



**Benchmarks of Success for Maryland's Workforce System**  
Policy Committee  
1:30 – 3:30 PM, June 20, 2019  
DLLR, 1100 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

**Attendees:** Lauren Gilwee, Jen Horton, Don Halligan, Francine Trout, Erin Inman, Jacqueline “Tina” Turner, Grace Kelly, Lauren Gilwee, Lloyd Day, Matthew Jackson, Matthew Bernardy, Mary Sloat, Nate’ Gordon, Patricia Meyer, Shamekka Kuykendall, Sara Muempfer, Vijay Iyer, Kenneth Lemberg, and Natalie Clements

**Handouts:** Agenda, Workforce Transportation Overview, and “Topics to Cover in 2019” Survey Results

---

**Minutes**

---

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

- Sarah Sheppard’s last day with the Governor’s Workforce Development Board (GWDB) was on Tuesday. She accepted a new opportunity with the Department of Commerce. Kenneth Lemberg, Deputy Director of the GWDB will join the Policy Committee.

**II. Transportation: Successes, Learnings, and Challenges**

- Transportation is a key piece to two of the five *Benchmarks of Success* strategic goal: in goal one as a mechanism to get to the job and in goal two as a potential barrier to employment.
- Don Halligan, Senior Transportation Planner at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, reported out on the Council’s work as well as successes, learnings, and challenges that they have seen.
- The Baltimore Metropolitan Council is made up of representatives from Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, Howard County, Queen Anne’s County, State Senate, House of Delegates, and a gubernatorial appointee.
- The Baltimore Metropolitan Council includes a Baltimore Regional Transportation Board, Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee, Community Planning, Emergency Preparedness, and Reservoir Protection.
- The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board has a two-year work program, short-term transportation program (Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)), long-range transportation plan, and environmental planning.

- The Baltimore Metropolitan Council produces an annual State of the Region Report. The 2018 State of the Region Report found that people seem to be wealthier. The Baltimore region has the third highest growth rate for median household income and second highest growth rate for per capita personal income in comparison to its peers.
  - From 1998 to 2017, the region has moved in rank from 13<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> in college education. However, ten percent of the region has less than a high school education (18 percent in 1998).
  - Cost of living is an expression of wealth. The cost of living and the median home price have both increased. Increase in wealth is also correlated with an increase in traffic. Jobs are becoming more dispersed across the region.
  - A survey in 2013 of employment barriers revealed three transportation barriers in the top ten cited. 85 percent of the region's new jobs created by 2020 will be outside of the city. 25 percent of jobseekers say that they cannot get to jobs accessing public transport.
  - Public transit riders are more often than not low income individuals, with a median wage of about \$23,000 per year.
- Local and state government programs include:
  - Commuter Connections and Guaranteed Ride Home.
  - Tax credits, including:
    - Employer Provided Transit Benefit: Employers can recover up to 50 percent of the cost of a transit pass they provide employees, up to \$100 per month per employee. This benefit can also be applied to van-pools.
    - Employee Pre-Tax Benefit: Employers who allow employees to set aside pre-tax income for transit can save up to 7 to 65 percent on payroll taxes.
    - Combination Program: Employers contribute a portion of the cost of transit and the employee pays the rest with pre-tax income.
  - Affordable car ownership (e.g. Vehicles for Change).
- Baltimore region public transportation is more North-South friendly than East-West. Solutions could be through transportation investment, re-zoning, and changing land use.
- Don provided the committee with the following resources:
  - Rideshare coordinator contacts: [https://www.baltometro.org/sites/default/files/bmc\\_documents/general/bmc/metro-rideshare/rideshare\\_how-to-contact.pdf](https://www.baltometro.org/sites/default/files/bmc_documents/general/bmc/metro-rideshare/rideshare_how-to-contact.pdf) and
  - Commuter choice program: <http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/Commuter/Employers>
- The Policy Committee decided to focus transportation recommendations on the following topics in their 2019 report:
  - Rideshare coordinators,
  - Commuter tax credit,
  - Repository of transportation resources, including local resources and incentives, and
  - Target communication to frontline staff that serve customers.

### **III. Debrief on “Topics to Cover in 2019” Survey Results**

- The Policy Committee will focus the larger parts of upcoming meetings and develop recommendations on the following topics: transportation, measurable skill gains, benefits cliff, engaging employers around priority populations.
- The committee will touch on topics and may or may not develop recommendations on: master list of polices needed per WIOA regulation and/or that needs updates, regional and local plan guidance 2020, and common data collection system/Data and Dashboard Committee report-out.

### **IV. Good of the Order**

- Lauren Gilwee: The Chief Learning Officer position has been posted. This position will coordinate professional development for the workforce system and will be housed at DLLR.
- Kenneth Lemberg: The topic of Maryland Real ID has been all over the news.
- Jen Horton: Baltimore County Workforce Development Board’s meeting is coming up. They are creating a local data workforce platform and will share the link when available. The platform will report outcomes beyond compliance.
- Natalie Clements: The Policy Committee may explore virtual meetings in the future.