The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

COOPERATIVE FORECASTING GROUP
February 27, 2019
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Ms. Kui Zhao, Chair of the Cooperative Forecasting Group, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following a round of introductions, Ms. Zhao asked for approval of the minutes from the December meeting of the CFG. Mr. Dan Rooney moved to approve the minutes with Mr. Jeff Bronow seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS - METHODOLOGY

Mr. Alfred Sundara, Maryland Department of Planning (Planning), provided a summary of the methods used in the development of his agency's public school enrollment projections. He stated that Planning is required by state statute to develop the projections every year. While many counties produce their own enrollment projections, state statute requires that these figures must fall within five percent of those developed by Planning in order for them to be utilized in local educational facilities management plans. Mr. Sundara explained that, in most cases, the projections of the local jurisdictions fall within the five percent tolerance. However, in the instances where they do not, Planning meets with the local jurisdictions to discuss making adjustments to projections in order to fall within the five percent range.

The projections are short-term, with a ten-year horizon. Planning utilizes a grade succession ratio methodology in the development of their projections (as opposed to the housing unit yield methodology). This method incorporates school age population projections in addition to an analysis of historical births data from the Department of Health (to project the number of births five-years into the future). Kindergarten and first grade to birth ratios are then applied to estimate base year estimates for those grades. Grade succession ratios, developed for each jurisdiction via an analysis of historical enrollment data, are then applied to second through twelfth grades to arrive at the new enrollment estimates and projections. The jurisdictional

level estimates and projections are developed independently, then summed to reach a state-wide total.

Mr. Sundara then provided a series of charts and graphs illustrating some of the factors influencing enrollment projections, including birth and migration trends, as well as information on the size and characteristics of the historical and projected enrollment population.

[PowerPoint: Public School Enrollment Projections 2018 - 2027]

3. BMC/DLLR DATA SHARING AGREEMENT

Mr. Shawn Kimberly, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), stated that access to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) dataset, which serves as the basis of the Master Establishment File and assists with employment allocation by location and industry, is provided through a data sharing agreement between BMC and the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR). The previous version of that agreement was valid from January 2015 through June 2018. Beginning in spring 2018, BMC staff began efforts to renew the agreement with DLLR. A new agreement was signed in January 2019 and is valid through June 2022. Mr. Kimberly described the special care and security requirements necessary to access and handle the dataset, and distributed copies of the data sharing agreement that are required to be signed before access to the dataset is granted. CFG members provided the names of additional staff that will be accessing the data, and were asked to return signed confidentiality agreements from them prior to their viewing the data.

4. UPWP FOCUS AREA PROJECT

Mr. Kimberly provided a brief summary of the Demographic and Socioeconomic Horizon Year Scenario Planning focus area project as a reminder to the group. Before beginning his planned remarks on the project, Mr. Charles Baber (BMC) commented on the relevance of the school enrollment presentation. Mr. Baber noted that the projection of school enrollment is another example of a topic that is suitable for a scenario planning exercise. Using a chart demonstrating the growth of households headed by millennials, he explained that for the purpose of projecting school enrollment, understanding who is living in housing units is as important as knowing the number of housing units.

Mr. Baber provided the group with a series of examples of the types of output that can be produced by the tools that BMC is using in this project. The examples included charts and tables developed from pOPTICS, PopGen, and InSITE data for an "aging in place" scenario. The scenario called for migration to be calculated as a residual after the given jurisdiction specific natural increase assumptions were applied through the horizon year, while controlling to the Round 9 totals. The results highlighted the importance of migration to the preservation of the Round 9 population forecast control totals.

At the conclusion of Mr. Baber's presentation, Mr. Kimberly addressed the group to address the project's next steps and timeline. He explained that after some consideration, and with

respect to both the primary work of the CFG and the project schedule, staff has decided to form a working group for this project composed of interested planning partners (including interested CFG members). While the project is not anticipated to require a substantial time commitment in terms of hours worked (BMC staff will be performing the bulk of the project work), it will need to meet with greater frequency than is permitted by the CFG's bi-monthly schedule. The working group will develop the scenarios to be tested in the project, and meet as needed. The group will report back to the CFG for both guidance and feedback. Mr. Al Sundara noted that scenario planning is something that his agency (Planning) is interested in and that he would participate in the working group.

5. PSAP STATUS UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Ms. Mara Kaminowitz, BMC, stated that Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) continued uninterrupted through the federal government shutdown. She said that BMC is the official submitting organization for the PSAP for all counties in the region. All counties have the choice of doing the delineation work themselves, or requesting BMC assistance. In either case, all PSAP submissions are due to the Census in late May. BMC has set a date of May 1 for all local jurisdictions to submit completed PSAP materials to the agency. The May 1 deadline will allow BMC staff enough time to perform quality assurance checks and to ensure that all requirements are met prior to final submission to the Census Bureau.

Ms. Kaminowitz reminded the group that the Census Transportation Planning Products dataset will not be releasing data at the Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) geography beyond the forthcoming release based upon 2012-2016 American Community Survey data. She suggested that one way to maintain a level of continuity across datasets and time would be to draw block groups to resemble (or nest within) TAZs. Ms. Kaminowitz added that the requirements for Special Land Use block groups in this PSAP have made it easier to delineate areas that are exclusively non-residential. Finally, Ms. Kaminowitz said that she is exploring the possibility of having BMC host a Complete Count Committee training session in the late spring or early summer.

[PowerPoint: CFG February Census 2020 update]

6. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sundara explained to the group that an adjustment had been made to the methodology behind the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program dataset. The state level 2018 population estimates were released in December 2018. Planning staff observed that the newly released (vintage 2018) population total for Maryland in 2018 is lower than the vintage 2017 population total for 2017.

Mr. Sundara explained that the Census Bureau has changed how they allocate international migration from the national level to the states. He added that the 2018 population still shows an increase from 2017, as the historical data in vintage 2018 has been adjusted to reflect the

methodology change. Mr. Sundara mentioned that this change will have an impact upon county level estimates as well. The county level estimates, normally released in March each year, have been pushed back to April, due to the federal government closure.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Krishna Akundi, Maryland Department of Planning
Jeff Bronow, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works
Arco Sen, Carroll County Department of Planning
Al Sundara, Maryland Department of Planning
Jamie Williams, Baltimore City Department of Planning
Kui Zhao, Baltimore County Department of Planning

Staff and Guests

Charles Baber, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Blake Fisher, BMC
Mara Kaminowitz, BMC
Shawn Kimberly, BMC