

COOPERATIVE FORECASTING GROUP

February 22, 2017

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300

Baltimore, Maryland 21230

10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Chairperson Robert Pipik, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A. M.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Following a round of introductions, Scott Graf moved the approval of the Cooperative Forecasting Group (CFG) minutes of the December 13, 2016 meeting. Richard Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. FORECAST SURVEY SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – JEFF BRONOW AND KUI ZHAO

Kui Zhao on behalf of the MPO survey sub-committee debriefed highlights of the survey results. Among those findings, each subject MPO used a “top down” methodology. She noted that after discussions with Jeff Bronow (not in attendance) she supported his recommendation that the CFG would not modify its forecast methodologies at this time. Specifically, the CFG would maintain the “bottom-up” forecast methodology. She agreed that past CFG forecasts were suitable for the BRTB requirements. These forecasts fell between forecasts produced by recognized independent consultancies (IHS Global and Woods and Poole Economics). Additionally, the CFG forecast did not vary significantly from Maryland Department of Planning projections. Dan Rooney, who also served on the subcommittee, added that the CFG should continue to test the consistency of its forecasts by comparing them with projections by outside sources and reviewing the underlying assumptions local jurisdictions adopted. After a lengthy discussion, Scott Graf moved and Richard Campbell seconded that the CFG continue the “bottom-up” methodology and maintain 3rd party data sets at the jurisdictional level as a resource for information and discussion of the reliability of local projections.

3. ROUND 9 UPDATE – CONTROL TOTAL STATUS – CFG MEMBERS

Scott Graf reported that Carroll County ran two scenarios for population and household projections. They have begun work on their employment numbers. Building permit activity is averaging 1/3 of 2007/2008 levels. As a result, he anticipates scaling back Round 8B population and household projections. Margret Kaii-Ziegler reported that Anne Arundel County completed its review and clean-

up of the ES202 file. They will discuss concerns about proprietorship numbers with Shawn following the meeting. Robert Pipik reported that Baltimore City, to account for the wide variability of data has taken a neighborhood-by-neighborhood approach. Additionally, they have under taken an analysis of methodologies and resulting trends identified by cohort cities in the eastern and mid central United States. Kui Zhao reported that Baltimore County has not begun work on the projections. The necessity to take a neighborhood approach has slowed progress. The recently adopted comprehensive zoning process will influence projections. Nevertheless, she anticipates meeting the April 30th deadline for submissions. Dan Rooney reported that Harford County population and household numbers remain stable and he anticipates only minor adjustments to their Round 8B forecast.

4. LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES IN THE BALTIMORE REGION – AL SUNDARA

Al Sundara, using Power Point, explained the Maryland Department of Planning (Planning) process for calculating the share of the civilian population over 16 years of age who are working or seeking employment (Labor Force Participation Rates (LFPR)). He noted that Planning plans to update its current 2014 version later this year. Planning employs a methodology similar to the model the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) uses to calculate the national LFPR. Planning develops LFPR for different age groups. Planning staff derive three data sets: #1. Based on national change, #2. Based on national percent change and #3. Average of #1. and #2. Household population is substituted for total population where jurisdictions have large group quarter populations. The projected LFPR's are applied to the projected population to derive the labor force for both males and females separately for different age groups. He then presented a series of graphs of LFPR's 2015 to 2040 for the state of Maryland, the Baltimore Region and each jurisdiction inside the Baltimore Region.

[Presentation: Labor Force Participation Rate, Alfred Sundara AICP]

5. NEW BUSINESS

Shawn Kimberly reported that Jeff Bronow had contacted him requesting a breakout of population by age sex and race for forecast years. The data set is an output of the Planning cohort component model. However, due to necessary model updates and staffing restrictions, Planning will be unable to provide this data until later this year. BMC is considering developing an in-house capability to produce this data and make it more readily available to CFG members. He asked if CFG members would support this approach and they responded in the affirmative.

NEXT MEETING – April 26, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Members

Elina Bravve - Baltimore City Department of Planning
Richard Campbell - Anne Arundel County Department of Planning
Steve Cohoon – Queen Anne’s County department of Planning
Chris Davis – Baltimore County Department of Planning
Robert Pipik - Baltimore City Department of Planning
Scott Graf – Carroll County Department of Planning
Dan Rooney – Harford County Department of Planning
Alfred Sundara – Maryland Department of Planning
Margaret Kaii-Ziegler - Anne Arundel County Department of Planning
Kui Zhao - Baltimore County Department of Planning

Staff and Guests

Charles Baber - Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Robert Berger - Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Victor Bonaparte - Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Shawn Kimberly - Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Blake Fisher - Baltimore Metropolitan Council