The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

COOPERATIVE FORECASTING GROUP
June 28, 2017
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
10:00 A.M. to 11:50 A.M.

MINUTES

Chairperson Mr. Robert Pipik, called the meeting to order at 10:05 A. M.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Following a round of introductions, Mr. Dan Rooney moved the approval of the Cooperative Forecasting Group (CFG) minutes of the April 26, 2017 meeting as amended. Mr. Jeff Bronow seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. U. S. CENSUS BUREAU 2016 BALTIMORE CITY POPULATION ESTIMATES – ROBERT PIPIK

As follow-up to the April CFG meeting discussion concerning the Baltimore City population decline reported by the Census Bureau, Mr. Pipik presented an overview of both his analysis of the Population Estimate Program (PEP) methodology and City consideration of challenges to the bureau's findings. He used a series of maps and graphs to display key factors under review. He noted that birth, death and international/domestic migration records are the basis of PEP data. Although City staff pulled together housing/occupancy data for its analysis, he discovered that a 2011 census rule disallows the use of housing/occupancy data to support challenges. While his analysis identified a number of factors that supported a lower population decline than the census reported, there was no evidence, under current census rules, to support a formal challenge.

However, he found that the exercise was productive. The city expanded its knowledge of census methods and developed valuable relationships with various census, IRS and state treasury officials. The comparison of 2010 with 2015 PEP estimates for the City identified the following trends; births declined, deaths increased, net migration was positive, 75% of the population decline was attributed to the under 30 age group, black population declined at a greater rate than the city population as a whole, white population was flat and other racial groups, while comprising a relatively smaller population, grew dramatically.

3. ROUND 9 UPDATE – CFG MEMBERS

1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300, Baltimore, MD, 21230 ★ Phone 410-732-0500 ★ www.baltometro.org
Voting: City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, Howard County, Queen Anne's County, MD Department of Transportation, Harford Transit; Non-Voting: MD Department of the Environment, MD Department of Planning, MD Transit Administration

Ms. Lynda Eisenberg reported that changes to Carroll County staffing assignments have slowed her progress and prevented her from meeting the deadline for control total submissions. However, she has begun preliminary review of population and household data. Additionally, she has discussed the accuracy of base employment figures with county economic development staff. Mr. Shawn Kimberly and Alfred Sundara agreed to meet with her and provide assistance in reviewing the data and discussing methodology.

Mr. Rooney reported that Harford County Round 9 population is lower than 8B, but employment is higher. He found his control totals to be in-line with historic trends as well as the Woods and Poole data set. He anticipates meeting the November 30th deadline for small area submission.

Ms. Kui Zhao reported that the August 2016 Baltimore County comprehensive plan update is the major component of her analysis. She continues to follow the methodology she submitted last year and needs some additional time to generate TAZ level data. However, she plans to meet the target date for the small area submission.

Mr. Pipik reported that Baltimore City, using their Round 8 methodology, took the Woods and Poole employment number and built out from it. He used housing unit production figures, occupancy data and Woods and Poole household size to generate population estimates. He noted that some fine-tuning is necessary before the data is prepared down to the TAZ level. He is on track to meet the small area submission deadline.

Mr. Bronow noted that control totals for Howard County population and employment will not vary significantly from the previous round. While employment has grown faster than previously anticipated, he does not expect this rate of growth to continue. He is on track to meet the deadline for small area submission.

Mr. Richard Campbell explained that Anne Arundel County control totals for population are slightly lower than 8B, but jobs figures provided to the county from Fort Meade and NSA generated a major increase in employment estimates. Additionally, households decreased slightly.

Mr. Steve Cohoon reported that, after the review of 2015 census estimates, Queen Anne's County has lowered its population control totals. Going forward, additional adjustments may be necessary following further review of group quarters data. Overall, he is on track to meet the small area submission deadline.

Mr. Kimberly added the following: the finalized version of the Master Establishment File will be available on the BMC FTP site at the end of the week, committee members must provide him with their updated methodology statement on or before November 30th, and splitting employment into categories is no longer required, total employment is the only figure necessary.

4. ROUND 9 CONTROL TOTALS – SHAWN KIMBERLY

Mr. Kimberly distributed a packet of line graphs comparing Round 9 control totals with Rounds 8, 8A, 8B, census estimates and IHS Global and Woods and Poole forecasts. His presentation included population, household and employment forecasts for each jurisdiction 2010 to 2045 (Carroll County was not included because their Round 9 control totals were not available). He noted the distinct dissimilarity between the IHS Global and Woods and Poole data sets. IHS Global uses the Bureau of

Labor Statistics (self-employed workers not included) as their base. Woods and Poole uses the Bureau of Economic Analysis (self-employed workers included) as their base. As a result, IHS employment numbers trend lower. Additionally, employment numbers drive both IHS Global and Woods and Poole demographic data points because these consultants assume that population is dependent on employment growth.

He added that, several years ago, the CFG agreed upon a methodology to develop base-year employment estimates. This approach uses Bureau of Economic Analysis Wage and Salary and Census Bureau non-employer statistics to account for the self-employed portion of total employment.

[Handout: Round 9 Control Totals, Cooperative Forecasting Group, June 28, 2017]

5. NEW BUSINESS

In response to a question about the Round 9 schedule, Mr. Kimberly explained the critical importance of the November 30th deadline for small area submissions. The BMC selected this date to schedule allow the time necessary to feed the forecast and additional data points into the travel demand model and complete the conformity and travel demand analysis requirements for the Long Range Plan. These steps are necessary to place Round 9 on the BRTB June 2018 agenda for adoption and mesh with the Long-Range Plan process. In closing his remarks, he advised CFG members about presentations planned for the next meeting. Charles Baber of the BMC staff will explain the cohort component scenario-planning model currently under development. Committee members interested in using the model for their demographic research should contact him for a one on one overview of the model. IRS staff will speak on the development and uses of the IRS Statistics of Income data set that Mr. Pipik mentioned at the April CFG meeting.

NEXT MEETING – October 18, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Members
Elina Bravve - Baltimore County Department of Planning
Jeff Bronow - Howard County Department of Planning
Richard Campbell - Anne Arundel County Department of Planning
Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne's County department of Planning
Chris Davis – Baltimore County Department of Planning
Lynda Eisenberg – Carroll County Department of Planning
Darby Mitchell – Carroll County Department of Planning
Robert Pipik - Baltimore County Department of Planning
Dan Rooney – Harford County Department of Planning
Alfred Sundara – Maryland Department of Planning
Kui Zhao - Baltimore County Department of Planning

Staff and Guests
Victor Bonaparte - Baltimore Metropolitan Council

Shawn Kimberly - Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Blake Fisher - Baltimore Metropolitan Council