



Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force

Meeting #6: Draft Report Review

January 8, 2024

Today's Agenda

6:00 pm to 6:05 pm	Opening Remarks
6:05 pm to 6:15 pm	Summary of Recommendation
6:15 pm to 6:30 pm	Public comments
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm	Taskforce discussion
8:00 pm to 8:15 pm	Break
8:15 pm to 8:30 pm	Public comments
8:30 pm to 9:00 pm	Taskforce reconvenes, votes

Notes for Attendees

- During the consultant presentation and taskforce discussion, attendees are welcome to listen in and ask their questions in the public comments period.
- If you would like to comment or ask a question, please use the “raise hand” function. If you are connected by phone, please dial *9 to raise your hand.
- During the public comments period you will be invited by the Chair to unmute yourself in Zoom and share your comment or question.
- Please limit your comment or question to 2 minutes; you will be timed
- No follow up comments or questions beyond that time, please
- If the Task Force can provide you a response they will do so after you finish speaking
- All comments will be noted and posted the website

Task Force Meeting Schedule

Taskforce Meeting #1: Existing Organization & Agreements

Wednesday, September 13 at 6:00pm

Baltimore County, Randallstown Community Center

Taskforce Meeting #2: Governance Models

Wednesday, October 4 at 6:00pm

Baltimore City, Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center

Taskforce Meeting #3: Governance Models & Preliminary Fiscal Analysis

Wednesday, October 18 at 6:00pm

Baltimore County, CCBC Essex

Taskforce Meeting #4: Final Fiscal Analysis

Wednesday, November 1 at 6:00pm

Baltimore City, Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries

Taskforce Meeting #5: Summary & Recommendation

Thursday, November 16 at 6:00pm

Virtual

Taskforce Meeting #6: Draft Report Review

Monday, January 8 at 6:00pm

Virtual

Taskforce Meeting #7: Final Recommendation Report

Thursday, January 25 at 6:00pm

Virtual

Objectives and purpose

Task Force's Objectives (HB 843)

- Assess alternative governance structures that will ensure a safe, efficient, equitable and affordable water and wastewater systems serving the Baltimore region
- Optimize customer service, system reliability and interjurisdictional collaboration
- Recommend the governance model most suited for supporting the Baltimore region

HOUSE BILL 843

MS, CS, L6 3lr2442
CF SB 880

EMERGENCY BILL

By: Delegates Smith, Ebersole, Addison, Allen, Amprey, Attar, Bhandari, Boyce, Cardin, Conaway, Edelson, Embry, Forbes, Guyton, Jackson, R. Lewis, Mangione, McCaskill, Metzgar, Pasteur, Ruth, Stein, White, and Young

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2023
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 6, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force to
4 study approaches to water and wastewater governance in the Baltimore region, and
5 generally relating to water supply and wastewater treatment in the Baltimore
6 region.

7 Preamble

8 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland granted general authority to
9 Baltimore City to develop a water supply system within and outside of its borders, impound
10 and withdraw water from the Gunpowder River, the Patapsco River, and the Little
11 Gunpowder River, and withdraw water from the Susquehanna River, and

12 WHEREAS, The water supply system developed by Baltimore City has supported
13 the development and expansion of adjacent regional counties, and

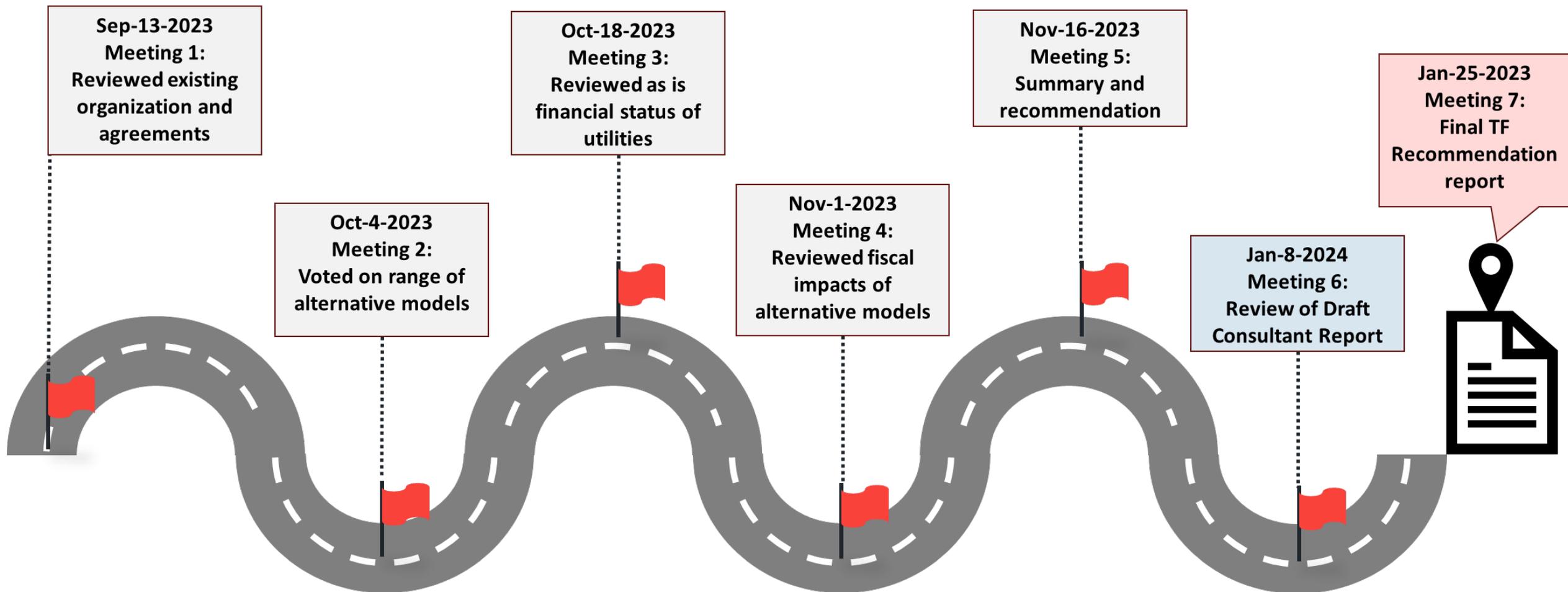
14 WHEREAS, Chapter 539 of 1924 established a Metropolitan District within
15 Baltimore County authorizing Baltimore County to construct, maintain, and operate
16 wastewater systems within the Metropolitan District and required Baltimore City to
17 extend the water supply lines within the Metropolitan District; and

18 WHEREAS, Chapter 729 of 1939 authorized Baltimore County to enter into

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



The Road Map to Making a Governance Recommendation



Summary of Recommendations (1/2)

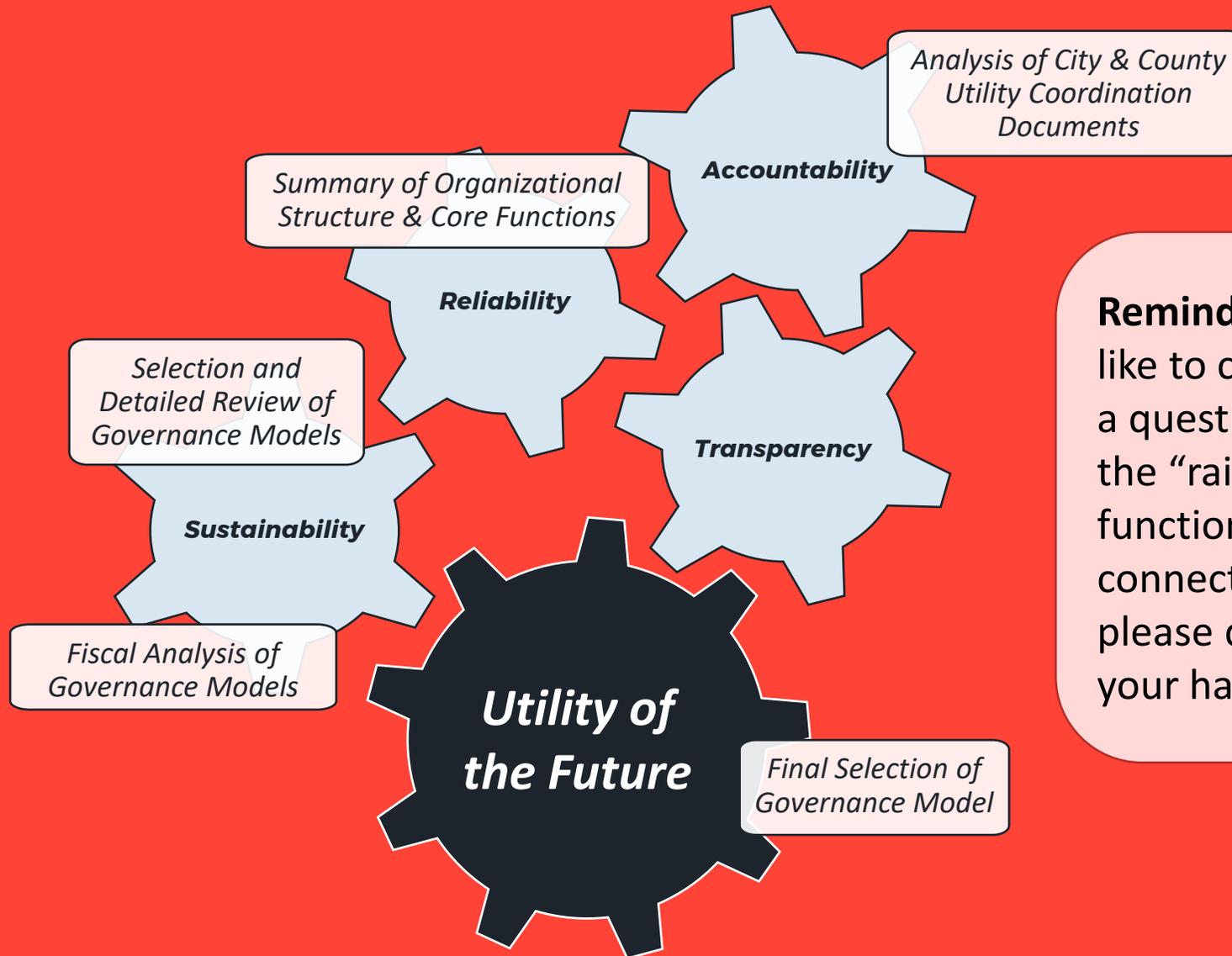
Overall recommendation is for the Task Force to select Model E, Special District or Authority as the preferred option AND request the City and County to commit sufficient resources to resolve the threshold issues specified in the Draft Report

- Model E is the most common model among the cities and regions that the Consultant researched.
- In terms of the areas for improvement highlighted by the New Gen report and HB843, Model E holds the holds the greatest promise as it provides:
 - A blank slate to reorganize and improve operations to address high turnover, improve interjurisdictional coordination, document standard procedures, and thereby benefit from efficiency gains
 - The potential for economies of scale in employee recruitment and greater flexibility to hire new and retain existing employees with market competitive salaries and benefits as well as training and skill development opportunities
 - The ability to overcome institutional barriers and boost coordination needed to improve billing and collections, capital planning, emergency management, as well as provide long-term rate stability.

Summary of Recommendations (2/2)

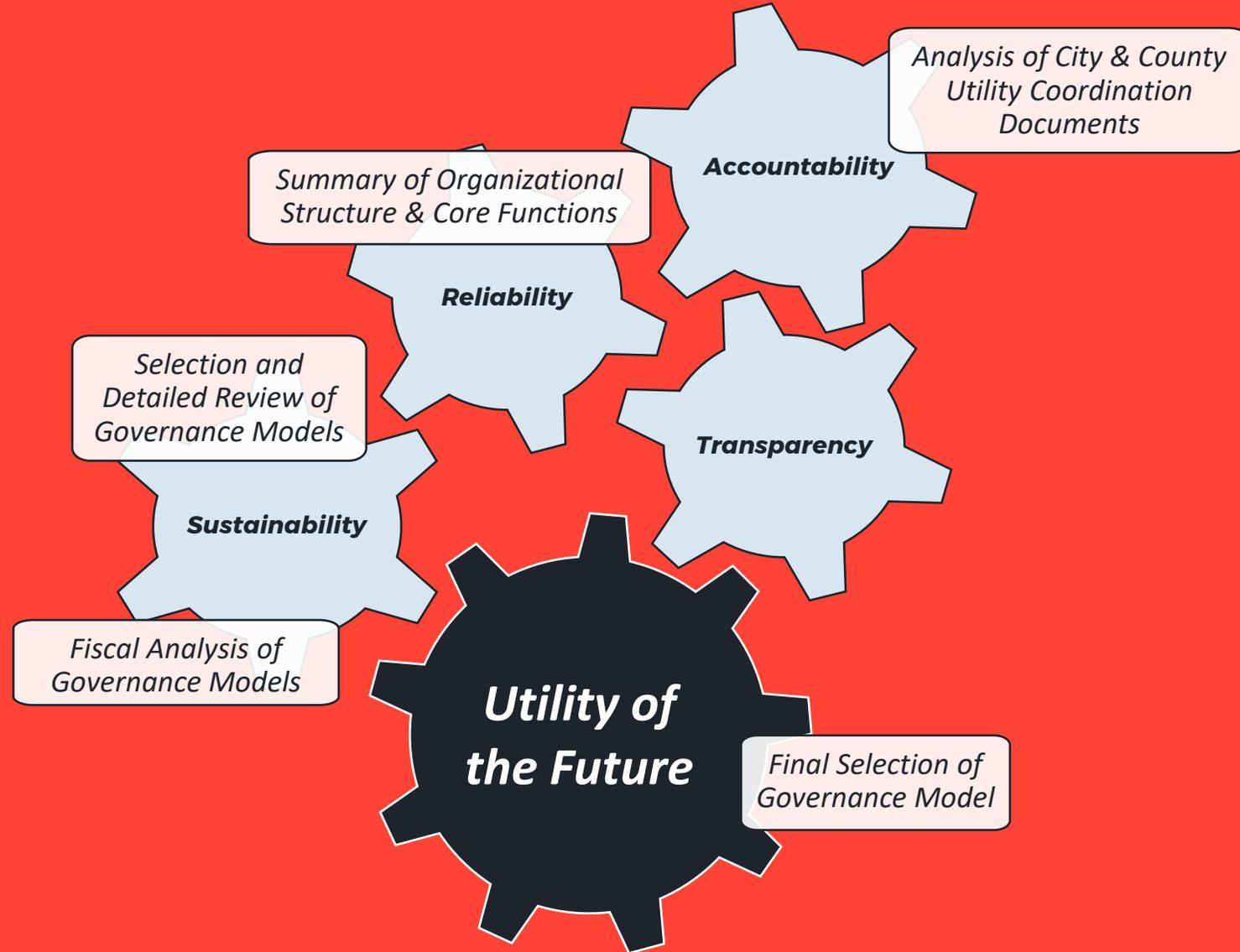
- However, delivering the benefits of Model E presents significant risks, in terms of economic and community issues, that need to be thoroughly evaluated during implementation:
 - Determination on whether debt refinancing will be needed
 - Resolution of how pensions will be transitioned to the new entity
 - Determination of policies and strategies for asset lease and facilities use
 - Development of an equity assessment
- Therefore, the recommended approach to transition to Model E focuses on key elements:
 - Creation of a dedicated, professional Work Group and a City-County Water Advisory Committee
 - Further evaluation of the threshold issues by the Work Group and Committee
 - Improvement of the existing governance structure while further evaluation of a transition to Model E is conducted (which could take several years)

Public Comment



Reminder: If you would like to comment or ask a question, please use the “raise hand” function. If you are connected by phone, please dial *9 to raise your hand.

Taskforce Discussion



Task Force Meeting #7

Taskforce Meeting #7:

Final Recommendation Report

Thursday, January 25 at 6:00pm

Virtual



Task Force Next Steps

By December 15, 2023: Draft Consultant Report released

January 8, 2024: Meeting #6 to review Draft Consultant Report occurs

January 25, 2024: Meeting #7 occurs
(final approval of alternative governance model and adoption of Final TF Recommendation report)

February 2024 onwards: Transition planning begins

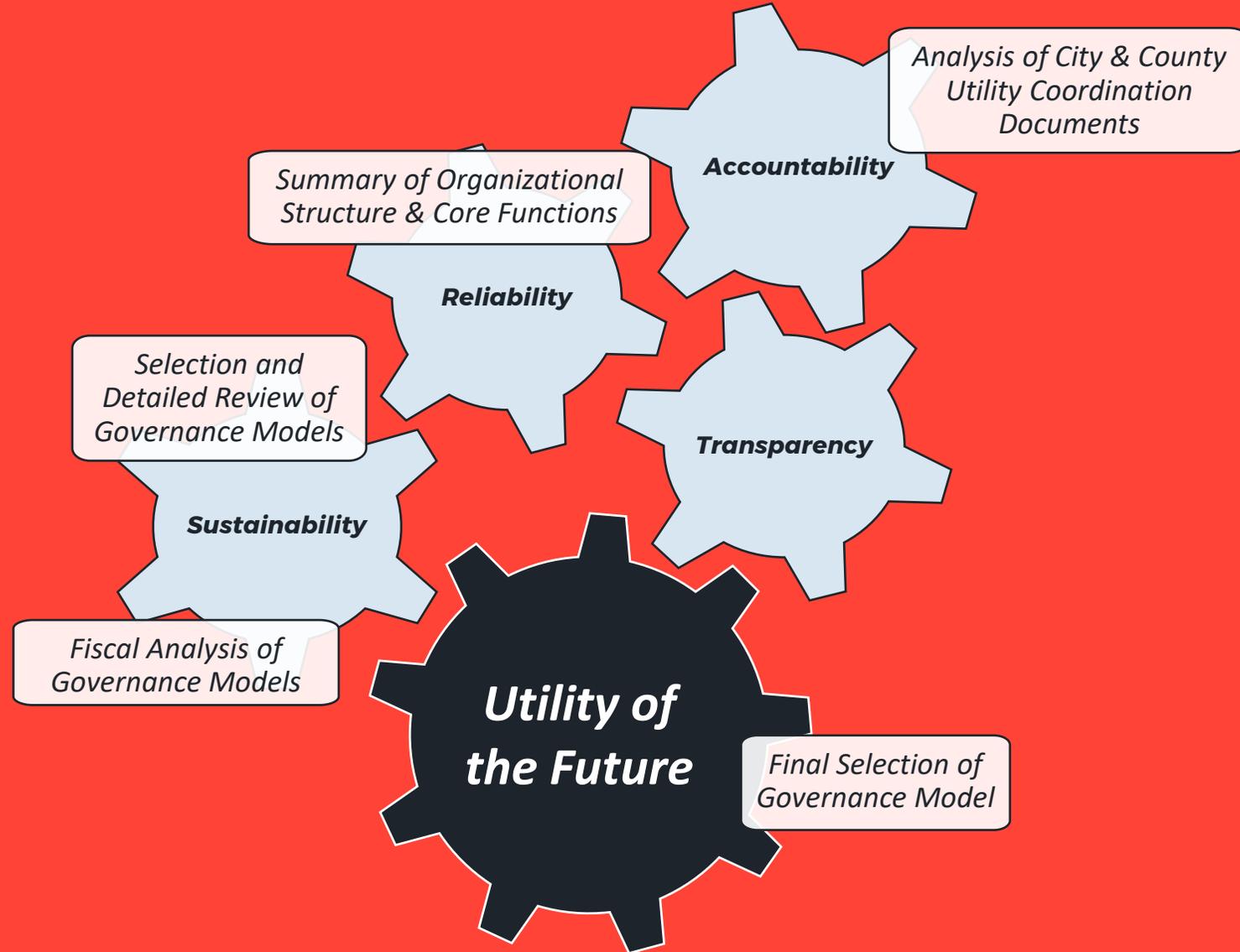
January 5, 2024: Public comment period for Draft Consultant Report closes

By January 30, 2024: Recommendation goes to Mayor of Baltimore City, the County Executive of Baltimore County, the Governor, and the General Assembly

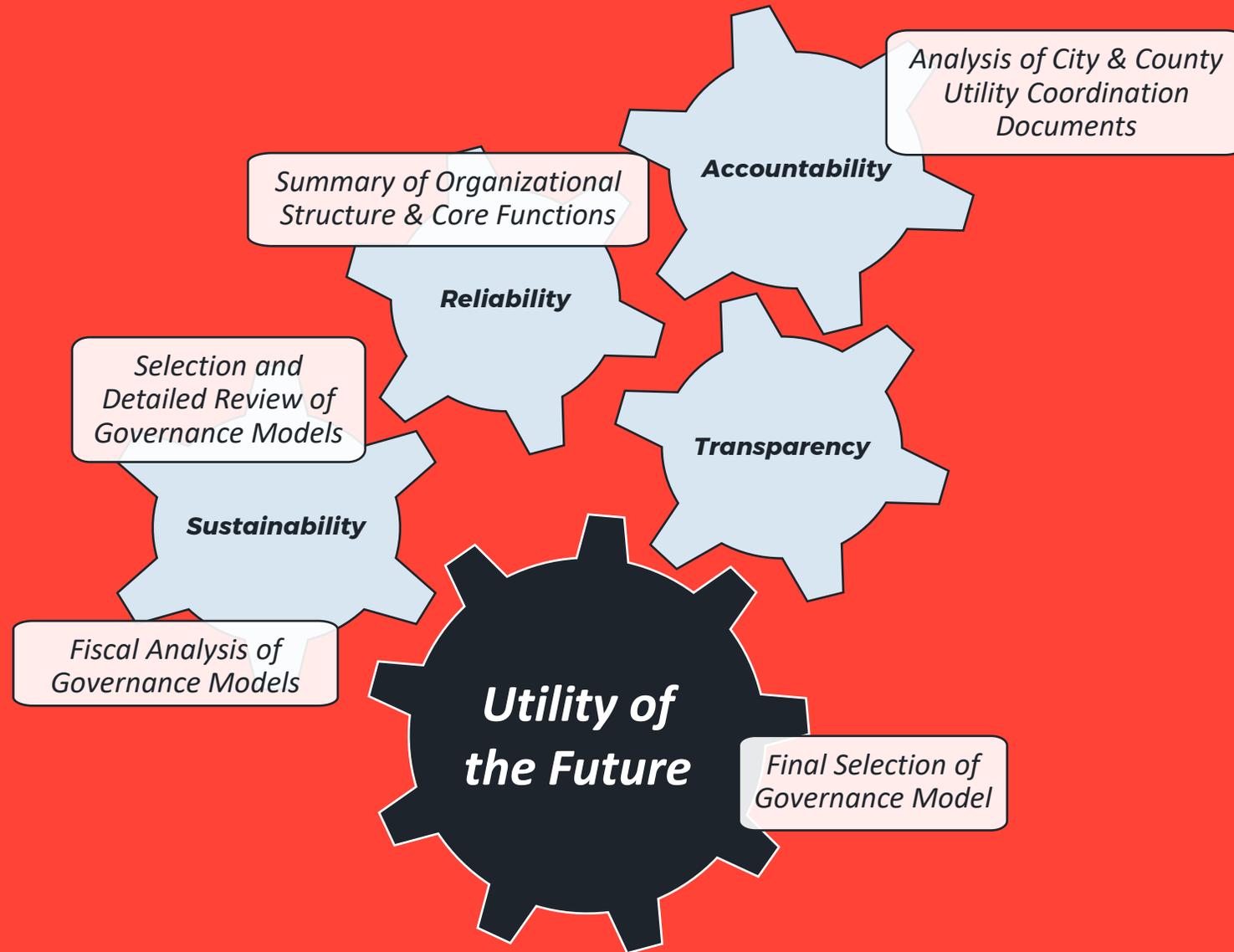
Break until 8:15 P.M.

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Public Comment



Taskforce Vote



Taskforce Reconvenes

