

Baltimore's Transit Future - October Update

Greetings,

This month, the Baltimore's Transit Future team, co-led by the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) and Greater Washington Partnership (the Partnership), hosted an educational trip to the Richmond metro (click [here](#) to learn more) and meeting with stakeholders to drill down and identify specific strategies for how the region could advance the six priorities of the [Baltimore's Transit Future](#) campaign, more to come on that front next month.

Before we get to this month's updates, we want to say thank you and farewell to Teresa Milio Birge, the Director of Policy and Research at the GBC who is stepping down at the end of October to start on her next professional adventure. Teresa has been an exceptional leader working on this campaign over the past year and we wish her the best of luck on her next journey.

AND, we want to welcome [Kathy Hollinger, new CEO of the Partnership](#) and [Mark Anthony Thomas, incoming CEO of the GBC](#). Most recently, Kathy was CEO of the Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington (RAMW) and Mark was leading the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA). We are excited by the energy our new leaders are bringing to the table to build the cross-sector and cross-jurisdictional collaboration that can help the region align behind the transformative investments and reforms that are needed in 2023 to advance Baltimore's Transit Future. As Mark begins his transition to new CEO of the GBC, we also want to thank GBC Chief Operating Officer Sharon Markley Schreiber who has been an expert interim leader steering the organization after former GBC President & CEO Don Fry's retirement.

Richmond Transit Visit



On October 13 and 14, the Partnership and the GBC hosted a delegation of leaders from the Greater Baltimore region on a visit to Richmond, Virginia to learn about [Richmond's Transportation Revolution](#). The trip, sponsored by [AECOM](#), was part of the [Baltimore's Transit Future Campaign](#). A cohort of 20 senior leaders and transportation officials from Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, Howard County, the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA), and business and institutional leaders

traveled to Richmond to learn more about the [award-winning](#) Pulse Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system and talk with leaders who were instrumental in shaping the economic and community development efforts spurred by the Pulse BRT in the Richmond area.

A key theme of the trip was the importance of collaboration and coordination, not just across jurisdictional borders, local, state, and federal, but also across sectors, to get big projects done. The Baltimore delegation recognized the collaboration and energy we experienced together was just the start of the coordination that will be needed to advance Baltimore's Transit Future. We look forward to continuing to work with the trip's attendees and all of you on advancing our shared goals to create better transit for Greater Baltimore.

Read more about the content of the conversations in Richmond and lessons learned on the [Partnership's Perspectives Blog](#).

What's New with the Campaign's Strategic Priorities?

Priority 3: Support Regional Coordination, Decision Making, and Funding

- On October 7, the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's (BMC) Transit Governance and Funding Workgroup met and discussed transit governance and funding models in Washington, DC compared to Baltimore and discussed the funding models of the region's locally operated transit systems, including the Charm City Circulator and RTA. You can review the [presentation here](#). On November 4, the Workgroup will discuss updated regional models and start to identify a regionally preferred recommendation for reform.

Priority 4: Implement a 10-Year Rapid Transit Expansion Program

- MTA held [two virtual meetings](#) to seek feedback on the proposed North-South Transit Corridor alternatives that would run from Lutherville or Towson to downtown Baltimore. In case you missed these engagement events, you can watch the meeting's [recording](#) or check out the [presentation](#). A survey on Phase 1 of the North-South study is open until November 7, please [fill out the survey](#) to share your comments on the seven alternatives. The next governor has an opportunity to work with MTA to accelerate the planning and study timelines for the East-West and North-South [Transit Corridor Studies](#) to create a project that is eligible for the historic federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding opportunities and that can create jobs and bring tangible benefits to residents and businesses this decade.

Priority 6: Equitable Development at Transit and Rail Stations

- Lexington Market in downtown Baltimore [reopened October 24](#) after a two-year renovation project and the [allocation of ARPA funds](#) to increase Black and women-owned businesses in the 240 year old institution. Lexington Market is located across the street from the [Lexington Market SubwayLink station](#) and one block from the [Lexington Light RailLink station](#). The market's renovation, coupled with the nearby [Baltimore Arena's renovation](#), can be a catalyst for equitable transit-oriented development on the west side of downtown, but only if the MTA system is adequately funded to maintain itself in a state of good repair with enough operators and mechanics to provide frequent and reliable transit service to those stations.

*** As a reminder, the [campaign's](#) other priorities include Priority 1: Address MTA Repair Backlog & Operator Shortage, Priority 2: Frequent Reliable Bus Service to all Regional Job Centers, & Priority 5: Prioritize Regional Rail Investment. However, there were no critical updates this month.

Compilation Video



If you haven't seen it, check out our [compilation video](#) featuring Mayor Brandon Scott, County Executive Johnny Olszewski, Alicia Wilson, Bill McCarthy, Al Hutchinson, and Marty Schwartz about why transit is essential to the economic health and vitality of this region.

How to Champion Baltimore's Transit Future This Month

1. Attend the third [Baltimore Regional Transit Governance and Funding Workgroup](#) meeting on [Friday, November 4 from 9-11](#) at BMC's office. Meetings are open to members of the public and you can attend virtually or in person.
 2. Submit comments in favor of a North-South Transit project and any feedback on the seven preliminary alternatives for the [North-South Transit Corridor Study](#) by November 7.
 3. Add your organization's logo to the list of supporters on our [campaign website](#).
 4. Share the [campaign strategy document](#), this email update, and/or the [compilation video](#) with your constituents and your elected representatives.
 5. Invite the GBC & the Partnership to present the campaign to your team or constituents.
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Transit News

- [MARC wants to spend \\$1.6 billion to replace its trains. It should replace them with the fastest option.](#) [Opinion] GGWASH, 9.28.22
- [Here are MDOT'S 7 possible alternatives for the North-South Transit Corridor in Baltimore,](#) GGWash, 10.3.22
- [Advocates question MTA expansion as light rail, buses struggle with delays, cancelations,](#) Fox 45 News, 10.6.22
- [The Greater Washington Partnership and Greater Baltimore Committee convene Baltimore leaders in Richmond to learn about Bus Rapid Transit as a tool for Inclusive Growth,](#) Perspectives Blog, 10.20.22
- [Lack of Transportation Hinders Community College Students,](#) The Pew Charitable Trusts, 10.24.22

Thank you for your continued support and help to champion Baltimore's Transit Future. We are stronger by working together. Let's accelerate progress to create a more inclusive and economically thriving Greater Baltimore region.