



# COG QUARTERLY

Spring / 2018

pg **14**

## GEAR UP!

Friday, May 18, marks the 21st Bike to Work Day in the Baltimore region. Thousands of cyclists - from novice to expert - will choose to celebrate by commuting by bike. The Baltimore Metropolitan Council works with its regional partners to ensure a fun and safe experience for all of those two-wheel trekkers. Read on and get pumped!

Cover photo courtesy of Howard County.

pg **02**

## FAMILY MATTERS

Jobs that offer family-supporting wages are a small but important sector in our local workforce. This spring, BMC will release a report that builds upon previous work to flesh out what family-supporting jobs look like in the Baltimore region, and how they compare to other metropolitan areas around the U.S.

pg **12**

## CHOP TO IT

The food and the ambiance attract diners to EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute, but it's the business model that equally impressed 50 of our region's leaders during BMC's inaugural Chesapeake Connect trip to Cleveland, Ohio, in November 2017. On May 30, BMC will host a screening of the Oscar-nominated documentary "Knife Skills," which follows the opening of the restaurant and its staff of those returning to society from incarceration.

pg **20**

## I DREAM OF DATA

While we love pouring over tab after tab of Excel spreadsheet data, we know that other non-planners may not share our enthusiasm. So we started a blog in February to tell the stories of that data through both words and engaging infographics. So far, *Stomping Grounds* has assured our region's Millennials that they have plenty of time to settle down, and shown that Camden Yards continues to bring revenue into Baltimore.

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## CLICK TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!

COG Quarterly is an interactive digital magazine of BMC. Blue text and contains hyperlinks to more information, so click away!

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please email staff at [COGquarterly@baltometro.org](mailto:COGquarterly@baltometro.org) with any questions, comments or story ideas. For more information about BMC, visit [www.baltometro.org](http://www.baltometro.org).

## CONNECT WITH US!

We're very active social media and want you to be a part of the fun. Follow us!



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# Letter from the Executive Director



## From pit stops to film screenings, BMC's spring events will get you out of the house and into the region

The Orioles are back in town, tulips are in bloom and temperatures are again cresting the 70-degree mark. There's no doubt that spring has sprung in the Baltimore region, which means Bike to Work Day is right around the corner.

In our cover story, we're gearing up – literally and figuratively – for Friday, May 18, when our region will celebrate its 21st year of Bike to Work Day. This annual event, encourages commuters from Baltimore and surrounding counties to swap their cars for a bicycle and enjoy a clean, healthy, affordable ride to work. The big day is coordinated each year by BMC and its member counties and generously supported by public and private sponsors. We hope that you'll join us for this fun event.

We're equally excited for the event that follows Bike to Work Day – the screening of an Oscar-nominated film with a unique story of workforce development. On Wednesday, May 30, BMC will partner with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and T. Rowe Price Foundation to screen "Knife Skills," a

documentary about EDWINS Restaurant & Leadership Institute, which is a culinary and hospitality training program in Cleveland that is changing the lives of citizens returning from the criminal justice system. Learn more about this exciting event and our 2017 Chesapeake Connect delegation trip to Cleveland in Leading Locally.

In the News, we share a peek at our upcoming workforce data publication. The Report on Family-Supporting Jobs in Central Maryland, which will be released later this spring, will offer valuable insights on middle-skill job opportunities in our region.

We also highlight important updates concerning automated cameras aimed at controlling freight traffic on Baltimore City streets and the work of the Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee around Next Generation 911 technological.

Awareness and preparation are the keys to staying safe in the warm months ahead. We remind residents that spring and summer bring the dangers of ground level ozone and

hurricanes, and offer tips on what they can do to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Finally, we sat down with Leonard Parrish, director of Community & Economic Development in Harford County, to discuss the launch of the Maryland Defense Technology Commercialization Center. Parrish offers valuable insight into the benefits of this dynamic partnership working to bring technologies developed for the military into the private market in order to benefit everyday Marylanders.

As always, thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

Mike Kelly  
BMC Executive Director

## Report highlights family-supporting jobs in region's key employment sectors



Photo by BMC.

**MIDDLE-SKILL OPPORTUNITIES, OR OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKERS WITH MORE THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND LESS THAN A BACHELOR'S DEGREE, ARE A SMALL, BUT CRITICAL PORTION OF OUR LABOR MARKET.**

A new workforce report produced by BMC will serve as another resource for job seekers, employers, workforce development professionals and educators to make informed decisions about career choices and training opportunities in the Baltimore region.

The Report on Family-Supporting Jobs in Central Maryland, which BMC is scheduled to release later this spring, builds upon previous work by the [Opportunity Collaborative](#) to flesh out the region's middle-skill jobs.

The region's job opportunities fall mainly into two categories: jobs that require at least a bachelor's degree and pay high wages; and jobs that require few technical skills and pay less than a living wage. Middle-skill

opportunities, or opportunities for workers with more than a high school diploma and less than a bachelor's degree, are a small, but critical portion of our labor market.

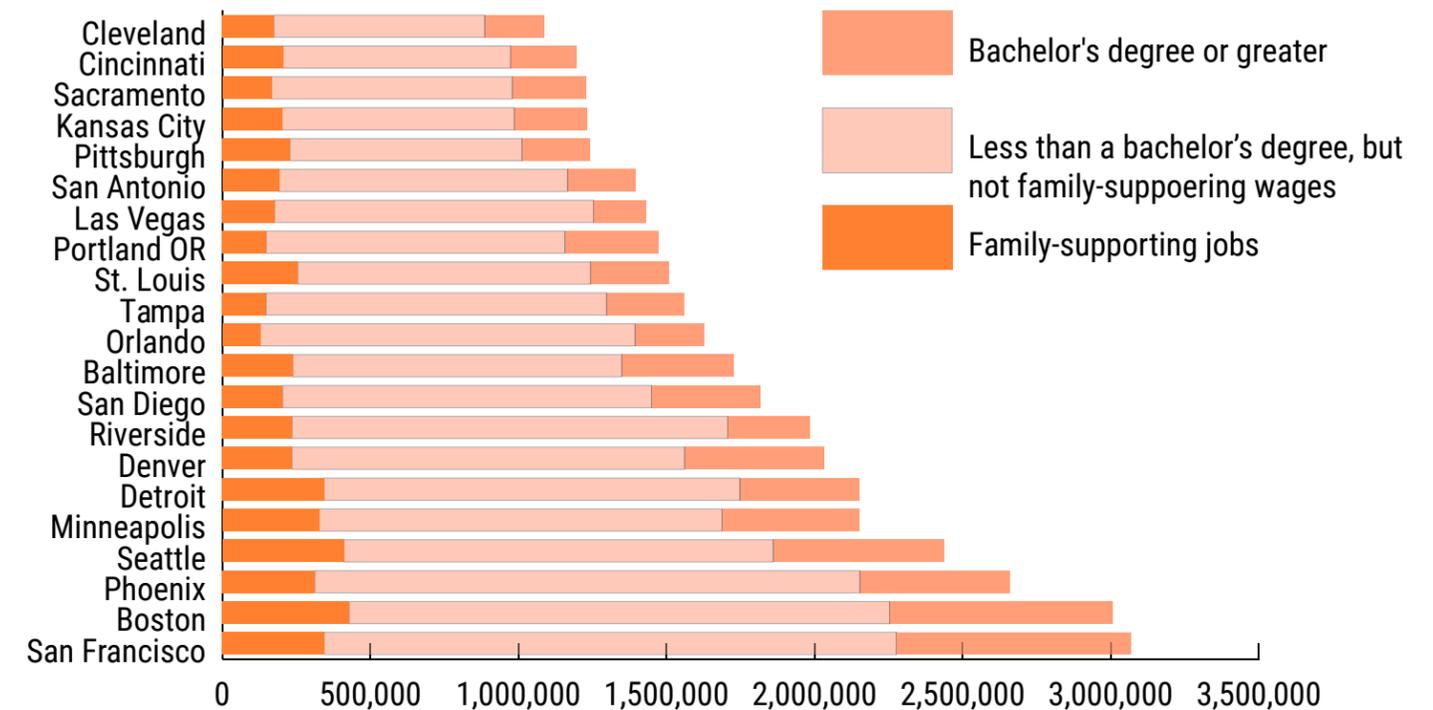
The new report focuses more broadly on family-supporting jobs. A family-supporting job is one that pays a worker with educational attainment below a bachelor's degree a wage high enough to provide for a family. This includes jobs with a typical entry-level education of a high school diploma. The report shows that traditional middle-skill definitions that exclude high school jobs neglect many jobs that pay a family-supporting wage.

The report provides detailed data on workforce supply and demand conditions for 13 key employment sectors, as well

as an analysis of expected future demand within each sector. High demand family-supporting jobs are identified in each of the industry sectors.

The Opportunity Collaborative, which BMC staffed and coordinated, served as the consortium charged with developing the [Baltimore Regional Plan for Sustainable Development](#) in 2015. The plan, funded through a \$3.5 million [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#) grant, tied together regional transportation, fair housing and workforce development. In 2013, the Collaborative released the [Baltimore Regional Talent Development Pipeline Study](#), which provided the first look at middle-skill jobs.

## A regional peer comparison: Distribution of total demand for jobs, 2016-2026



## Labor market analysis stresses importance of retail industry on local economy

While food service remains a steady industry, retail is one that has been in decline for the last several years. BMC is working with the [Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers \(ABAG\)](#) to provide labor market analysis of both industries in Baltimore City.

BMC is scheduled to provide ABAG with its analysis later this spring. From there, one of the ways that ABAG could use the analysis to assist in its workforce development efforts, such as formulating career progression plans and programs.

Food service and retail were the sixth and seventh largest employment industries in Baltimore City in 2016, respectively, according to BMC's analysis. Collectively, they account for 10.7 percent of the city's employment. The labor market analysis report will highlight the relative importance of the industries to the city's economy using historical data and projections throughout the next five years.

The report will include an examination of the industries' occupations, employment, Gross Regional Product (GRP), wages, and

number of establishments, as well as the demographic breakdown of the workers employed in the industries.

BMC produced the report using Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI) labor market data software and federal statistics available through the U.S. Census Bureau. EMSI supplies labor market data and economic advisory data services around the U.S. to leaders in government, higher education, economic development, and workforce development, as well as the business community.

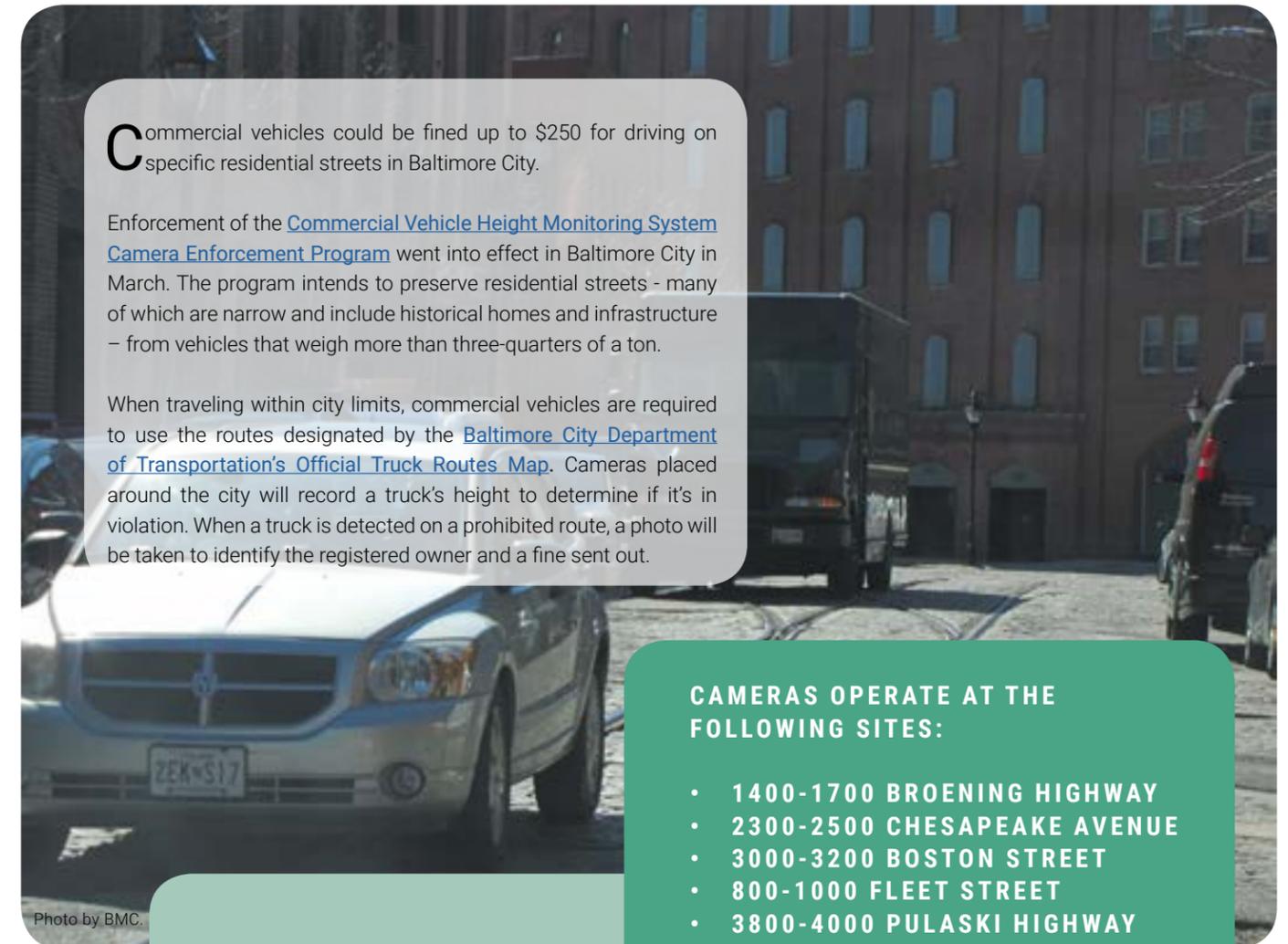
IN THE NEWS  
 **BMC Spring Events**



(Top) BMC's Board of Directors held its quarterly meeting on Friday, April 27. Photo by BMC; (Center) Dan Pontious and Blake Fisher, BMC staffers, attended the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights' 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 on Saturday, April 28. Photo courtesy of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City; and (Bottom) Mike Kelly, BMC executive director, moderates the Howard County Chamber of Commerce's 2018 Regional Economic Forum on Thursday, April 26. Photo courtesy of Leonardo McClarty, president of the Howard County Chamber of Commerce.

IN THE NEWS  
 **Freight**

New law to prevent commercial vehicles from specific residential streets in Baltimore City



Commercial vehicles could be fined up to \$250 for driving on specific residential streets in Baltimore City.

Enforcement of the [Commercial Vehicle Height Monitoring System Camera Enforcement Program](#) went into effect in Baltimore City in March. The program intends to preserve residential streets - many of which are narrow and include historical homes and infrastructure - from vehicles that weigh more than three-quarters of a ton.

When traveling within city limits, commercial vehicles are required to use the routes designated by the [Baltimore City Department of Transportation's Official Truck Routes Map](#). Cameras placed around the city will record a truck's height to determine if it's in violation. When a truck is detected on a prohibited route, a photo will be taken to identify the registered owner and a fine sent out.

**CAMERAS OPERATE AT THE FOLLOWING SITES:**

- 1400-1700 BROENING HIGHWAY
- 2300-2500 CHESAPEAKE AVENUE
- 3000-3200 BOSTON STREET
- 800-1000 FLEET STREET
- 3800-4000 PULASKI HIGHWAY
- 1600-1800 E. FAYETTE STREET

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [BALTIMORE CITY DOT](#).

**VIOLATORS WILL BE FINED:**

FIRST OFFENSE **\$0**  
 SECOND OFFENSE **\$125**  
 THIRD OFFENSE **\$250**

Photo by BMC.

IN THE NEWS

# Air Quality

## Warmer weather could mean an increase in dangerous ozone levels this summer

Warmer weather in the Baltimore region increases the possibility of poor air quality, despite a reduction in harmful emissions during the last several years.

From May through September, BMC will work with partners in both the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. regions to highlight several initiatives aimed to improve air quality.

Ground-level ozone is a mix of various emissions that cook under the hot summer sun. Ozone levels can sometimes reach unhealthful conditions, prompting [Code Red](#) warnings from both the Maryland Department of the Environment and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Each spring and summer since 1997, BMC and the [Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments \(MWCOCG\)](#) work with [Clean Air Partners](#) to educate both regions of the hazards posed by ozone, as well as particle pollution. Clean Air Partners has worked steadily to promote voluntary actions that can reduce the sources of emissions.

"We believe that air pollution can be decreased through small changes in our personal day-to-day decisions," said Jennifer Desimone, managing director of Clean



BMC staff go out into the region to talk about air quality annual from April through October. Photo by BMC.



Air Partners. "There are several easy and effective actions we can take to improve the air in our regions. Personal choices such as taking public transit, refueling your vehicle after dark, or even putting off mowing your lawn, can have a positive impact on our air, the air we all breathe."

The organization will kick off its summer outreach campaign with a June press event in Baltimore. Plans call for local elected officials, healthcare providers, and others to remind the media of the health risks associated with air pollution—these risks can include, and are not limited to, shortness

of breath, chest pain, and permanent lung damage. Following the event, high school and middle school student award-winners in the partnership's poster and slogan contests, will present their winning entries.

Clean Air Partners also plans to dispatch street teams to various communities throughout the summer. These teams will engage local residents, raising their awareness about air quality and reminding them how they can make a difference.

For 21 years, the region has seen fewer and fewer Code Red air ozone days. Advances in technology - which yield cleaner power plants, factories, and motor vehicles - have played the major role. But it's hard to discount the voluntary actions of everyday people.

"As we get ready for summer, it's important to think about how we all can reduce our contribution to air pollution," Desimone said. "It's also important for all of us to take steps to protect our health and the health of our loved ones."

**BAD OZONE DAYS IN THE BALTIMORE REGION: 2013-2017**  
(DAYS ABOVE 70 PARTS PER BILLION)

2013 **9** 2014 **5** 2015 **15** 2016 **23** 2017 **9**

VISIT [WWW.CLEANAIRPARTNERS.NET](http://WWW.CLEANAIRPARTNERS.NET).

IN THE NEWS

# Cooperative Purchasing

## MD counties to consider AT&T service provider contract for NextGen 911 implementation

Full implementation of technological upgrades to Maryland's Emergency 911 call system are expected by 2020, in part because of the work of BMC and the [Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee \(BRCPC\)](#).

BRCPC is working with the state through the [Emergency Number Systems Board \(ENSB\)](#), which is overseeing the [Next Generation 911](#) system upgrade in Maryland, to coordinate the service provider contract in the Baltimore region. The intent is to implement a state-of-the-art emergency call system that will meet the demands of the public and the people serviced by this system throughout Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic.

The advancement of everyday technology - smartphones, tablets and other wireless communications devices - are driving the existing 911 infrastructure towards its operational limits. The public relies on this technology for capabilities such as text, picture and video messaging, while public safety services need to be able to share crash notification data, personal health, family, and other pertinent records with emergency responders utilizing the 911 system.

As a result, the Maryland House and Senate passed legislation during the 2018 legislative session - [House Bill 634](#), and [Senate Bill 285](#) - establishing and authorizing the ENSB to advance NextGen 911 across Maryland.

A coordinated implementation of a NextGen 911 system will enhance the ability to respond to emergencies with improved capabilities to address these emergencies properly, thereby saving more lives than previously thought possible.

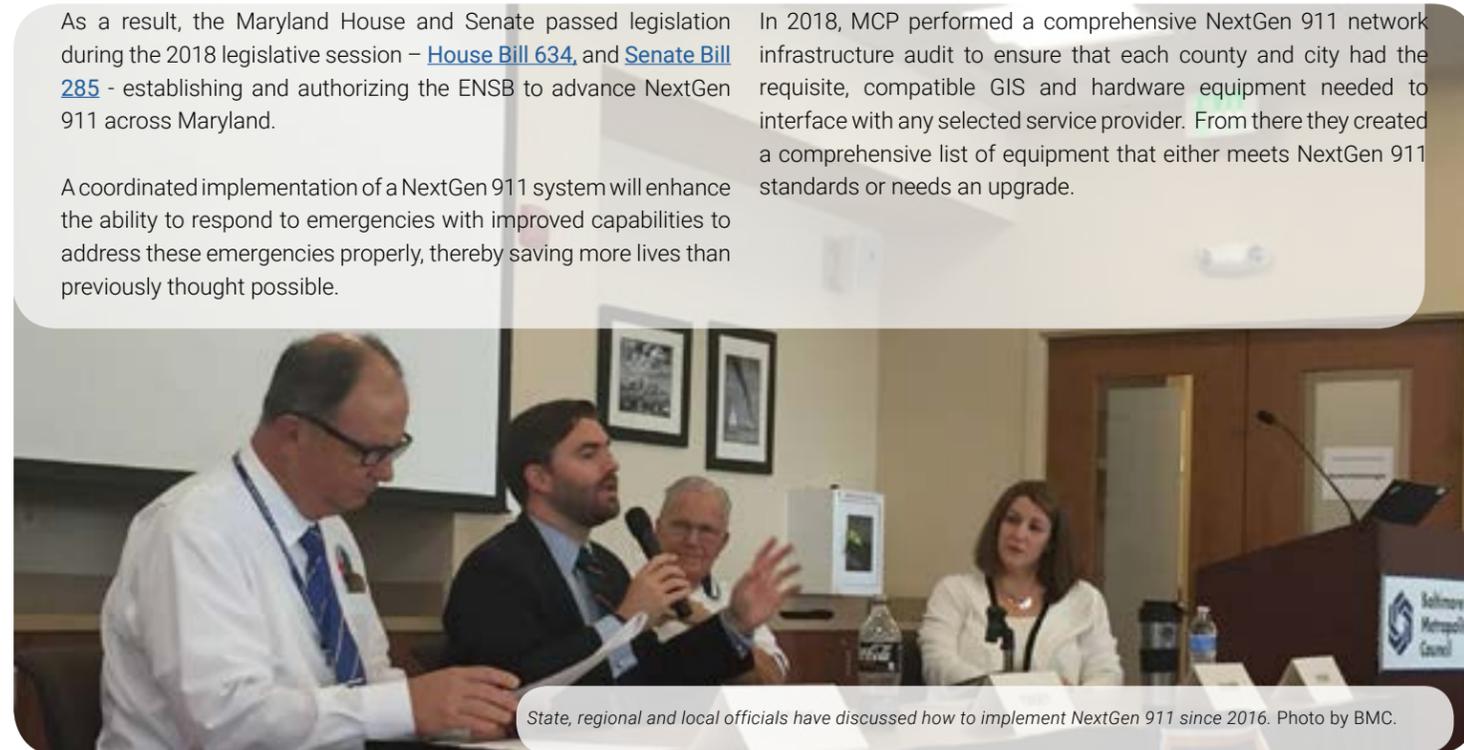
The first step in NextGen 911 implementation is selecting a service provider, then detailing what network infrastructure upgrades are necessary.

In 2017, Fairfax County, Virginia, solicited bids and awarded a contract to AT&T to serve as the NextGen 911 service provider. All 24 Maryland counties are poised to use the cooperative contract awarded by Fairfax County, pending ENSB approval, according to Mission Critical Partners (MCP), a consultant to the ENSB.

So far, Montgomery, St. Mary's, Charles, Prince George's, Calvert and Frederick counties are moving forward with their participation agreements in the Fairfax County contract. But the contract includes language that allows other counties to piggyback the award to AT&T. ENSB expects a formal procurement decision, either seeking their own bid or cooperative contract, for the remaining 17 Maryland counties and cities within the next several weeks.

Equally important to the selection of a service provider is the network infrastructure.

In 2018, MCP performed a comprehensive NextGen 911 network infrastructure audit to ensure that each county and city had the requisite, compatible GIS and hardware equipment needed to interface with any selected service provider. From there they created a comprehensive list of equipment that either meets NextGen 911 standards or needs an upgrade.



State, regional and local officials have discussed how to implement NextGen 911 since 2016. Photo by BMC.

IN THE NEWS

# Emergency Management

Hurricane Season begins on June 1  
 – Get prepared at home beforehand



The emergency management agencies in the Baltimore region are working together through the Baltimore Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) to promote awareness and encourage residents to prepare for the Atlantic Hurricane Season, which officially begins on June 1, and ends on November 30.

The height of Hurricane Season in the Baltimore region typically is mid-August to October. Hurricanes, tropical storms and tropical depressions pose the greatest threat to life and property. They can cause strong winds, heavy rain, inland flooding and other severe weather that can lead to death, injury and damage to homes and businesses alike. A large number of fatalities and injuries connected to powerful storms can occur in the event's aftermath. Many of these take place during the cleanup process and are often preventable.

Residents in the Baltimore region can "be weather ready" by ensuring that they know how to receive a warning, have a plan, and practice safety tips.

The National Weather Service (NWS) and jurisdictions in the Baltimore region work closely together to identify and monitor hurricane activity, develop preparedness plans and safety information, as well as coordinate the response to these storms.

Residents also can take the following actions to remain safe:

- Build an emergency supply kit that includes, at minimum, a portable, battery-powered radio, flashlight and one gallon of water per person, per day to help get them through those first critical hours when basic services are down.
- Develop a family emergency and communications plan, as well as an evacuation plan.
- Stay tuned to trusted sources such as the NWS and local broadcasters for official weather information.
- Follow instructions and advice given by emergency officials, especially instructions related to evacuation.
- During severe weather, stay indoors away from windows, close all interior doors, and brace external doors. If you live near the shore or coast, expect the storm tide may inundate your home.
- Monitor NWS flood warnings for your area and be prepared to seek higher ground. Flooding is often our biggest threat.
- If you live in a mobile home, plan to leave if high winds are a threat.
- Fill a bathtub or other large container with water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets.
- Charge devices before bad weather hits and consider keeping a charger in your car.
- "Ready? Set? Good!" is a call-to-action emergency preparedness campaign through the Baltimore UASI that encourages people to prepare for an emergency before one happens.

IN THE NEWS

# Women Who Lead

BMC partners with Columbia Association for screening of "Citizen Jane: Battle for the City"



On Monday, March 26, the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and [Columbia Association](#) co-hosted a screening of the documentary "Citizen Jane: Battle for the City" as the first in a series of events being planned on the topic of "Women Who Lead."

Approximately 90 people attended the event, which was held at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center in Columbia, Howard County. The event was free and open to the public.

In 1960, Jane Jacobs's book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* explored the consequences of modern reconfiguration of cities, sending shock waves through the architecture and planning worlds. Jacobs activism involved many fights in mid-century New York City to stop "master builder" Robert Moses from running roughshod over the city.

"Citizen Jane: Battle for the City" retraces the battles for the city as personified by Jacobs and Moses, as urbanization moves to the very front of the global agenda. This film sets out to examine New York City of today through the lens of one of its greatest champions to educate decision makers and make change for livable streets in their communities.

Photos by BMC.

ASK AN EXPERT

# Leonard Parrish

Ask an expert showcases an innovator in the Baltimore region who is at the pulse of his or her industry through a Q&A. We sat down with Leonard Parrish, director of Community & Economic Development with Harford County, to talk about the launch of the Maryland Defense Technology Commercialization Center and how this partnership can bring together U.S. Army invention and entrepreneurial initiatives to advance the region's economy.



Photo courtesy of Harford County.

**1. County Executive Barry Glassman recently reorganized his administration, unifying Community and Economic Development under your leadership and putting an Economic Development presence in Bel Air, the county seat. What are the benefits?**

Ultimately, we intend for this move to support the communities that we serve and enhance the quality of life for citizens in Harford County. The main goal of the new office is to strengthen opportunities for business development and community stability with a focus on jobs, transportation, and housing. This really supports [County Executive Glassman's](#) goals of fiscal balance and efficiency, strengthening our communities, and building economic vitality.

We can better serve the business community by helping to transport our workforce to and from their jobs by aligning our transit system with housing, community and economic development functions. In addition, this move quite literally gives Housing and Community Development a physical presence along the US 40 corridor, where a large percentage of our clients reside, and Economic Development one in Bel Air.

**2. In February, Harford County opened the Maryland Defense Technology Commercialization Center (DefTech) in partnership with Maryland Commerce, Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) and Cecil County. What's DefTech's mission?**

DefTech is the [newest partnership](#) that aims to engage scientists and entrepreneurs with commercial opportunities. The purpose of the center is to advance the commercialization of U.S. Army technology, provide additional technology for Army invention, support the growth of new businesses, cultivate the area's technological workforce, and create diversification opportunities for defense-dependent companies within the Baltimore region.

GET SOCIAL WITH HARFORD COUNTY

f t in You Tube

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DEFTECH, VISIT [WWW.DEFTECHMD.NET](http://WWW.DEFTECHMD.NET).

DefTech can connect and align resources between the 24,000 military, contractor and civilian personnel at APG to facilitate the commercialization of products developed for military efforts. The U.S. Army Research, Development, and Engineering Command (RDECOM) serves as an umbrella partner in its charge to create, integrate, and deliver technology-enabled solutions to the military. RDECOM achieves this by bringing into the entrepreneurial fold the Army Research Laboratory (ARL), Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), and Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center (CERDEC).

**3. Could you please give us some examples of the kind of U.S. Army technology that DefTech could commercialize?**

DefTech creates a venue and platform to identify tomorrow's next great technology today. Perhaps the best example is the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET), the packet-switching network developed in the late 1960s to link research computers via routers. This project was responsible for the Internet.

Another example is this taffy-like material that was created for use in paratrooper helmets. The material provides a soft support when stretched slowly, but stiffens if there is a quick, hard force. Possible civilian applications include sports helmets, knee and ankle braces, or in a physical therapy facility where it can be used in therapy bands.

**4. This sounds like a makerspace for companies that want to leverage defense industry technology for commercial purposes. How do individuals or companies go about accessing this technology? What kind of resources will DefTech offer?**

The first step is to reach out to the DefTech staff and schedule an appointment to discuss your needs or interest. The office is open for business, Monday through Friday, and led by Dr. Gary Evans, president and CEO of [Axcel Innovation, LLC](#). In addition, DefTech hosts many free seminars and events individuals can engage in to learn more.

Dr. Evans has a wealth of technology transfer experience, and is available to coordinate resources and work directly with interested participants. DefTech's staff also will include personnel from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Procurement Technical

Assistance Center (PTAC), and MD Technology Development Corporation (Tedco). Our resource partners stand ready to guide entrepreneurs through the processes of identifying available technologies, developing a solid business plan, locating funding sources, and more.

**5. What does DefTech mean for the local and regional economies?**

Our region is blessed with a world-class military installation that produces some of the most innovative ideas and products found in this rapidly changing, technology-rich world. DefTech presents an unprecedented opportunity for our region's private companies to tap into this research, and development and commercialize it for the general consumer.

There are approximately 800 technology companies located in Harford and Cecil Counties, and approximately 50 inventors, managers, scientists, engineers, or students that engage in entrepreneurial activity every month. DefTech is here to help find ways to engage with that community and stimulate their growth. This is a huge step geared towards creating relationships in our local and regional economies.

“DefTech creates a venue and platform to identify tomorrow's next great technology today.”

— Parrish said.

**6. Is there anything else that we haven't asked that you would like to mention?**

This is an exciting time to be representing Harford County and I am really excited to be able to bring people together and to make the connections to help them succeed. We received a AAA bond rating again this year, a testament to a diverse economy featuring a wide range of business activity, and the Transit Association of Maryland recognized us as the 2017 "System of the Year."

Harford County is a place where people want to live and raise their families. In all we do, we seek to enhance the quality of life today and for our next generation.



Maryland Commerce, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Harford and Cecil counties partnered together to create DefTech. Harford County Executive Barry Glassman (third from right) and Leonard Parrish (far right), director of Community & Economic Development, pose for the ribbon cutting on Tuesday, February 27, 2018. Photo courtesy of Harford County.

## BMC partners with philanthropy to screen Oscar-nominated film on prisoner reentry

Within the ordinary brick walls of a storefront in a quaint shopping center at the edge of Cleveland, Ohio, something extraordinary is happening. A restaurant is using culinary and hospitality training to change lives.

The aroma of escargot bathing luxuriously in butter and garlic fills a cozy room while a fireplace crackles beside pristine white tablecloths. Chiseled wedges of Camembert and Roquefort shuttle from one table to another as if speed dating with guests. Busy feet move effortlessly across dark wood floors. Polished silverware squeals softly on glistening china.

The slow squeak and pop of a cork from a bottle of Bordeaux punctuates the hum of dinner conversation.

[EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute](#) is nothing short of fine French dining. At first glance, one could easily assume that the menu is the most remarkable element of this restaurant.

However, people are what make EDWINS so unique - each server, chef, and bartender



is returning to their community after incarceration. EDWINS is at the cutting edge of prisoner reentry, offering ex-offenders a set of tangible skills and engendering the work ethic, professionalism and - most importantly - the hope necessary to their success in life on the outside.

"Through training, coaching and personalized support, we offer people the opportunity to put their past behind them," said Brandon Chrostowski, founder of EDWINS. "We're here to show men and women returning from the criminal justice system that there is a path to a good paying job in the restaurant industry, even if you have a record."

Director Thomas Lennon captures the inspiring story of EDWINS in moving detail in the Oscar-nominated documentary "[Knife Skills](#)." The film showcases the anxiety and anticipation of EDWINS' grand opening in 2013, and offers a glimpse into the transformative power of EDWINS program in the lives of its staff.

The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), with the generous support of the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) and the [T. Rowe Price Foundation](#), will host a screening of "Knife Skills" on Wednesday, May 30, at the restored Parkway Theater in Baltimore City.

"Knife Skills' is a story about redemption and hope," said Scot Spencer, associate director for Advocacy and Influence at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. "Whether they're struggling with the stigma of a criminal background or with additional impediments like addiction, a lack of education, or a lack of self-worth, this film beautifully captures how EDWINS helps people rebuild their lives."

The event, moderated by [Ann Hornaday](#), chief film critic for the Washington Post, will feature a discussion with director Thomas Lennon and Chrostowski. Lighthouse Bistro, City Seeds and Paul's Place - programs using food to change lives in the Baltimore region - will provide catering.

"What better place to share a story about second chances than a historic theater that

“ We hope that this event will inspire local partnerships that help men and women in our region earn the skills they need to succeed after incarceration. ”

— Mike Kelly.



"Compelling, funny, heartbreaking and thoroughly human"  
 ANTHONY BOURDAIN



MAY 30

### IF YOU GO

"Knife Skills"  
 Parkway Theater  
 5 W North Avenue  
 Baltimore City, MD 21201

Reception - 5:30 p.m.  
 Screening - 6:30 p.m.  
 Tickets are limited  
 For more information, email  
[tknight@baltometro.org](mailto:tknight@baltometro.org)



Photos courtesy of Gregory Wilson Photo; "Knife Skills promotional poster courtesy of TFL Films, LLC.

has been given new life," said Mike Kelly, executive director of BMC. "We hope that this event will inspire local partnerships that help men and women in our region earn the skills they need to succeed after incarceration."

In November 2017, BMC organized its first Chesapeake Connect regional delegation trip to Cleveland in an effort to learn from and exchange ideas with leaders from a peer metropolitan area. The 50-member contingency included elected officials, corporate executives and nonprofit leaders from the Baltimore region. BMC selected Cleveland for both its comparable size and post-industrial nature.

"Cleveland was a great fit for our first Chesapeake Connect trip," Kelly said. "Baltimore shares many of the same challenges Cleveland has experienced and we were eager to learn how another region approaches critical issues like transit development, community revitalization, and even prisoner reentry."

Guests of the inaugural Chesapeake Connect journey saw firsthand the benefits of Cleveland's HealthLine bus rapid transit line that stretches from the heart of downtown east to Case Western Reserve University and connects the campuses of anchors like the Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland State University and University Hospitals in between. Delegates also remarked on the progress the Cuyahoga County Land Bank has made in consolidating and redeveloping blighted and abandoned properties throughout Greater Cleveland. But the experience that left the greatest impression with Baltimore leaders was their visit to EDWINS.

"The food was impeccably prepared, the ambiance was perfect, but the staff were the stars of the show," said John Brothers, president of the T. Rowe Price Foundation and the Program for Charitable Giving. "We didn't learn until after dinner that the people cooking and serving this incredible meal were all ex-offenders. It was unforgettable."

# GEARup, baltimore!



A dozen cameras and boom mics lined up in a semi-circle outside of Baltimore's City Hall in the bright morning sunlight of Black-Eyed Susan Day in 2017.

A convoy of several dozen cyclists – some in suits and dresses, others in T-shirts and shorts – rode into War Memorial Plaza north on Holliday Street. The crowd had been waiting for this moment. This was the official commencement of Bike to Work Day.

Every third Friday in May for the last 21 years, the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) and its member jurisdictions have worked together to coordinate Bike to Work Day for hundreds of cyclists at dozens of pit stop events. Cyclists come out for the free T-shirts, prizes, food and beverages, but the real joy of each event is the enthusiasm of those commuters who celebrate their love of biking.

With great momentum from the 20th anniversary, BMC and its partners hope to see 2,500 registered cyclists at more than 35 pit stops around the Baltimore region on Friday, May 18, 2018.

"Bike to Work Day is a time for cyclists to come together to celebrate commuting by bike throughout the Baltimore region," said Mike Kelly, executive director of BMC. "We are grateful for the support of private businesses and nonprofit organizations Day - from Annapolis to Aberdeen and Columbia to Towson - who have helped orchestrate fun and unique events."

In 1997, several dozen bicyclists gathered in the early morning at Baltimore City's Inner Harbor. They drank coffee and water, listened to remarks from several city officials, and shared harrowing accounts of navigating city streets on their

bikes as part of the region's very first Bike to Work Day. In 2000, Annapolis began hosting an annual event. Bel Air and Towson joined the party within the next few years.

Commuting by bike is increasing both throughout the U.S. and in the Baltimore region. Bike to Work Day registration continues to break the previous year's record, with hundreds of registered cyclists attended three dozen Bike to Work Day events throughout the Baltimore region in the last several years.

BMC also will partner with Baltimore City, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and AAA-Mid-Atlantic to promote awareness, safety, and courtesy on the part of both cyclists and motorists. A press conference is scheduled for the morning of May 18 outside of City Hall. The event will reinforce existing Share the Road messaging, as well as remind drivers that they will see considerably more cyclists on Bike to Work Day.

Many organizations are official sponsors for B2WD 2018, including the Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland, BMC, Metro Ride Share, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, Baltimore Bicycling Club, and Clean Air Partners, contributing more than \$23,000. Most of these sponsorship dollars will be used to purchase this year's edition of the coveted B2WD athletic performance T-shirt. The blue T-shirts are made of tech material with a unique design and sport the logos of program sponsors. T-shirts are free to the first 2,500 cyclists who register by midnight on May 17.

Registration is easy – cyclists should visit [Bike2WorkCentralMD.com](http://Bike2WorkCentralMD.com), select one of the pit stop locations listed, and then ride their bikes there on May 18. Registered cyclists will be eligible for a number of prize drawings, including free bikes.

Photo courtesy of Harford County

B2WD is about more than T-shirts and prizes, however. It also is about comradery among cyclists and reminding non-cyclists that the bicycle is a legitimate and clean mode of transportation. It is so clean that BMC created another initiative to support it, Clean Commute Week.

That effort existed at first to promote B2WD but soon took on a life of its own. BMC staff began visiting local fairs and festivals to talk about bicycling and other clean ways of getting around, such as riding public transit and carpooling. These activities became so numerous that the program became Clean Commute Month in 2001. The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) designated May as Clean Commute Month because it was already both National Clean Air and National Bicycle Month.

May also happens to be the traditional start of the Bad Air Season in the Baltimore-Washington region, when the heat of the sun changes emissions from tailpipes and smokestacks into ozone, our region's most serious air pollution concern. Ozone is an irritant. Its effects on children, the elderly, and people with chronic health problems can be severe. It can even harm healthy adults. It is a serious concern.

As outreach opportunities expanded beyond the month of May, Clean Commute



Month grew into Clean Commute Season and, ultimately, the Clean Commute Initiatives. From April through October, outreach volunteers remind people about the relationship between motor vehicles and air quality—studies show that a third of the pollutants that dirty the air come from mobile sources—and ask them to consider an alternative to driving alone.

BMC works with Clean Air Partners, a public-private partnership whose goal is to

raise awareness of air quality issues and promotes voluntary measures to reduce pollution. Clean Air Partners recognized the importance of Clean Commute activities early on by including financial support for the program in its annual budget and work plan.

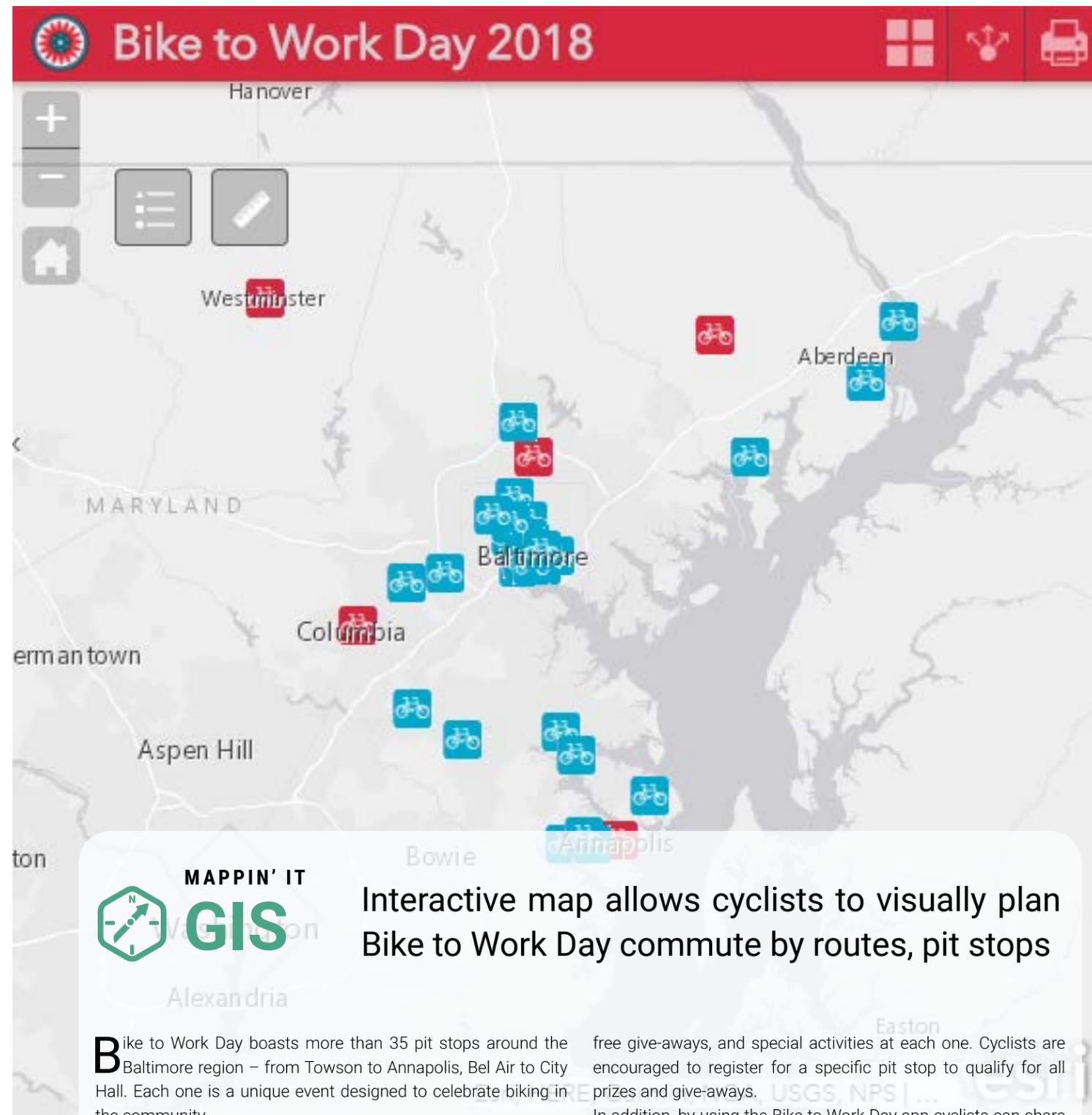
The types of alternative transportation choices that BMC promotes include biking, teleworking, taking transit, or sharing a ride. These options illustrate the kinds of simple actions individuals can take in their daily lives, which make a difference in our region's air quality and protect the health of our residents.

Especially at this time of year, when air quality can create serious health issues, it is important for all of us to remember that individual transportation choices affect everyone.

To learn more about BMC's Clean Commute program, visit [cleancommute.com](http://cleancommute.com) or contact Russ Ulrich at [rulrich@baltometro.org](mailto:rulrich@baltometro.org). Remember you can register for Bike to Work Day at [Bike2WorkCentralMD.com](http://Bike2WorkCentralMD.com).



Photos by BMC



**B**ike to Work Day boasts more than 35 pit stops around the Baltimore region – from Towson to Annapolis, Bel Air to City Hall. Each one is a unique event designed to celebrate biking in the community.

BMC used geographic information system mapping technology to create an interactive Bike to Work Day application to showcase details of each pit stop, while also helping cyclists find the location that best fits their commute. This mobile-friendly map enhances the Bike to Work Day experience by allowing cyclists to plan for the event at home or in the palm of their hands.

Cyclists can view pit stops they might like to visit or convoys they'd like to join; find the main event locations in each jurisdiction; and get information on times, amenities, prizes, food and beverages,

free give-aways, and special activities at each one. Cyclists are encouraged to register for a specific pit stop to qualify for all prizes and give-aways.

In addition, by using the Bike to Work Day app cyclists can share the map on social media and print out a mini-map to guide them to their ultimate destination. The Bike to Work Day app can measure distances, so that attendees can decide which event locations are most convenient to their commute.

Accessing the app is easy. Cyclists should visit [Bike2WorkCentralMD.com](http://Bike2WorkCentralMD.com) to plan Bike to Work Day commutes by choosing a pit stop, finding a route, and registering for the event all in one streamlined map application. Then gear up for a perfect Bike to Work Day!

B'MORE INVOLVED

# Public Involvement



B'More Involved promotes civic engagement in our region's transportation, planning, environmental justice and equity. This important information is a great way for you to learn more, stay up-to-date on important events, news, and, of course, let you know how you can B'More Involved!



On Saturday, May 5, the [Baltimore Regional Transportation Board \(BRTB\)](#) and the BRTB [Public Advisory Committee \(PAC\)](#) will host the inaugural Every Voice Counts Transportation Academy.

Every Voice Counts will bring together residents, community leaders, and non-traditionally engaged participants for a day-long workshop where they will:

- Learn about the transportation decision-making process – the plans, funds, designs, construction and maintenance.
- Identify ways that attendees can work with local and state transportation agencies in a proactive and constructive way to improve transportation.
- Understand how to be better engaged in the decision-making process by knowing who to contact and when.

The BRTB and PAC developed Every Voice Counts utilizing a U.S. Department of Transportation toolkit, created to provide key background information and resources for emerging leaders and other stakeholders who have limited experience with the planning process.

MAY 05

## EVERY VOICE COUNTS

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Impact Hub**  
 10 E North Avenue  
 Baltimore City, MD 21202

The Young Professionals in Transportation (YPT) Baltimore chapter will host Transportation Camp Baltimore 2018 on Saturday, May 12 at the University of Baltimore's Merrick School of Business.

Transportation Camp Baltimore will highlight transportation's effects on our everyday lives - equity, education, jobs, economic development, recreation, sustainability, and overall access to opportunity. The goal is to create an environment of inclusion between transportation professionals, techies, advocates, policy makers and customers in the Baltimore region.

MAY 09

## PREPARE BECAUSE YOU CARE

7 to 9 p.m.  
**Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company**  
 109 S Hickory Avenue  
 Bel Air, MD 21014  
 Register [here](#).

Harford County will host Prepare Because You Care, a four-week emergency preparedness training program, on Wednesdays from May 9 through May 30. Registration is required as space is limited and seats fill up quickly. Participants must be over 18.

MAY 12

## TRANSPORTATION CAMP

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**William H. Thumel Business Center**  
 11 W Mount Royal Avenue  
 Baltimore City, MD 21201  
 Register [here](#).



MAY 24

SEND US YOUR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT PLAN TODAY!

#BRTBLISTENS

The BRTB welcomes comments through Thursday, May 24, on a [draft of the Public Participation Plan](#). The BRTB is scheduled to vote on the amendments on Tuesday, June 26 at 9 a.m. Details of the amendments and comment period are below. The Public Participation Plan serves as a guide for residents in the Baltimore region to navigate the public process, while also

outlining the policies and procedures to ensure that those coordinating the planning process engage the public. The mission of the Public Participation Plan is to provide an open process that offers reasonable access to information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and support for early and continued involvement of stakeholders.

MAY 16-18

## GREENPORT CONGRESS CONFERENCE

**Port of Baltimore**  
 For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

JUNE 21

## MTA CAC MEETING

1 p.m.  
**Baltimore City, MD**  
 For more information, visit the committee [website](#).

AUGUST 01

## PAC JUNE MEETING

5:30 p.m.  
**Baltimore Metropolitan Council**  
 1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300  
 Baltimore, MD 21230

MAY 22

## BRTB MEETING

9 a.m.  
**Baltimore Metropolitan Council**  
 1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300  
 Baltimore, MD 21230

JUNE 26

## HOCO MULTIMODAL

7 p.m.  
**Howard County Multimodal Transportation Board** - For more information, visit the committee [website](#).

AUGUST 10

## MD BIKE/PED ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9:30 a.m.  
**Millersville, MD**  
 For more information, visit the committee [website](#).

JUNE 06

## PAC MEETING

5:30 p.m.  
**Baltimore Metropolitan Council**  
 1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300  
 Baltimore, MD 21230

JULY 24

## BRTB MEETING

9 a.m.  
**Baltimore Metropolitan Council**  
 1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300  
 Baltimore, MD 21230

AUGUST 28

## BRTB MEETING

9 a.m.  
**Baltimore Metropolitan Council**  
 1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300  
 Baltimore, MD 21230



# Stomping Grounds

**Stomping Grounds** (*noun*): 1. The Baltimore Metropolitan Council's bi-monthly blog where we highlight local data that ties back to our body of work, and provide our audience with a better understanding of the Baltimore region; **See also**: 2. Our stomping grounds are a familiar area, just as this blog is a more informal way for BMC to present interesting information about its areas of expertise to the public; **See also**: 3. "Stomping Grounds" serves as another way for BMC to present interesting information and encourage you to think about the Baltimore region - its past, present and future.

