



Transit Choices Meeting Summary

March 14, 2019
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

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

Attendees:

Father Michael Bishop (**Public Transit Rider**), Kirsten Brinlee (**Baltimore Collegetown**), Robin Budish (**Transit Choices**), Sue Carlin (**City Center Residents Association Board**), Art Cohen (**b'more mobile**), Ben Cohen (**Last Mile Solutions**), William Dorfman (**Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, Inc.**), Peter Duvall (**Strong City Baltimore**), Jan Eveland (**Law Offices of Janet L. Eveland, Chartered**), George Frazier (**Baltimore Bike Out**), Ben Groff (**Tidemore Group**), Don Halligan (**Baltimore Metropolitan Council**), Molly Hayeslip (**Baltimore Collegetown**), Greg Hinchcliffe (**Bicycle Advocate**), Lewis Hubbard (**Baltimore Water Taxi**), Jim Leanos (**Corporate Property Solutions**), Fred Lippert (**Toole Design**), Sam Lynch (**JP2 Architects**), Jackie MacMillan (**Bus Workgroup 14**), Patrick McMahon (**Maryland Transit Administration**), Kira Gardner-Marshall (**Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore**), Michael McDaniel (**Baltimore Water Taxi**), Anikwenze Ogbue (**Toole Design**), Klaus Philipsen (**ArchPlan, Inc.**), Michelle Pourciau (**Baltimore City DOT**), Jimmy Rouse (**Transit Choices**), Sandy Sparks (**Baltimore Transit Campaign**), Kristin Speaker (**Charles Street Development Corporation**), Renata Southard (**Transit Advocate**), Holly Storck (**WSP**), Riley Sullivan (**Transit Advocate**), Danielle Sweeney (**Writer, Transit Advocate**), Raven Thompson (**Baltimore Development Corporation**), German Vigil (**Baltimore City DOT**), Holden Wilen (**Baltimore Business Journal**), Meg Young (**Baltimore City DOT**), Mikah Zaslow, (**Baltimore City DOT**)

Guest Moderator: Will Dorfman Manager, Economic Development | **Downtown Partnership of Baltimore** welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the attendees for coming. Will then introduced the first guest speaker:

Michelle Pourciau, Director, Department of Transportation
Presentation: “**An Inside Look at DOT Transportation Plan**”

Overview:

Director Pourciau discussed a comprehensive transportation plan for Baltimore City.

Presentation highlights: **Baltimore City Department of Transportation - comprehensive transportation plan**

- **The Role of Baltimore City DOT**
 - The Department of Transportation provides the City of Baltimore with a comprehensive and modern transportation system that integrates all modes of travel and provides mobility and accessibility in a convenient, safe, and cost-effective manner.

- **The Department of Transportation is...**
 - A multi-modal transportation agency responsible for providing a safe and sustainable transportation system and protecting and enhancing the public space.
- **Challenges**
 - Baltimore does not currently have a comprehensive transportation plan
 1. Where are we going?
 2. How do we get there?
 3. What do we need to get there?
- **Comprehensive Transportation Plan**
 - This plan is about MOBILITY - how we will get around our city.
 - It will provide a focus for a vision through 2045, which embraces:
 - Equity
 - Innovation
 - Sustainability
- **The plan will reflect the changes in our city:**
 - Shared mobility – Uber and Lyft, scooter and bikeshare
 - Demographics – Who lives here?
 - Land use – Where do people live, work, and play?
 - Travel patterns - Where are people going?
- **Phases of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan Development**
 - **Phase I:** Establish a planning baseline of the City today, Summer 2018 – Winter 2018
 - **Phase II:** Build awareness of the project among the public and stakeholders, Winter 2018 – Summer 2019
- **Phase III:** Develop the Comprehensive Transportation Plan with a robust public participation program, Summer 2019 – Winter 2020

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Additional Comments:

- Baltimore City needs a comprehensive transportation plan that is focused on mobility and equity.
- The department of transportation is encouraging public engagement to weigh in on the proposed transportation plan which will coalesce into a city wide plan. They will engage with 256 communities to solicit comments and feedback.
- The city has collected transportation “wish lists” from community groups and neighborhoods which have been used to develop a baseline for the transportation plan.
- The department of transportation has created a database and searchable map that will allow people to look at the recommendations all over the city.
- The department of transportation hopes to issue a request for proposals within the next two months to help the city create a comprehensive transportation plan.
- The prioritization of resources to create a comprehensive transportation plan for the city will be a challenge.
- The adoption of “Complete Streets” into the comprehensive plan must be done now.

Second Presentation: “Recommendations from the Transit Choices Dockless Scooters and Bikes Committee”

Presenters: **Ren Southard, Kira Gardner-Marshall, Sam Lynch**

Committee Members: **Chris Firehock, Kira Gardner-Marshall, Sam Lynch Brian Seel, Ren Southard and Tim Wilke**

Overview: Committee members shared their recommendations and suggestions for the improvement of the Dockless Vehicle Pilot Program.

Presentation highlights: **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOCKLESS SCOOTERS & BICYCLES**

- **Process**
 - Committee shared & reviewed materials
 - Articles & case studies
 - Master plans & manuals
 - Worked together to compile a list of recommendations
 - Vetted and narrowed list
 - Which ideas are most applicable to Baltimore?
 - What constraints are present?
- **Recommendations - Gather additional data & information**
 - Aim for a demographic sample that more closely reflects the population of Baltimore
 - Hold listening sessions or pop-ups in strategic locations to attract under-represented groups
 - Engage community in mapping to identify additional areas of opportunity
- **Recommendations - Promote education for riders & public**
 - Require vendors to provide education to riders and community members
 - Engage public through a series of non-traditional outreach efforts - consider pairing educational outreach with data collection efforts
 - Educational opportunities include traffic laws, safety, parking, etc.
- **Recommendations - Share data freely with stakeholders**
 - Require vendors to improve access to data, and quality and frequency of reporting
 - Ensure that PIA (Public Information Act) requests are fulfilled in a timely manner by vendors
 - Create a feedback loop
 - Engage non-profit partners
- **Recommendations - Use data to deploy resources**
 - Consider revising the 2015 DOT Bicycle Master Plan based on new ridership patterns
 - Use data to build on CIP requests for FY 2021 and beyond
 - Overlay TOD (Transit Oriented Development) zoning to look for first- and last-mile connection opportunities that could be fulfilled by nontraditional transit options like scooters & bike
- **Recommendations - Focus on parking for scooters & bicycles**
 - Develop strategies for non-permanent parking areas (spray chalk, temporary and movable parking structures, etc.)
 - Create a measure for effectiveness of parking areas and revise locations as necessary
 - Include parking as a component of the educational outreach efforts
- **Recommendations - Create a way to report misuse**
 - Work with vendors to develop an easy method to identify repeat rule-breakers
 - Highly visible phone number or app to report misuse to vendors
 - Require vendors to enforce rules through suspension of accounts or other methods

Additional Comments:

- The committee acknowledged Meg Young and the department of transportation for their Community Mobility and Dockless Survey which yielded over 5,000 responses from the public.
- Dockless scooters can become both first and last mile solutions. They provide fast and flexible options.
- The hardware on the scooters could use enhancement to make them more efficient.
- Large events in the city provide a great opportunity for vendors to supply additional scooters and bikes.
- In a highly congested city like Baltimore, it would be ideal to get a handle on the dockless regulations and how they should be enforced.
- Public education and outreach opportunities should remain a priority for the city to ensure the continued success of the program.

Other Business:

- Jimmy Rouse, on behalf of Transit Choices acknowledged and thanked all of the guest speakers for their fascinating presentations. He also thanked the meeting attendees for their continued interest and participation. The Transit Choices meetings provide an important forum for the exchange of ideas and information regarding public transit in Baltimore.
- The Transit Choices online committees are up and running! If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact robin@transitchoices.org
 - **The next round of BaltimoreLink improvements**
 - **Charm City Circulator & the Water Taxi**
 - **Regulations for Dockless Scooters & Bikes**
 - **Future Mobility**
 - **North Avenue Rising**
 - **Regional Transportation Plan**
 - **Funding & Governance**
- On March 13, 2019, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) hosted the New Mobility Transportation Forum, which explored the impacts of emerging transportation modes on our future. Innovative services that capitalize on mobile communications, cash payments, artificial intelligence, and big data — such as applications for ride-hailing; car, scooter, and bikeshare; and trip planning - are changing how we travel.