent activities:

- A top priority for Transit Choices has been to meet with all City Council members to get feedback on BaltimoreLink and public transit in their respective districts. Feedback regarding BaltimoreLink will be shared with MTA Administrator, Kevin Quinn. Mr. Rouse stated that the meetings have been fascinating and very insightful. Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke’s Bus Workgroup 14 was acknowledged for providing the most detailed feedback on the new BaltimoreLink system.
- The next meeting of the BaltimoreLink ad hoc committee will be held on December 14, 2017 at the Baltimore Community Foundation. All were invited to attend.
- Following the "North Avenue Rising Community Advisory Panel Meeting" held on November 9, 2017, Mr. Rouse sent an email to Valorie LaCour (Chief Transportation Planning Division) Baltimore City DOT to share thoughts on a North Avenue Streetcar. A modern streetcar system operating across North Avenue could connect Mondawmin’s transit hub, the Penn North hub and a new hub established at Broadway and North Avenue. Streetcars are known to be economic development tools with transportation benefits
- Avery Harmon with the “Rails to Trails” organization will be invited to make a presentation at a Transit Choices meeting in early 2018.
- Jan Eveland, a representative of the Greater Baybrook Alliance (Brooklyn, Curtis Bay, and Brooklyn Park communities) shared her innovative transportation and economic development ideas at a meeting with Mr. Rouse on November 28, 2017.

Robin Budish, Director Transit Choices acknowledged and thanked Mike Heslin, guest moderator and the Impact Hub Baltimore for providing meeting space. She also announced that Transit Choices won a \$9,000 grant from APTA (American Public Transportation Association) for the "***Saving Baltimore's TIGERs***" Campaign!