



**BALTIMORE
METROPOLITAN
COUNCIL**

Annual Report 2022

A LETTER FROM BMC

The last few years have shown that the people and communities of the Baltimore region are deeply resilient. We are reconnecting, healing and flourishing after a challenging and fragmented time. We at Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) are proud to take part in this work and excited to build on our momentum as we look ahead.

In many ways, the pandemic underscored the importance of regional planning. This year, we launched Resilience 2050, our region's next long range transportation plan, to help the region address short and long-term challenges such as the pandemic recovery, shifting demographic trends and climate change. We also adopted a four-year, \$4.26 billion Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to meet the needs of growth occurring across the region. Additionally, our staff worked tirelessly to support our local jurisdictions with real-time tools to track and analyze developments in economic and transportation activity.

BMC is uniquely-positioned to connect various quality-of-life improvement efforts across greater Baltimore. Our Cooperative Purchasing Committee saved consumers a record \$32.5 million this year alone, and a total of \$216.5 million since its inception in 2006. Our Project-Based Voucher Program is expanding affordable housing in the area. We also continue to support emergency preparedness in the region through our work with the Baltimore Urban Area Security Initiative.

The past year marked our return to in-person programming. In October of 2021, we led a group of Baltimore-area leaders to Philadelphia for our 4th Chesapeake Connect trip. And in May of 2022, participation in our annual Bike to Work Week rose toward pre-pandemic levels, with a third of participants joining for the first time.

Our thanks to BMC's board members and staff, as well as the agencies across the state collaborating to foster healthy growth in our communities. And thank you, reader. We are proud of the work represented in our 2022 Annual Report, and encourage you to stay connected with us as we continue serving as a resource for the region.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Kelly".

Mike Kelly
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry Glassman".

Barry Glassman
Harford County Executive
BMC Board Chair





ABOUT BMC

Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) works with the region's elected executives to identify mutual interests and develop collaborative strategies, plans and programs to help improve our quality of life and economic vitality. BMC supports local government by coordinating efforts in a range of policy areas, including transportation planning, community development, environmental planning, emergency preparedness and cooperative purchasing. This report highlights just some of our work from the last year. Use the QR codes on each page to learn more about our agency's many projects.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barry Glassman
*Harford County Executive,
BMC Board Chair*

Calvin Ball, III
*Howard County Executive,
Vice Chair*

Tony Bridges
State Delegate

William C. Ferguson
Senate President

James J. Moran
*Queen Anne's County
Commissioner*

John Olszewski, Jr.
Baltimore County Executive

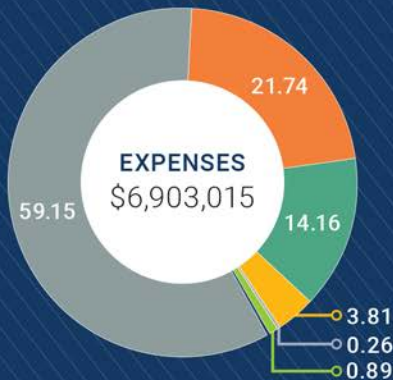
Steuart Pittman
Anne Arundel County Executive

J. Thomas Sadowski
*Maryland Economic
Development Corporation
Executive Director*

Brandon Scott
Baltimore City Mayor

Stephen Wantz
Carroll County Commissioner

Fiscal Year 2022 Audited Financials *All figures shown as percentages.*



- Salaries and benefits (\$4,083,253)
- Consulting services (\$1,500,525)
- General expenses (\$977,220)
- Local pass through (\$262,963)
- Other grants (\$17,733)
- Depreciation (\$61,321)



- Federal grants (\$5,482,062)
- State and local grants (\$587,894)
- Local jurisdiction dues (\$820,793)
- Other (\$140,690)



Learn more about BMC



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

We produce three federally-mandated transportation planning documents:

- **The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** is a two-year budget for ongoing projects incorporating federal funding. The FY 2023 UPWP Addendum is an update to the previous year's plan, which includes planning for an expansion of the Patapsco Regional Greenway, a regional crash data mapping program and a review of historic town center transportation issues. We will release a new UPWP next year.
- **The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** is a list of near-term, federally-funded transportation projects. The 2023-2026 TIP, approved by our board in July 2022, includes \$4.26 billion in proposed federal, state, toll revenue and local funding for maintaining, operating and expanding highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian networks.
- **The Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)** is a fiscally-constrained overview of major federally-funded capital projects, accounting for estimated costs and revenues, as well as socioeconomic, environmental and other factors which will affect the region's transportation needs in the coming decades. We are publishing a series of White Papers on these factors ahead of the launch next year of our next long-range plan. Given challenges such as pandemic recovery, shifting demographic trends and the impacts of climate change, our upcoming plan is titled *Resilience 2050: Adapting to the Challenges of Tomorrow*.

UPWP BUDGET FY 2023

\$8,901,750

SOURCES

- MDOT
- Jurisdiction
- FTA
- FHWA

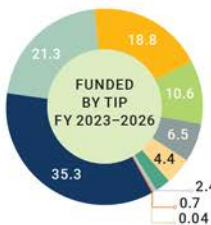
USAGE

- Jurisdictions
- Consultants
- BMC staff



WHAT DOES THE TIP FUND IN FY 2023-2026?

All figures shown as percentages



- Highway preservation
- Highway capacity
- Transit preservation
- Port
- Emission reduction strategy
- Commuter rail capacity
- Commuter rail preservation

- Environmental safety
- Enhancement program
- Miscellaneous
- Transit capacity
- Commuter rail capacity

Commuter Rail: Operating assistance, support equipment, fleet improvement, preservation, rehabilitation of facilities, and new rail facilities;

Emissions Reduction Strategies:

Ride-sharing, park and ride lots, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, traffic engineering, fleet improvement, system expansions, ITS;

Environmental Safety: Noise barriers, lighting, signs, wetland mitigation, scenic beautification, and reforestation;

Highway Capacity: New and widened roadways, bridges, and interchange ramps;

Highway Preservation: Road resurfacing and reconstruction, bridge repair, and bridge inspections;

Transit: New bus facilities, fleet improvement, operating assistance, support equipment, preservation, and rehabilitation.



Learn more about
transportation planning

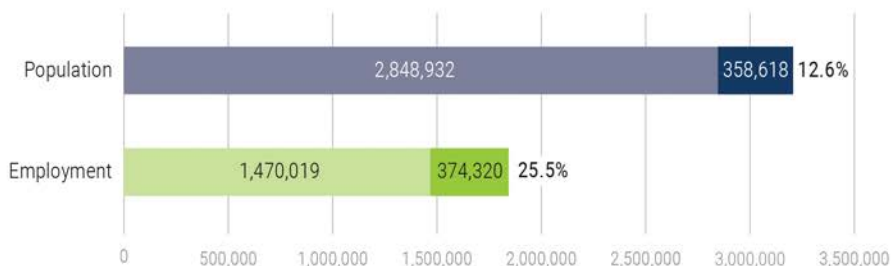


PLANNING TOOLS

In addition to our transportation planning efforts, we work tirelessly to develop tools and resources to help our jurisdictions better manage their own operations and planning. Amid dozens of initiatives overseen by our subcommittees, a few projects saw significant updates this past year, including:

- **Round 10 Cooperative Forecasts** These forecasts serve as inputs into the region's travel demand model, which helps our region and jurisdictions make informed transportation planning decisions. These forecasts show a 12.6% growth in population, 15.0% growth in households and 25.5% growth in employment across BMC's jurisdictions through 2050. Howard County leads the region in both population and household growth, at 24.8% and 34.5%, respectively, while Harford County leads employment growth at 61.3%.

Population and employment base (2020), growth (2020–2050), and percent growth



- **Traffic Safety Performance Targets** Every year, we update targets for decreasing fatal and serious injury incidents on our region's roads. With increasing trends, such as the rate of crash fatalities, we aim for a 2% annual reduction. Our traffic data and safety targets support congestion management and development of highway safety plans at the local and state level. We also factor these targets into our TIP and LRTP development, and lead initiatives to increase road safety across our region.
- **Climate Change Resource Guide** Climate change threatens to upend many of the core climate assumptions that local DPWs and DOTs rely on to plan, design and operate infrastructure and provide services to our communities. We're already feeling the impacts of flooding, sea level rise, heat and other extreme weather. This guide was prepared to provide a shared understanding of predicted changes in climate, identify the expected impacts on DPWs and DOTs and provide strategies to build a more resilient community in the near-term (2030s), medium-term (2050s) and long-term (2090s).



Learn more about the
Round 10 Forecast



HOUSING



Robinson Overlook, Howard County
CREDIT: HARKINS BUILDERS

BMC continued efforts to keep more Marylanders in their homes while addressing structural barriers to accessible and equitable housing in greater Baltimore. We collaborate with local jurisdictions to bolster eviction prevention and rental assistance for thousands of families.

The scope of these efforts is sweeping. This past year, BMC helped regional partners tackle pandemic-era challenges and prepare for a discussion with White House COVID Czar Gene Sperling on dispersal of federal COVID-19 rental assistance. We also worked with MD DHCD to improve investments in affordable housing and increase affirmative fair housing marketing. As always, we are helping to facilitate regional collaboration among local housing agencies seeking to help low-income families access economic opportunity.

In 2021, we celebrated the opening of Robinson Overlook, an affordable housing development in Columbia. BMC's Regional Project-Based Voucher Program has settled more than 30 families here and elsewhere. We will continue working with local housing authorities to award vouchers (including 20 in spring 2022), bringing these opportunities to more families.

"Robinson Overlook is an important example of how private and public entities can work together to ensure accessible housing is a priority. We are focused on building an inclusive and equitable community that provides housing for people of all incomes and abilities."

—HOWARD COUNTY
EXECUTIVE CALVIN BALL,
ROBINSON OVERLOOK
RIBBON CUTTING



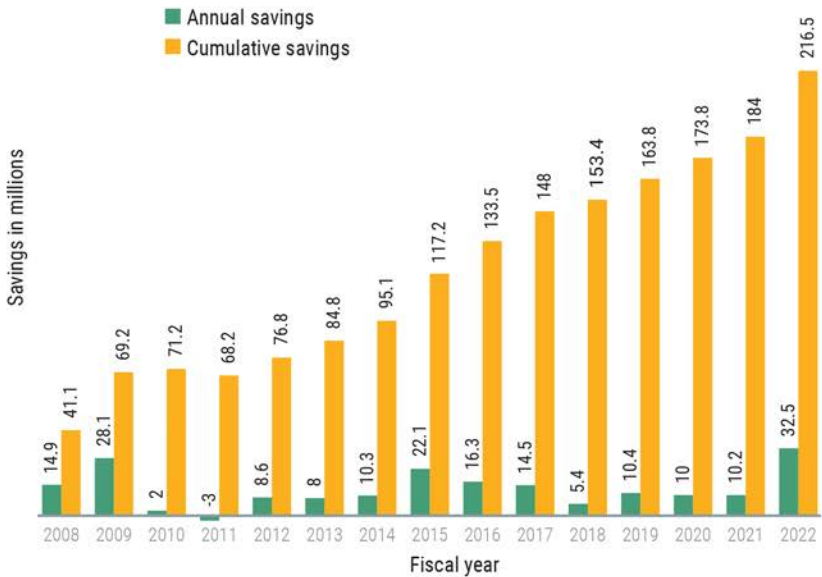
Learn more about housing



PURCHASING

Throughout the turmoil of the pandemic, BMC's Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee (BRPC) followed the principles of *building trust*, *building knowledge*, *building volume* to continue developing large-scale purchasing in Central Maryland and beyond.

BRPC participants can work together to overcome the challenges of a supply chain crunch, labor shortage and pricing uncertainty. Essential services like school bus repairs require larger investments of time and capital compared to a few years ago. By developing a regional contract database, co-organizing an annual small and minority-owned business regional procurement event and encouraging inter-agency cooperation, we help BRPC participants identify the best contract resources to meet their purchasing needs.



The BRPC's largest savings are generated by its Energy Board subcommittee, which largely consists of county and city governments, public schools and community colleges. The Energy Board spent \$107 million on gas and electricity in FY22 and was Baltimore Gas and Electric's largest purchaser. Compared to BGE's standard rates, the Energy Board saved \$32.5 million on electricity in FY22, and has saved \$216.5 million since starting to purchase electricity in 2006. These record savings will help cushion the surge in energy prices that Energy Board participants and communities across the region are facing.



Learn more about cooperative purchasing



CHESAPEAKE CONNECT OCTOBER 2021

BMC convened its 4th Chesapeake Connect trip in October 2021, bringing a group of leaders from greater Baltimore to Philadelphia to connect with and learn from colleagues in a peer city. The packed program included discussions with local leaders, visits to regional anchor institutions and explorations of Philadelphia's parks, historic sites and community centers.



Schuykill Banks, Philadelphia

Charm City shares many strengths and challenges with the City of Brotherly Love. Both boast vibrant cultural districts, world-class research institutions and a balance of bustling urban areas and sprawling suburbs. However, both cities struggle with the impacts of redlining, substance abuse crises and deep-rooted disparities in access to wealth, health and opportunity. The group learned about Philadelphia's recent investments in development and considered how to apply this learning to similar investments in the Baltimore region.

The Chesapeake Connect delegation came back together in-person after 2020's slated trip to Minneapolis was canceled due to the pandemic. Previous trip destinations have included New Orleans, Nashville and Cleveland.



Learn more about
Chesapeake Connect



BIKE TO WORK MAY 2022



"I encourage residents to consider biking as a viable option for commuting to work and wherever else you need to go. It's a good way to participate in a healthy lifestyle and build community with folks in your neighborhood, in your family and across the city."

—BALTIMORE CITY
MAYOR BRANDON SCOTT,
NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK
DAY PRESS CONFERENCE



ANNAPOLIS



TOWSON



BEL AIR

Greater Baltimore's 25th annual Bike to Work festivities concluded with almost 1800 registered participants, up from about 1200 in 2021, as more participants attended in-person events from Annapolis to Bel Air to Columbia to Westminster. About 650 registrants joined for the first time.

Since 1996, BMC has worked with regional partners to organize an annual Bike to Work celebration promoting public awareness of the health and environmental benefits of biking. The celebration continues to grow including an expanded mission to promote biking anywhere anytime.

An expanded Bike to Work Week allowed for riders to engage in more events, including a group ride from Druid Hill Lake to Lake Montebello and a Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Commission 'Safety Ride' at Eager Park. Nine Pit Stops across the region brought cyclists snacks and drinks, bike check-ups and ways to get involved with transportation planning. Free shirts were available all week at 25 locations.



Learn more about
Bike to Work



Baltimore Metropolitan Council
1500 Whetstone Way Suite 300
Baltimore, MD 21230

BMC MEMBER JURISDICTIONS



NEW!

We are launching a quarterly newsletter
to keep you informed about our work.



Scan to sign up