COOPERATIVE FORECASTING GROUP
October 23, 2019
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Ms. Kui Zhao, Chair of the Cooperative Forecasting Group (CFG), called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

2. ROUND 9A – STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Shawn Kimberly said that the intent of this agenda item is to allow CFG membership the opportunity to ask questions about the forecast process or to comment on their plans for the Round 9A update. He added that for those jurisdictions choosing to participate in Round 9A, the deadline for submission of the updated demographic data to BMC is November 30.

Ms. Zhao said that she plans to complete the update to the Baltimore County household forecasts within a week, then continue with work on the population forecasts and employment forecasts. Mr. Bronow said that Howard County prepared an update last year containing minor changes, but that it was not utilized. Mr. Kimberly clarified that the CFG did not submit an update to Round 9 last year, as the data from that round had already been incorporated into the analyses included in the regional long-range transportation plan, Maximize 2045. The long-range transportation plan requires the incorporation of the most recently approved demographic forecasts. Mr. Bronow noted that the update they had prepared last year could be used as the Howard County Round 9A submission. Mr. Fisher said that Anne Arundel County is working on updating their household and population estimates. They are incorporating a new address point data set into their analyses, and this work will result in some reallocation of household and population among TAZs. Mr. Greg Goodwin from Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments noted that his agency has completed a minor update to

their Round 9.1 forecasts that incorporates the BRTB Round 9 data from Anne Arundel, Howard, and Carroll counties into their most recent data set, Round 9.1a.

3. REGIONAL HOUSING INITIATIVE – METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Paul DesJardin, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCoG), began the presentation with an introduction to the topic of jobs and housing balance and a brief history of efforts to explore and measure the relationship. One of the Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) seven endorsed initiatives under Visualize2045 was to "Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together." To begin work on this effort, the elected officials kicked-off the regional housing initiative with a resolution in September 2018, charging the planning and housing directors to consider the amount of housing needed, the accessibility of housing needed, and the affordability of housing needed.

In an effort to quantify the amount of housing needed, MWCoG staff utilized a jobs-to-housing ratio developed by a University of California (Berkeley) City and Regional Planning professor (Robert Cervero). This ratio was applied to the region's Round 9.1 employment forecasts in order to determine the level of housing needed to support the workforce necessary to fill the jobs. This "housing need" was compared to the forecast level of households to determine the region's "housing shortfall." The analysis resulted in an estimate of an additional 75,000 units needed between 2020-2030 (beyond the units already forecast for the time period).

On September 11 2019, the TPB unanimously approved three regional housing targets: Amount (75,000 units beyond what is forecast between 2020-2030); Accessibility (75% of all new housing to be in activity centers or near high-capacity transit); Affordability (at least 75% of new housing should be affordable to low and middle-income households). The resolution called upon local officials to work within their communities to adopt local-level targets on production, accessibility, and affordability. The targets are expected to address housing not only form an economic standpoint, but also from a transportation perspective, by bringing housing and jobs closer together.

Mr. DesJardins noted that local officials, planners, and other partners involved in this effort are well aware of its scope, and recognize that there are some barriers to increased housing production, including land use and regulatory barriers, market forces, and community dynamics. He provided examples of how good communication and collaboration between jurisdictions and with other partners, a diversity of housing types, and community engagement can help to further the goals of the initiative.

Upon completion of the presentation, question and answer ensued. A question arose about the housing shortfall present in the Baltimore region based upon the same methodology utilized in the MWCoG analysis. Mr. Kimberly had completed an analysis utilizing the CFG's Round 9 employment and household figures and shared with the group a chart illustrating the estimated housing shortfall in the Baltimore region from 2020 to 2030. The analysis indicates a housing shortfall of approximately 70,000 units by 2030. Mr. Jeff Bronow pointed out that

proportionately, the estimated "need" is more severe in the case of the Baltimore region than the Washington DC region, as the absolute 2020-2030 "need" numbers are similar and the DC region is approximately double the size of the Baltimore region (in terms of population).

[PowerPoint: COG Board Regional Housing Targets]

4. TRANSPORTATION DATA BOOK – PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Don Halligan, BMC staff, provided an update on the Transportation Data Book UPWP task. Mr. Halligan explained that the data books are to serve as accessible quick reference guides for jurisdiction-wide and regional data, and to serve as benchmarks for comparison between jurisdictions and regions. The data books have been organized into three sections: Who We Are and Where We Live (contains basic demographic characteristics such as population, race, income etc.); Where We Work (contains data on employment totals and spatial concentration of employment, GDP, and building permit data); and How We Get Around (contains information on commutation patterns and flows, travel times, mode shares, traffic bottlenecks etc.). He noted that drafts have been circulated to all jurisdictions for comment and that BMC has received feedback from some. He added that the feedback has been helpful, and has shown that the draft books have served a purpose of developing a baseline of information for the jurisdictions that could be built upon. Mr. Halligan said that this was the intent, to start with a product that can be updated and grow over time, both in its coverage and in its accessibility (development of a digital version that is interactive and allows for flexibility).

[PowerPoint: Transportation Data Books]

5. PREDICTED LOW RESPONSE AREAS FOR CENSUS 2020 IN MARYLAND DASHBOARD

Mr. Al Sundara, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), provided a demonstration of a map-based application his agency developed for the Maryland Complete Count Committee in order to assist with the identification of potential low-response and hard to survey areas within Maryland for Census 2020. The application displays demographic profiles in a dashboard format for user-selected Census tracts utilizing data from the Census Bureau's planning database (which is fueled by data from the 2013-2017 American Community Survey). The tool is being used to support the efforts of state and local governments and other planning partners to develop targeted strategies to help improve the census response rate across the state.

Mr. Sundara provided a detailed explanation of the development of the predicted low response scores, and highlighted key demographic characteristics that were selected for incorporation into the dashboard (including female head of household, age under five, age over 65, limited or no english speakers in household, below poverty, and moved from a different residence). The tool incorporates detailed demographic characteristics from the ACS beyond the data points informing the low response score. Mr. Sundara added that the demographic data contained in the application is not limited to Maryland, and extends to all census tracts in the

nation. The application is available to the public and is located on MDP's website (http://apps.planning.maryland.gov/censusdashboard/).

6. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Zhao mentioned two recent events that contained presentations that were both interesting and relevant to the work of CFG members: the Innovation Summit held by Howard County Executive Calvin Ball on October 8, which contained an introduction to the Howard County Data Analytics and Statistics Hub as well as presenters from the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and the Maryland Transportation Institute; and the Maryland State Data Center Annual Meeting, held on September 19, had three presentations on Census programs and applications, as well as updates on State Data Center activities.

Mr. Kimberly said that the long range transportation plan will next be updated in three years (a departure from the typical four year cycle), and he noted how this may impact the timing of the adoption of future demographic forecast round updates. He also noted that the BMC modeling group is expanding the definition of the modeled region to include Adams County and York County in Pennsylvania. This addition was precipitated by BMC work in support of a Transportation Plan update being conducted by Carroll County.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members
Krishna Akundi, Maryland Department of Planning
Jeff Bronow, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
Rick Fisher, Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning
Margaret Kaii-Ziegler, Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning
Al Sundara, Maryland Department of Planning
Kui Zhao, Baltimore County Department of Planning

Staff and Guests
Charles Baber, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Paul DesJardin, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Blake Fisher, BMC
Greg Goodwin, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Mara Kaminowitz, BMC
Shawn Kimberly, BMC
Stephanie Martins, Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning
Dan Pontious, BMC
Brian Ryder, BMC
Kanishk Sharma, Maryland Department of Planning