BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

BALTIMORE, MD (February 19, 2014) - A draft of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB)'s Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is open for public comment for the next month as the organization plans for Fiscal Year 2015.

The UPWP details projects, studies and other activities to be completed by BRTB members in the upcoming fiscal year, which runs July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Those BRTB initiatives represent the transportation needs in the City of Annapolis, Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties. This document also includes funding for BMC staffers who undertake work on behalf of the BRTB.

The public comment period on the UPWP is open from February 18, until Thursday, March 20. Thos who would like to make a comment may do so through email at <u>comments@baltometro.org</u>; on Twitter <u>@baltometroco</u> or <u>@bmoreinvolved</u>, using #BRTBlistens; by fax at 410-732-8248; or by mail at:

The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board Offices @ McHenry Row 1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300 Baltimore, MD 21230

All mailed comments must be received no later than **March 20th**. Comments also may be shared during the public comment at the BRTB's Feb. 25 meeting at 9 a.m.; the March 25 meeting at 9 a.m.; or the April 29 meeting at 4 p.m.

The draft UPWP includes both local and region-wide activities. Those who would like to view the draft FY 2015 UPWP may download it through the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's Regional Information Center. Highlights include:

- Long-range system performance measures, financial forecasts, solicitation of projects from members and public comment activities for *Maximize 2040: A performance-based transportation plan for the Baltimore region*.
- The evaluation of feasibility and effects of building and operating Bus Rapid Transit along the US 50/MD 301 corridor from the Annapolis-Parole Intermodal Center to Washington, D.C.
- A study of the potential expansion of the Charm City Circulator and bikeshare services outside of the central business district.
- Identification of potential areas routes in Baltimore County that could benefit from a transit provider. Then identify innovative financing ideas for those areas.
- Consider feasible and appropriate connection between MD 32 and MD 97 south of the City of Westminster.
- Analyze traffic and safety on MD 22, from MD 543 to MD 924, including an assessment of Complet Street concepts along the corridor in Harford County.
- An assessment of Howard County's subdivision and design manual for recommendations to include Complete Street policies.
- Continue developing the regional activity based travel demand model.
- Provide demographic data online with expanded web maps and data profiles.

For more information, please contact Regina Aris by email at <u>raris@baltometro.org</u> or by phone at 410-732-9572.

The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) is the federally recognized metropolitan planning organization for transportation in the region. The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) provides the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board with technical and staff support.

Baltimore Regional Transportation Board | Baltimore Metropolitan Council Working to improve the quality of life in the Baltimore region.

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The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) is the organization of the region's elected executives who are committed to identifying regional interests and developing collaborative strategies, plans and programs which will improve the quality of life and economic vitality throughout the region.