



Transit Choices Meeting Summary

April 17, 2018
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

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

Attendees:

Holly Arnold (**Maryland Transit Administration**), Roxana Beyranvand (**Baltimore Collegetown**), Father Michael Bishop (**Public Transit Rider**), Mia Blom (**Office of Councilman Ryan Dorsey, District 3**), Robin Budish (**Transit Choices**), Luis Cardona (**Downtown Partnership of Baltimore**), Jade Clayton (**Maryland Transit Administration**), Art Cohen (**b'more mobile**), Damon Crutchfield (**Maryland Institute College of Art**), Richard Doran (**Action In Maturity**), Ryan Dorsey (**Councilman, District 3**), Peter Duvall (**Strong City Baltimore**), Mark Edelson (**Silverman|Thompson|Slutkin|White|LLC**), Chris Firehock (**Center for Mobility Equity**), George Frazier (**Baltimore Bike Out**), James Gillece (**Maryland Transit Administration**), Kenneth Good (**Maryland Transit Administration**), Jennifer Goold (**Neighborhood Design Center**), Debra Keller-Greene (**Greater Baltimore Chamber**), Taffy Gwitira (**Impact Hub Baltimore**), Don Halligan (**Baltimore Metropolitan Council**), Avery Harmon (**Rails-to-Trails**), Tom Hewitt (**Maryland Transit Administration**), Mike Helta (**Maryland Transit Administration**), Aaron Kaufman (**Central Baltimore Partnership**), Jon Laria (**Ballard Spahr LLP**), Jim Leanos (**Corporate Property Solutions**), Emily Lewis (**Floura Teeter**), Jim Knighton (**Baltimore City Community College**), Steve Marker (**Brightview Senior Living**), Kristen McGuire (**France Merrick Foundation**), Patrick McMahon (**Maryland Transit Administration**), Jason Neal (**J.Neal Architecture & Design**), Eric Norton (**Central Maryland Transportation Alliance**), Matt Peterson, Klaus Philipson (**ArchPlan, Inc.**), Kevin Quinn (**Maryland Transit Administration**), Elizabeth Perriello Rice (**France Merrick Foundation**), Jimmy Rouse (**Transit Choices**), Sandy Sparks (**Charles Village Civic Association**), Yolanda Takesian (**Kittelson and Associates**), Holly Tilford (**Transit Advocate**), Raven Thompson (**Baltimore Development Corporation**), Jed Weeks (**Bikemore**), Matthew Warfield (**Baltimore City Department of Transportation**) = 45

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

Jon Laria, Chairman, Mayor's Bicycle Commission

Presentation: **Implementation of Baltimore's Bicycle Master Plan: An Update**

Overview:

The Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Commission is charged with promoting **bicycling** as a safe and convenient form of transportation and recreation, and coordinating City agency implementation of the City's Bicycle Master Plan.

Presentation highlights: **Baltimore City Bike Master Plan: Implementation Update**

- **Baltimore City Bike Master Plan**
 - Updated/Reissued by Planning Commission in 2015

- Established goals and objectives to develop a comprehensive network of facilities for bicyclists and to implement safety strategies to increase bicycle usage
- Identified proposed bicycle routes based on street type and connectivity
- Identified a list of priority bike routes for implementation
- Set goal of an average of 17 bike lane miles installed per year to reach 253 bike lane miles by 2028
- **Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Commission**
 - Created in March 2015 by Mayor Rawlings-Blake to help get us from "as-is" to a more bikeable and bike-friendly future
 - Mayor Pugh re-authorized the Commission on taking office
- **Separated Bike Lane Network Addendum**
 - Conducted by DOT at request of Bicycle Commission
 - Adopted by Planning Commission in 2017
 - Identified need to connect low-stress facilities to provide all ages access through 77 miles of separated facilities
 - Emphasis on protected facilities
- **Big Jump Project**
 - Water protected facility Druid Park Lake Drive/28th/Sisson
 - Two community meetings scheduled – Apr 23/26 o Goal is construction and kick off in May 2018
 - Sharrows/counterflow 27th St
 - Goal is construction in Summer 2018
- **FY19 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**
 - \$950,000 committed funds
 - \$1.7 million in proposed federal and state grants
 - \$2.65 million total FY19 funding
- **BALTIMORE BIKE SHARE - Update**
 - 39 Stations open towards 50 funded
 - 4 more stations will come on line this Spring/early Summer
 - Bikes in circulation will significantly increase April-June
 - Bike Share Coordinator position should be posted in late April/early May
- **Unfinished Projects - Downtown Bicycle Network**
 - Maryland/Cathedral Ave
 - Working with BCFD on modifying certain areas
 - Goal is redline changes complete in 2018
 - Madison/Centre Streets
 - Working with BCFD on redesign
 - Maintain as much protected facility as possible
 - Goal is construction complete in 2018
 - Monument Street
 - Construction complete in 2018
- **Fire Code Conformity**
 - Finalized procedures for review process with BCFD
 - 100% in kind repaving projects do not require review
 - Any change to existing conditions requires review
 - Major projects require review at 30%, 60%, 90%
 - Will continue to work with BCFD on future projects

Additional Comments:

- Mr. Laria introduced Matt Warfield, Bike City Planner II with the Baltimore City Department of Transportation.
- It is possible to create a skeleton network of bike lanes in the city with the implementation of separated bike lanes.
- Policy debates need to be resolved with the Baltimore City Fire Department regarding fire equipment access and protected bike lanes. Mayor Pugh and CityDOT are working to establish protocols.
- The city has been working to resolve theft issues with Bikeshare, and will be opening more stations which will significantly increase usage.

- Michelle Pourciau, Director of the Department of Transportation has demonstrated a cooperative working relationship with the Mayor's Bicycle Commission.
- Bike-Friendly buildings are important to encourage a positive bicycling environment.
- Bike Share passes for low-income city residents makes it affordable and accessible to all who want to use it.
- **Bike to work day is Friday, May 18, 2018**

Second Guest Speaker:

Ryan Dorsey, Councilman, Third District

Presentation: **Complete Streets: Letting Baltimore Lead**

Overview:

Complete streets prioritize the safety of all people using the street over the speed of moving cars. Complete Streets often have slower speed limits, wide and maintained sidewalks and crosswalks, pedestrian focused lighting, protected bike lanes, bus lanes and bus shelters, and beautification like trees and plantings.

Presentation highlights: **Baltimore Complete Streets**

- **What is Complete Streets?**
 - The goal of Complete Streets is to restore streets as a place for people, not just for cars. Baltimore was built as a dense, walkable city. A street in the early 20th century was full of people walking, biking and using public transportation.
- **Why do we need Complete Streets? Equity.**
 - 33% of Baltimore households lack access to a car, and that number climbs to as high as 80% in historically red-lined communities of color. These are incredibly high rates of zero car access in a city, and there are only 5 other cities with consistently higher rates--all of which have comprehensive mass transit systems with multiple rail transit lines.
- **Economic Development + Revitalization**
 - When we prioritize the movement of people over the movement of cars, we begin to see economic development, revitalization, and travel time savings.
- **The New (Complete Streets) Bill**
 - Mandates specific engineering standards, such as design speed and lane width, that is proven to improve safety.
 - Mandates interagency collaboration through the creation of a Complete Streets Policy Manual, incorporating safe streets design into all capital projects and agency policies.
 - Creates policies and reporting metrics around equity. Mandates DOT create transparent project timelines, improved outreach strategies, and justification for projects.
- **Bill Goals**
 - Ensure safety & convenience for all users - Connected facilities
 - Promotes biking, walking, public transit
 - Ensures equity
- **Bill Components**
 - Definitions + Applicability
 - Coordinating Council
 - Design Standards
 - Design Standards: Lane Widths
 - Project Prioritization & Delivery
 - Community Engagement
 - Reporting
- **Bill Outreach**
 - Neighborhoods Outreach
 - What neighbors are saying
 - People & Time Invested
 - Coalition Partnerships

Additional Comments:

- Councilman Dorsey thanked Transit Choices for their transit advocacy work.
- Complete Streets is about quality of life and creating a safer environment. It is important to connect people to opportunities.
- Policy should not be driven by racism, there needs to be racial equity.
- To address issues of safety we need to engineer roadways to accommodate cyclists and drivers.
- Vision Zero Goals:
 - Make city streets safer for all users
 - Reduce and ultimately eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries
 - Prevent dangerous roadway user behaviors by implementing the “E’s” of Safety
 1. Education
 2. Engineering
 3. Enforcement
- The Complete Streets bill is overarching and requires the involvement of many entities (departments and agencies) to work collaboratively.
- The Complete Streets hearing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 5:00 PM. All interested are welcomed to attend. For more information visit: www.baltimorecompletestreets.com.

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 great presentations by Mr. Laria and Councilman Dorsey, and thanked them for their strong leadership. Mr. Rouse added that he is very optimistic about the positive direction in which the city is moving forward with respect to BaltimoreLink, Pedestrian (Complete Streets), Bike and Bike Share. He also thanked the meeting attendees for their participation and ongoing support. Mr. Rouse and Robin Budish provided the following update on recent activities:
 - **North Avenue Rising** - Transit Choices has been participating in the Community Advisory Panel Meetings to provide input on the \$27.3 million project to revitalize the North Avenue corridor. Phase I of the project has been largely settled by the MTA and large stakeholders. There needs to be a push for further improvements (aside from cosmetic changes) on North Avenue through implementing a Phase II of the effort to promote real economic development projects. North Avenue is a key corridor in Baltimore; therefore, it is important to also revitalize empty buildings and storefronts.
 - **Circulator** - Transit Choices is working on developing a consensus on a sustainable system for the circulator. As a first step, we are trying to get agreement among elected officials whose districts are affected by the circulator about what would be an ideal network and how to finance it. If a consensus can be reached, we plan to carry it to the MTA, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance, Downtown Partnership of Baltimore and other key stakeholders such as Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland to see if we can reach agreement on that level and then go to the Mayor and Baltimore CityDOT with our consensus vision.
 - **National Alliance of Public Transportation Advocates (NAPTA) Legislative Conference** - on March 20, 2018 Ms. Budish attended the conference held in Washington, DC. The conference provided a prime forum to discuss how grassroots coalitions can mobilize their stakeholders in support of transit as well as the many tools that NAPTA provides such as the APTA Local Coalition Grants to support these efforts.
 - **MTA Operations Control Center (OCC) Tour** - on April 5, 2018 the Transit Choices “BaltimoreLink” committee was given unprecedented access to the OCC. The tour of the facility which oversees bus, metro and light rail was fascinating. It provided a unique

opportunity to observe firsthand the complex operation and the important work being done to ensure safe, reliable and efficient public transit.

- **Gubernatorial Candidates Forum: "Leadership for Improving Transportation"** - on Thursday, May 31, 2018, Transit Choices in partnership with the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance, 1000 Friends of Maryland, Citizens Planning & Housing Association, Bikemore, Global Shapers Baltimore, and the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition will host a Forum from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM at The Real News Network, 231 N. Holliday Street – Baltimore, MD. Jayne Miller of WBAL-TV will serve as moderator.
- **TIGER** (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program's funding was increased from \$500m to \$1.5bn for Fiscal Year 2018. The program has been renamed **BUILD** Grants.