

The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT REPORT JUNE 2023

★ CLOSED COMMENT PERIODS ★

We just concluded a comment period on draft plans for over \$74 billion in transportation investments in the region. We sought comment on our draft long-range transportation plan *Resilience 2050: Adapting to the Challenges of Tomorrow,* the short-range 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement *Program* and associated Air Quality Conformity Determination. The comment period opened Wednesday, May 17 and closed Tuesday, June 20.



Paid promotion of the comment period included a total of \$10,315 across 13 print, radio and digital outlets in the region, including Spanish-language print and digital ads. The digital ads alone earned a minimum of 166,000 impressions. Combining reach estimates across outlets and modes suggests a potential total of more than a million impressions through paid promotion during the comment period. Additionally, a social media campaign across BMC's Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn earned 9,200 impressions. Earned media included coverage from WBAL, WYPR's *On The Record, Maryland Matters* and other outlets, as well as a *Baltimore Sun* op-ed from Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman, BRTB Chair, and Howard County Executive Calvin Ball, BMC Board Chair.





Example of a print ad placement (1/8 page in the 5/21 *Baltimore Sun*):







We received most feedback through our PublicInput project page, which netted over 4,800 views. Nearly 170 participants, including individuals representing wider organizations or coalitions, shared 125 comments. We also hosted a virtual meeting as well as in-person meetings in Westminster, Bel Air, Glen Burnie, Towson, Stevensville, Baltimore and Ellicott City to discuss the plans in more depth, answer questions and engage in discussion on the drafts.



Analysis of the comments reflects positive sentiment toward investments in transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and negative sentiment toward investments in roadways. Another significant object of negative sentiment is air quality and climate change, often connected directly to implications of roadway expenditure. Few if any comments reflect positive sentiment toward roadway spending, or negative sentiment toward transit.

We will post responses to comments before our next BRTB meeting.

See the archived project page at publicinput.com/Resilience2050