Howard County MARYLAND

MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD MINUTES

May 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present:
Ron Hartman, Chair
Larry Schoen, Vice Chair
Astamay Curtis
David Zinner
David Drasin
Alice Giles

Staff:
Bruce Gartner, Executive Secretary
Chris Eatough, Office of Transportation
Jason Quan, Office of Transportation
Rashidi Jackson, Office of Transportation
Lauren Frank, Office of Transportation

Members Excused:
Brian Dillard
Rick Wilson

Members of the Public:
Andrew Johnson, RTA
Terri Hansen, Office of Aging
Chris Tsien, Environmental Sustainability Board
Jack Guarneri, Bicycle Advocates of Howard County
Jennifer White, American Heart Association
Glenn Schneider, Horizon Foundation
Christiana Mercer Rigby, District 3 Councilmember
Jessica Bellah, Columbia Association
Leah Kacanda, WRA
Jeff Riegner, WRA
Kevin McAliley
Sam Sidh, Howard County Executive Chief of Staff

1. Approval of the April 23, 2019 Minutes (minute :01)

Before the approval of the minutes, Larry Schoen explained there might be action needed by the Multimodal Transportation Board for item 3 iii. on the agenda.

David Zinner moved to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2019 Multimodal Transportation Board (MTB) meeting. Larry Schoen asked that under item 4, the minutes reflect that Kris Jagarapu agreed to update the MTB on the pilot program and if the permit's travel pattern can be adjusted or modified.

David Zinner moved to approve the minutes as amended, Alice Giles seconded and motion passed unanimously.

2. **Public Comments** (minute :02)

There were no public comments. It was mentioned that public comments would be allowed under item 3 iii.

3. **Announcements/Updates** (minute :02)

    i.   **Introduction of Bruce Gartner, Office of Transportation Administrator** (minute :02)

Chris Eatough introduced Bruce Gartner, the new Office of Transportation Administrator. Bruce Gartner gave a brief introduction and his described his work background.

    ii.   **RTA Service Enhancements and Upcoming Fare Adjustments** (minute :04)

Jason Quan announced that the Regional Transportation Agency (RTA) service enhancements were implemented on May 5th, 2019 and were well received by the public. Jason Quan said there will be tweaks to the service in the coming months. Ron Hartman asked what the schedule would be for the next phase. Jason said this was a five-year plan, the next phase might occur in a year. It was noted that the Transit Development Plan containing the five-year plan is located at https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/County-Administration/Transportation.

Jason Quan announced the RTA Mobility fare will increase to $4 on July 1st, 2019 and will increase to $5 in July 2020.

    iii.   **Complete Streets Policy** (minute :12)

Chris Eatough gave a brief background of the Howard County Complete Streets Policy and stated the final version of the draft is almost complete. Chris Eatough introduced the members present of the Complete Streets Implementation Team and consultant for the Complete Streets Policy, Jeff Rieger of Whitman, Requardt and Associates (WRA). Chris Eatough explained that the 2016 draft policy is being updated to reflect recent changes in best practices nationwide including areas of equity.

David Zinner asked what action the Office of Transportation (OoT) is asking of the MTB regarding the Complete Streets Policy. Chris Eatough stated that it would be up to the board and added that an endorsement of the policy would be a strong sign of support as it moves to county council.

Jeff Rieger presented a markup of the Howard County Complete Streets Policy to the Multimodal Transportation Board and highlighted key elements that have changed from previous versions due to significant input from the implementation team, advocacy organizations, and members of the public.

A handout was presented to the MTB regarding performance measures being considered. It was noted that the implementation team has not made any decisions on which performance measures will be included.

Chris Eatough said the goal is to pre-file the Complete Streets Policy with County Council by the June 20th, 2019 deadline. There is one more meeting with the implementation team followed by an open comment period before the policy goes to Council.

Ron Hartman asked if the MTB should be endorsing the policy before the final version? Larry Schoen suggested that if an action is taken by the board, it should be conditional on receiving the final version with an opportunity to comment to Council.

Comments regarding the Complete Streets Policy were made from the MTB and members of the public, including various advocacy groups. Prior to the meeting, fourteen advocacy groups submitted a letter to the implementation team with comments. Jennifer White, American Heart Association and Glenn Schneider, Horizon Foundation urged the MTB not to endorse the policy at this time.

Ron Hartman stated he was not prepared to endorse the policy and the following were agreed upon by the MTB members and Office of Transportation:

1. OoT will send the Advocacy Letter to the MTB
2. OoT will send an annotated policy to the MTB before the next meeting on June 25th, 2019.
3. The MTB will draft a recommendation of the policy for the meeting on June 25th, 2019.

iv. **Land Development Updates** (minute 1:35)

Rashidi Jackson said the OoT has requested the developer of Robinson Overlook to show on the plans, bike improvements on Grace Drive for the Simpson Oaks development and bike improvements as they are today, and to reserve a transit stop for future expansion.

David Zinner requested the OoT use a different word other than "addressed" on the comment section on the handout.

v. **Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan Update** (minute 1:42)

Bruce Gartner announced there have been two meetings of the Central Maryland Regional Transit Commission. Sam Sidh, Howard County Executive Chief of Staff, is Howard County's representative on the commission. Bruce Gartner explained that the plan and commission were created to put on paper what happens next for Transit in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard County, Anne Arundel County, and Harford County.

vi. **Maximize2045 BRTB Public Meeting – Tuesday June 11, 2019 Elkridge Public Library, 5-7:30pm** (minute 1:47)

Bruce Gartner said the Maximize2045 BRTB public meeting on Tuesday June 11, 2019 at the Elkridge Branch Library, will be an opportunity for Howard County residents to talk about the county's priorities.

vii. **Transit passes for high school students** (minute 1:47)

Bruce Gartner announced that OoT has presented the MTB's recommendation to the RTA for a pilot program to provide transit passes to high school students for the Innovative Pathways Summer School Program. The RTA commission referred the program back to OoT to structure the pilot program. Bruce Gartner will be contacting the Howard County Public School System regarding future partnership in the pilot program. Alice Giles said that a survey will be given out at the end of the pilot program to track the success and usage of the passes.

4. New Business (minute 1:51)

i. **Effect on Route 40 corridor from construction at I695/70 interchange** (minute 1:51)

Bruce Gartner explained there were concerns with the project to replace the triple bridges on I695. Bruce explained that pressure needs to go to State for adequate provisions for the possible added congestion to Route 40.
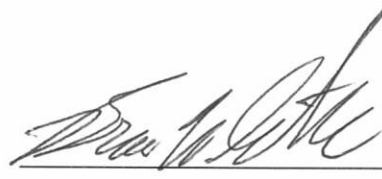
ii. **Board Membership Update** (minute 1:52)

Chris Eatough announced that after tonight, Astamay Curtis will no longer be a member of the Multimodal Transportation Board. Chris presented a letter and a certificate to Astamay from County Executive Calvin Ball.

Chris Eatough said County Administration has requested applications for the vacant seats on the MTB.
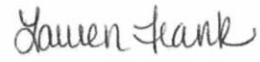
5. Adjournment (minute 1:55)

Ron Hartman adjourned the meeting at 8:57 pm. The next MTB meeting is scheduled on June 25, 2018.

(signature) 6/3/2019

Bruce Gartner   Date

Executive Secretary

(signature) 6/3/2019

Lauren Frank   Date

Office of Transportation