

# FY 2021



National Capital Region  
**Transportation Planning Board**

**Work Program Progress Report**

**October 2020**

**FY 2021**

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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The TPB approved its FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) in March 2020, and amended it in July 2020. The TPB Work Program Progress Report provides a short summary of each activity for the month of October. In addition, this report concludes with status updates reflecting timelines for all ongoing program plans and projects. Please reference the 2021 UPWP for details concerning the approved budget, and work description for each task. The following graphic identifies all the activities in the UPWP.

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<b>5. TRAVEL FORECASTING</b> 5.1 Network Development 5.2 Model Development	<b>11. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b> 11.1 District of Columbia 11.2 Maryland 11.3 Virginia 11.4 WMATA
<b>6. MOBILE EMISSIONS PLANNING</b> 6.1 Air Quality Conformity 6.2 Mobile Emissions Analysis	<b>CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING PROGRAM (CASP)</b>

Task 1	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING	\$1,085,010	\$103,298	31%	31

**1. LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

***1.1 Long-Range Transportation Plan***

Staff continued onboarding an employee who started work in July and prepared for another new employee who will start work on November 2, 2020. Staff also participated in the virtual AMPO conference from October 27-29.

Given Covid-19 implications, staff that manages long-range transportation plan activities continued to work with the public participation team and determined that all public participation activities should be planned for social distancing or easily modified to be conducted virtually. The survey that LRTP staff developed in coordination with public participation staff was closed near the end of the month, successfully achieving the required responses to enable data to be statistically significant for the region, as well as for 10 sub areas of the region. Staff is working with the supporting consultant to develop an outline for the report on this survey.

Staff finalized the approach and schedule for conducting virtual Focus Groups. The team also began talking about a parallel virtual activity that would be open to the public, anticipated for the summer of 2021. Staff continued to discuss and determine how to best use the new Project Info Trak system as a tool to support the LRTP's two comment periods. Staff are considering Title VI implications for all communications and activities.

Building on the approved schedule and scope, staff continued refining the detailed schedule and workplan and began to implement the workplan. These tools are being used during regular meetings and to develop the next quadrennial plan update that will be submitted for approval in CY 2022.

Staff updated the revised draft technical input solicitation guide and appendix for the next Plan (and TIP) following the review by the STWG and TPB Technical Committee. Staff updated the document to enhance the question associated with safety goals and updated questions to incorporate the COG 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan targets. Staff began planning for a December 2020 Board kickoff for the LRTP update, in tandem with the anticipated approval of the Technical Input Solicitation document by the Board.

Staff developed an outline for a new Visualize 2045 (update) website and took steps to contract with a graphic design firm to cost-effectively build out this new website. Staff expects to kickoff this project in November 2020.

Staff continued developing the plan's outline and worked in completing an information matrix that will be used to strategically draft a succinct, highly communicative, and federally compliant plan that incorporates best practices for LRTPs. The LRTP outline matrix is designed to document information and approaches to have clear messaging in speaking to equity and other TPB priorities and for federal compliance documentation. It tracks where new information can be incorporated and where TPB and COG planning activities and regional strategies can be documented. The staff will produce text in a compelling manner that helps the region visualize our future. Staff developed communications materials and scheduled a cross departmental coordination meeting to elevate internal coordination to ensure TPB planning efforts are integrated and reflected in the plan development.

Staff continued coordinating with other DTP staff to conduct a CAV webinar series related to CAV bicycle and pedestrian planning and infrastructure enhancements.

Staff completed contracting for a new task order that will document regional climate resiliency/stormwater planning and identify regional strategies for resiliency/stormwater management through transportation projects and program. Staff coordinated with COG to ensure alignment of working activities, to share information, and to build in efficiencies into the completion of this work. This work will build on the work done for the COG 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan, as it relates to transportation.

Staff continue to explore and test performance measures that could help to address TPB's policy priority focus areas.

Staff continued a project to develop infographics and brief videos to communicate about the TPB, Visualize 2045, system performance, and the Aspirational Initiatives. 3 infographics are complete, and the three motion graphics are nearing completion. The videos will be translated into Spanish.

**1.2 Federal Compliance**

The Fredericksburg MPO hired a new Transportation Planning Director who is starting in November, and a meeting will be scheduled to introduce them to the MOU update, and to the TPB staff.

**1.3 Policy Board-Directed Activities**

Staff completed the activities associated with TPB Resolution R10-2019 which directed staff to conduct activities related to the implementation of three of the aspirational initiatives. There are no board-directed activities under this task at this time.

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Task 2	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	\$438,483	\$19,640	17%	33

**2. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**2.1 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Staff began development of a work plan to develop the FY 2023-2026 TIP.

**2.2 TIP Database Support**

The consultant continued to work with TPB staff to implement the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan module, including data validation and setting field value parameters. TPB staff worked with consultant staff to determine what tools would be available to use during the public comment periods from Project InfoTrak's publicly searchable side. EcoInteractive worked with the interagency development team to determine the nature of the relationship between LRTP project records and TIP project records. Work continued on the manual mapping of projects for VDOT.

Task 3	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
PLANNING ELEMENTS	\$2,952,916	\$129,894	21%	35

**3. PLANNING ELEMENTS**

**3.1 Performance-Based Planning**

Staff coordinated with public transportation providers on the draft of Transit Safety targets and revised the targets as needed. The Citizens Advisory Committee was briefed on the targets. A report on the transit safety targets was drafted, presented to the TPB Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee, and revised for the November TPB Technical Committee meeting.

Staff continued discussion on the content and work items regarding PBPP for the 2022 version of the Visualize 2045 long range transportation plan, including review of the LRTP Project Description Form.

**3.2 Congestion Management Process**

Staff continued compiling information on impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on roadway traffic, transit ridership, and other aspects of transportation for presentation at future subcommittee meetings, and as part of a multi-sectoral analysis of pandemic impacts for future presentation to the TPB and other stakeholders.

CMP data compilation and analysis continued toward future editions of the National Capital Region Congestion Report quarterly website “dashboard”.

**3.3 Systems Performance, Operations, and Technology Planning**

The TPB Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) Webinar #3: “Pedestrians, Bicyclists, and Infrastructure: Interactions” was organized and conducted on October 30, 2020, featuring subject matter experts, including a senior staff person from the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, discussing pedestrian and bicyclist impacts of that city’s many CAV deployments, as well as national-level consultant experts. Planning for future TPB Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAV) webinars continued.

Staff attended or participated in the following October 2020 virtual events that support current and future Systems Performance, Operations, and Technology Planning efforts:

- MDOT-SHA CAV Working Group meeting, October 14
- Intelligent Transportation Society of Maryland Annual Meeting, October 21
- Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations Annual Meeting, October 26 to 29
- Virginia Regional Multi-Modal Mobility Program Stakeholder Advisory Group Summit, October 29.

**3.4 Transportation Emergency Preparedness Planning**

The virtual October 14, 2020 meeting of the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Committee (R-ESF 1) was organized and conducted, to discuss current regional transportation emergency preparedness issues. Discussions continued regarding Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coalition (MATOC) and transportation agency response actions due to COVID-19.

**3.5 Transportation Safety Planning**

Staff developed a set of draft regional highway safety targets applying the same methodology used in previous years.

Staff developed a proposed structure for the Regional Safety Program.

The regularly scheduled October 13 meeting of the Transportation Safety Subcommittee was organized and conducted. The agenda included preliminary analysis of 2020 traffic fatality rates, a review of Montgomery County's actions to encourage public participation during the COVID-19 pandemic, and review of the status of the regional safety program.

For the Analysis of Regional Roadway Safety Outcomes study, TPB and consultant staff finalized the contents of a safety data training session and discussed potential dates for the training.

Staff accepted a nomination to be a board member of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program.

### ***3.6 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning***

At the Capital Trails Coalition steering committee on October 27 staff provided comments on a proposed trails impact report and discussed options for expanding the CTC's trail network to match the footprint of the TPB's National Capital Trail Network.

Staff briefed the Northern Virginia Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Technical Advisory Committee on the progress of the regional Street Smart pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign at their October 26 meeting and also participated in the October 27 meeting of the Virginia Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

### ***3.7 Regional Public Transportation Planning***

The Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee met on October 27, remotely. The agenda included a presentation on the Maryland statewide transit plan, followed by several TPB staff items, including: regional information gathered regarding transit operations and COVID-19, an update on TPB's TLC program and the transit access focus areas, a regional transit UPWP technical assistance update, detailed transit assumptions and the inclusion of transit in the Visualize 2045 – 2022 plan, and an update on the PBPP transit safety targets.

Staff worked to collect responses on transit service during the recovery from the pandemic through a questionnaire sent to the MATOC Transit Task Force. Discussions were held internally and with the Greater Washington Partnership on coordinating surveys to improve useful information. TPB staff worked on the 2019 State of Public Transportation report. Staff discussed public transportation for the 2022 version of the Visualize 2045 long range transportation plan.

Staff conducted interviews for the vacant Transportation Planner II position.

TPB staff participated in a MATOC Transit Task Force calls and discussed options for assisting the region's transit providers in coping with the pandemic and the recovery of transit systems. Staff attended a WMATA JCC meeting and a I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit/TDM Stakeholder Meeting.

### ***3.8 Freight Planning***

Staff coordinated with DRPT staff on their October 2 presentation to the Technical Committee on the status of the Long Bridge project.

Staff continued work to identify and geolocate significant truck trip generators, including the locations of gravel and aggregate mines, both within the TPB modeling area and in surrounding states.

Staff coordinated with Walmart officials to schedule a future presentation to the MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee on Walmart's sustainability initiatives.

### ***3.9 Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination Program Planning***

The Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program is an operational partnership of the region's major transportation agencies, funded outside the UPWP, but with certain planning support activities provided by TPB staff under this task.

The regularly scheduled virtual October 9 meeting of the MATOC Steering Committee was organized and conducted, continuing discussion of communications, coordination, and Traffic Incident Management topics, as well as impacts of COVID-19.

The regularly scheduled virtual October 13 meeting of the MATOC Severe Weather Working Group was organized and conducted, continuing planning for winter weather response coordination.

An October 28 virtual meeting of the MATOC Transit Task Force was organized and conducted, to continue to coordinate on COVID-19's impacts on transit operations.

An October 29 virtual meeting of the MATOC Information Systems Subcommittee was organized and conducted, for coordination on technical systems that support MATOC and related operations.

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Task 4	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	\$1,018,896	\$131,434	34%	41

#### **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

##### ***4.1 Public Participation and Outreach***

The final draft of the 2020 update to the TPB's Public Participation Plan was out for comment between August 25 and October 9. In mid-October, staff revised the plan to respond to public comments. The final plan was approved by the TPB on October 21. The new plan for the first time includes a Staff Guide that describes steps that TPB staff should consider and potentially undertake to integrate public engagement activities into the work of the department. The document also includes a Public Guide, which provides a succinct summary of how residents of the region can get involved in the TPB's work.

At the end of September, the TPB launched a region-wide public opinion survey on transportation. In October, two additional mailings were sent to randomly selected participants who were asked to fill out the survey online using unique codes. The survey is examining broad challenges and opportunities related to regional transportation. It will be statistically significant and will provide input for a range of TPB planning activities, including the 2022 update to Visualize 2045, the region's long-range transportation plan. Consultant support was secured to assist with the survey's design, implementation, and analysis. The survey closed at the end of October. It received 2,400 responses, which greatly exceeded the target of 2,000. The responses also generally met the targets for 10 subregional (largely county-level) geographies. Eight of these geographies exceeded the response targets, while the responses for the other two geographies reached more than 90% of the target numbers.

Staff continued to refine recommendations for a restructuring of the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee. The restructuring will include a revision in the membership structure, change from one-year terms to a two-year terms, and a name change. Staff recommendations were presented to the TPB in October. Based on input received, staff modified its proposal in preparation for final TPB approval in November.

Staff continued planning for qualitative research that will complement the opinion survey that is underway. These activities are expected to feature 8-10 focus groups, which will be held in January and February of 2021. In October, staff procured consultant support to provide assistance in securing participants. Staff also began planning for the approach and content for the focus groups.

The 2020 CAC met for an online-only meeting on Thursday, October 15. At the meeting the committee discussed updating the CAC, transit safety targets, the regional travel survey, and the Participation Plan update.

## **4.2 Communications**

The following stories were featured in TPB News and COG news releases:

*Less daylight can lead to more pedestrian deaths*

October 1, 2020

*4 questions about the TPB's Regional Travel Survey*

October 13, 2020

*TPB News readers, who are you?*

October 13, 2020

*The TPB is conducting a public opinion survey*

October 13, 2020

*Survey provides detailed look at 17M+ trips taken per day by area residents*

October 21, 2020

*TPB Analysis: Traffic volumes are rebounding, but not yet at pre-COVID levels*

October 27, 2020

*How does the TPB's Regional Travel Survey help us understand equity?*

October 27, 2020

*A brief recap of the October TPB meeting*

October 27, 2020

Throughout the period, TPB staff maintained an active presence on social media.

Staff updated pages on the COG website related to transportation. Staff also began planning for updates of the website.

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Task 5	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
TRAVEL FORECASTING	\$3,846,492	\$208,957	20%	43

## **5. TRAVEL FORECASTING**

### **5.1 Network Development**

Staff developed a prototype for a unified geodatabase system that supports transportation networks in both Cube TRNBUILD and Public Transport (PT) formats. Staff created a memo providing instructions for the internal testing of the prototype. Network development staff tested the prototype and provided feedback. Staff made updates to the prototype based on the feedback.

Staff presented a memo to the TPB Technical Committee and the Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee listing network coding details for transit projects in the 2020 Amendment to Visualize 2045 and asked for updates to the assumptions regarding inputs for the upcoming 2022 Update to Visualize 2045.

Staff coordinated in a multi-team review of traffic count locations in the travel demand model network. This included review of the accuracy of one-way and two-way coding on streets in the District of Columbia.

Staff began development of the bus fare matrix for the upcoming air quality conformity analysis of the 2022 Update to Visualize 2045. Staff compared 2019 and current 2020 fares to determine which fare values had been affected by COVID and proceeded to develop the bus fare matrix using the most up-to-date fares that do not reflect COVID-related reductions.

Staff continued coordination with the consultant regarding export features in the Project InfoTrak (PIT) database. Staff is working to assure that the exported project information matches that in the air quality conformity inputs table from the 2020 Amendment to Visualize 2045.

Staff continued development of base transit network files, reflecting service current to December 2019, for use in the upcoming air quality conformity analysis of the 2022 update of Visualize 2045. The work involves downloading and processing 2019 base-year General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) data for all transit providers in the modeled area. For those providers whose information is not included in the GTFS database, staff researches online schedules and manually gathers service data.

Staff completed development of a spreadsheet listing time-of-day number of lanes on roads in the District of Columbia. The spreadsheet will be used to update the regional networks to reflect parking restrictions and other daily lane variations.

### ***5.2 Model Development, and Support***

The Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (TFS) meets in odd-numbered months. The next meeting is scheduled for November 20. In October, staff prepared meeting highlights from the September 18 meeting, began developing the agenda for the November 20 meeting, and selected meeting dates for 2021:

- January 15, 2021 (third Friday)
- March 26, 2021 (forth Friday)
- May 21, 2021 (third Friday)
- July 16, 2021 (third Friday)
- September 24, 2021 (forth Friday)
- November 19, 2021 (third Friday)

#### Production-use, travel demand forecasting model: Generation 2/Ver. 2.3

Staff compiled year-2019 observed daily vehicles-miles-of-travel (VMT) data by Federal Functional Classification (FFC) and is in the process of documenting this work. This data will be compared to the 2019 simulated VMT data for model development and model application purposes.

#### Developmental, travel demand forecasting model: Generation 2/Ver. 2.3 and Ver. 2.4

In preparation for a Version 2.4 Travel Model transmittal package, staff continued updating the model user's guide. Staff set up and conducted a year-2014 model run using the Ver. 2.4 Travel Model with a toll-setting process, summarized highway and transit validation statistics, and documented the findings in a memo dated October 29. The Ver. 2.4 Model is expected to be available for release to the public during the first quarter of 2021.

As part of the investigation of Cube Public Transport (PT) in the Gen2 Model, staff conducted year-2007 and year-2014 model runs with the proposed PT fare specifications, calibrated the Nested-Logit Mode Choice (NLMC) Model, performed the year-2014 transit validation, and documented the findings in a technical memorandum dated October 22. This work concluded the year-long investigation of PT in the Gen2 Model, which was conducted as exploratory work with the idea that it could help the consultant developing the Gen3 Model, where PT is expected to be used. The

forthcoming Ver. 2.4 Model will not use the PT path-building module, sticking, instead, with the existing TRNBUILD path-building module.

### Developmental travel demand forecasting model: Generation 3

Regarding the consultant-assisted project to develop the next-generation travel demand forecasting model, known as the Gen3 Model:

- Staff held two regular check-in meetings with RSG and BMG, the consultants on the Gen3 Model development project (October 13 and 22).
- In support of the Gen3 Model data needs, as outlined in an RSG memo (last updated on October 12), staff collected and processed various datasets, such as:
  - Item #14: Staff proposed 2018 transit crowding specifications for Metropolitan Washington. Staff documented the proposed specifications in a draft memo, which should be finalized in early November.
  - Item #18: Staff requested the geocoded 2018 VRE Master Agreement Survey and 2016 MARC Origin-Destination Survey data and transmitted the new data files to the consultant.
  - Item #22: Staff requested and processed the 2018 average weekday Metrorail ridership by station and by line. Staff shared the preliminary findings with the consultants. As a follow-up, staff requested the 2018 Metrorail hour-by-hour origin-destination volume data.
- Staff continued to study the Python scripts for the ActivitySim software and the basics for NumPy and Pandas.
- Consultant deliverables:
  - Freedman, Joel, and Binny Paul. “MWCOC Gen3 Model Data Items.” Memorandum, October 12, 2020.
  - Paul, Binny. “MWCOC PopulationSim.” Webinar presented at the MWCOC, RSG, BMG bi-weekly check-in meeting regarding the Gen3 Travel Model, October 13.
  - Freedman, Joel. “Transit On-Board Data Analysis.” presented at the MWCOC, RSG, BMG bi-weekly check-in meeting regarding the Gen3 Travel Model, October 22.

### Other activities

Staff serviced four data requests: One was from a local agency and three were from consultants. The requested data included the Ver. 2.3.78 Travel Model, and year-2045 selected input and output files, in PT format, from a developmental travel model (for Arlington County).

Staff attended a meeting on October 2, hosted by the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) regarding long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on travel behavior and travel forecasting.

Staff attended a presentation of transit accessibility software, by a firm called Remix, on October 13.

Staff met with senior COG/TPB management and MDOT staff on October 16 to discuss media comments/questions on the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) report.

Staff attended a webinar “What Counts in Mobility? Rethinking Transportation Modeling” on October 21, hosted by the Eno Center for Transportation.

Some staff participated, on October 27 and 28, in mandatory training regarding the use of federal funds: “Administrative Requirements and Cost Principles for Federal Awards.”

Task 6	Budget	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
MOBILE EMISSIONS PLANNING	\$1,835,592	\$106,288	27%	45

**6. MOBILE EMISSIONS PLANNING**

**6.1 Air Quality Conformity**

Staff continued to regularly attend coordination meetings related to scheduling tasks for the 2022 quadrennial update of the region’s Long-Range Transportation Plan, including the air quality conformity analysis, system performance, and environmental justice analysis. Staff continued to participate in the TPB Performance Analysis Advisory Group and Scenario Planning Project Oversight Committee and provide feedback to the study team.

Staff finalized the documentation of the recommendations for the toll-setting process for the Version 2.4 Travel Demand Model, which will be used in the next air quality conformity cycle.

In accordance with TPB consultation procedures, staff forwarded to the consultation agencies and public advisory committees the October meeting agenda and a summary memo regarding the monthly TPB meeting and air quality conformity consultation elements.

DTP staff gave a presentation about the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee’s Technical Advisory Committee (MWAQC-TAC, item #4). The presentation included general information about the CMAQ program, CMAQ Performance Based Planning requirements, and details about CMAQ-funded projects in the Washington region.

**6.2 Mobile Emissions Analysis**

COG’s Department of Environmental Programs (DEP) staff provided an ozone season summary and an analysis of impacts of COVID-19 restrictions on traffic and air quality to MWAQC-TAC (item #2). Under the same item, DEP staff also discussed the implications of the current ozone season on future ozone planning.

DEP and DTP staff continued to coordinate on the selection of the milestone year (2019 versus 2020) for obtaining and processing the vehicle registration data from the Virginia, District of Columbia and Maryland departments of motor vehicles.

DTP staff continued to work with DEP staff, member jurisdictions, and state air agencies to facilitate various aspects of air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) planning activities. In support of the climate action planning, DTP staff worked jointly with DEP staff on the transportation section of the draft 2030 Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan.

DTP management and staff, along with DEP staff and COG’s executive office representatives, coordinated activities with our members regarding the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI).

In preparation for the TPB meeting and the 2020 TPB Work Session on Climate Change Planning in the National Capital Region, scheduled for October 21, DTP staff presented an overview of the upcoming work session and briefed the TPB Technical Committee on the proposed interim 2030 GHG reduction goal (item #4). DTP staff finalized the preparation of materials and hosted the work session, which included briefings on the 2030 Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan, including the proposed interim 2030 GHG reduction goal, state DOT perspectives, and TCI. Finally, DTP staff prepared the relevant materials and asked the TPB to affirm the interim 2030 greenhouse gas reduction goal of reducing the 2030 GHG emissions by 50 percent below the 2005 levels, which the board did through Resolution R8-2021 (item #8).

In response to a request by the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA’s) Volpe Center staff, DTP staff finalized a beta test of the FHWA's Database for Air Quality and Noise Analysis (DANA) Tool and the related TNMAide tool, and reported the findings to the Volpe Center staff.

In response to a request by the DTP Transportation Operations Programs staff, DTP staff worked with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council transportation planning staff to develop emissions rates to estimate the impacts of Baltimore’s Guaranteed Ride Home program. The rates and methodology were documented in a technical memo dated October 6.

In response to a request by the DTP Transportation Operations Programs staff, DTP staff estimated emissions reductions from the Car-Free Day and documented the methodology and rates in a memo dated October 20.

DTP staff participated in two webinars related to the EPA’s mobile emissions (MOVES) model, mainly pertaining to the upcoming release of the MOVES3 model. The webinars were organized by the MOVES Review Work Group and MJO MOVES Work Group.

DTP staff continued to conduct MOVES model tests to further refine greenhouse gas emissions modeling estimates for future studies. Staff also continued to explore different ways to model criteria pollutant emissions to both maintain consistency with the Ver. 2.4 Travel Demand Model that is expected to be released in early 2021 and to introduce innovative new processes (e.g., machine learning).

Task 7	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
TRAVEL MONITORING AND DATA PROGRAMS	\$2,164,394	\$101,637	28%	47

**7. TRAVEL MONITORING AND DATA PROGRAMS**

***7.1 Regional Travel Survey***

Tasks were focused on tabulating the trip file data from the 2017/2018 COG/TPB Regional Travel Survey (RTS), in addition to preparing the combined data files for the TPB model region. This includes all households, persons, and trips from the RTS and three overlapping BMC counties that participated in the Maryland Travel Survey (MTS).

- Staff conducted tabulations of the RTS trip file for the TPB Planning Region to be shared in a series of presentations to the TPB Technical Committee and the Transportation Planning Board.
- Staff conducted validation checks of the RTS household, person, and trip files.
- Staff developed statistical programs to perform the merging of the RTS and MTS data and developed a data dictionary for the combined RTS/MTS dataset.
- Staff participated in biweekly meetings with the Gen3 Model Development Team.
- Staff shared the initial findings from the RTS trip file to the Citizens Advisory Committee on October 15.
- Staff shared the initial findings from the RTS trip file to the Transportation Planning Board on October 21.
- Staff conducted media interviews following the TPB briefing on October 21.
- Staff gathered transportation surveys measuring the impacts to travel behavior from COVID-19 that inform regional transportation planning.
- Staff provided technical guidance to the DTP Director.

## **7.2 Traffic Analysis Studies, and Research**

Staff continued to evaluate the traffic volume patterns during COVID, adding August 2020 continuous count station data to the analysis. Staff developed the first in a series of monthly snapshots to illustrate how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting travel in the Metropolitan Washington Region. The charts show changes in roadway traffic and enplanements as compared with 2019 levels. This snapshot is now available on the COG website. Staff was interviewed by the Frederick News-Post about this snapshot. In a related activity, staff began coordinating with other key organizational technical staff to prepare an examination of COVID-related regional impacts from a multisectoral perspective.

Staff organized and conducted a demonstration of Remix.

Staff brainstormed options for future Travel Trends reporting.

Staff met with WMATA to discuss lessons learned and findings from the *Market Assessment for VRE-MARC Run-through Service*. Staff also met with the Greater Washington Partnership to discuss the study.

In support of the Systems Performance Planning team, staff developed a draft response to an inquiry from the City of Alexandria about permanent count stations in the region.

In support of the Travel Forecasting and Emissions Analysis Team, staff:

- Reached out the MTA MARC and Foursquare to obtain geocoded results of the MARC Origin-Destination Survey and to VRE to obtain the geocoded results of the VRE Master Agreement Survey.
- Staff shared a copy of the MARC Parking Inventory Data.
- Staff provide insight about the contents of the RTDC Average Weekday Transit Ridership data.

In support of the Plan Development and Coordination Team, staff:

- Participated in a conversation about how the Regional Travel Survey could be leveraged to support the Long-Range Transportation Plan. In advance of the meeting, staff shared the RTS tabulations matrix and RTS data dictionary.
- Staff prepared a summary of the NVTA's COVID-19: Transportation Impacts and Opportunities to the October TPB Technical Committee.
- Reviewed a memo describing a methodology to identify projects in proximity to EEAs and connecting EEAs to Activity Centers.

Staff participated in the following meetings and forums:

- Gen3 Model Check-in meetings
- TMIP Webinar – Incorporating Decision Making Under Deep Uncertainty (DMDU) Approaches in Transportation Planning Activities: A Pilot Study
- 2020 AMPO Virtual Conference Information
- APA's Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division's Regional Futures Forum. Staff served in an active role for this forum.

### **Big Data in Regional Travel and Mobility Analyses**

Staff completed an amendment to the consultant contract for the consultant to perform three coordination meetings to refine and develop an actionable path toward Big Data procurement for COG/TPB. Staff contacted partner agencies to make them aware that the project consultant will be reaching out to discuss the study and to invite representatives to an upcoming meeting.

### **7.3 Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse (RTDC)**

Staff responded to a request from the National Center for Smart Growth (NCSG) at the University of Maryland regarding the availability of data used in the Transited Oriented Communities (TOC) map tool that was presented to the TPB on October 21.

Staff responded to a request from a software vendor (Streetlight) regarding stop-level boardings and alightings for all National Capital Region Bus routes for all days in 2019,

Staff responded to a question from the Director of Transportation Operations Programs regarding the availability of HOV data for Northern Virginia that could be used to analyze travel patterns related to COVID.

Staff requested highway hourly continuous counter data for September 2020 from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Staff updated the VMT trends spreadsheet with 2019 values and prepared related RTDC files. Staff identified an issue with the VMT values reported by West Virginia DOT (WDOT), contacted WDOT staff and resolved the issue. In addition, staff identified a large growth in VMT in one jurisdiction and contacted VDOT staff to research the source of the growth.

Staff continued the process of assigning annualized 2018 traffic volumes and related HPMS items to network links to pass on to the Travel Forecasting and Emissions Analysis Program team and their contractor, RSG for Gen3 Model development. This layer will also be used to populate the Traffic Volumes by Link RTDC layer.

Staff made several updates to the Count Station file including adding new stations, removing disused stations and adjusting locations of some stations to better fit the location description. Measurement directions and network Anode-Bnode pairs were also updated.

Staff processed and summarized the FY 2020 transit data for the following providers: Fairfax City, DC Circulator, Frederick County, MARC and PRTC. In addition, staff updated the notes for the 2019 Transit files including editing ownership and notes for local bus routes coded as operated by VRE.

Staff downloaded newly-available 2017 hourly volume and classification files for Jefferson County, WV.

Staff participated in meetings and email exchanges with the Travel Forecasting and Emissions Analysis Program team and their contractor, RSG, to clarify traffic data needs for Gen3 Model development. Staff participated in a discussion arising from the October 15 meeting of the MWCOG Gen3 Model check-in meeting regarding the status of the transit ridership data available in the RTDC.

### **7.4 GIS Data, and Analysis**

Staff finalized the web mapping application for the Transited Oriented Communities (TOC) project. The application was presented to the TPB Technical Committee on October 2 and at the TPB meeting held on October 21. The application is available on the COG website at <https://www.mwcog.org/maps/map-listing/high-capacity-transit-hct-station-areas/>.

Staff completed work on an interactive mapping tool support the October 23 meeting of the Regional Elected Leaders Initiative (RELI) of Northern Virginia. The application "Northern Virginia Equity Areas" was presented at the meeting and is also available on the COG website at <https://www.mwcog.org/maps/map-listing/nova-equity-areas/>.

Staff began to plan the November GIS Committee/GDX Working Group Meeting including identifying candidates for the 2021 Committee leadership.

Staff attended The Chief Information Officers (CIO) virtual meeting on October 15.

Staff continued to participate in the regularly scheduled MWCOG Gen3 Model check-in meetings held in October. Staff will be working with the Models team and their consultants (RSG) to assemble spatial data on parks and other open space to be used in the development of the Gen3 model.

Staff provided presentation- quality graphics of the Northern Virginia Equity Areas to the Planning Data and Research director for use in a PowerPoint presentation for the RELI meeting held October 23.

Staff reviewed a memo by the Plan Development & Coordination team on the proposed methodology on identifying Visualize 2045 projects in proximity to Equity Emphasis Areas (EEA) and connecting EEAs to COG’s regional Activity Centers.

Staff responded to a question from the Plan Development & Coordination team regarding the Transit Access Focus Areas (TAFA) station areas walkability in relation to TPB’s EEA.

Staff worked with TPB’s Project InfoTrack (PIT) consultant (EcoInteractive) regarding the status of bike lane data from the City of Alexandria and how to reconcile it in the database. Staff provided guidance on how to incorporate data recording the absence of key data items.

Staff began research to develop guidelines on how to better incorporate accessibility considerations into spatial data products. Staff began development of materials identifying colors that are colorblind-friendly to use when developing online and static map content.

Staff attended the webinar “What Counts in Mobility? Rethinking Transportation Modeling” presented the Eno Center for Transportation, on October 21.

Task 8	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
SCENARIO PLANNING AND SOCIOECONOMIC FORECASTING	\$1,530,943	\$48,661	19%	51

**8. SCENARIO PLANNING AND SOCIOECONOMIC FORECASTING**

**8.1 Scenario Planning**

Staff participated in a regular project management meeting with the consultant. The consultant recommended a list of MPOs and Tools for the state of the practice reviews. To obtain input on the MPOs and tools from across the Department, the Project Manager developed a worksheet for each Team to complete together. Once the input was received it was used to prepare a final list and provided to the consultant. Input on the draft outlines for the memos from Oversight Committee members was also summarized and provided to the consultant.

**8.2 Socioeconomic Forecasting**

Review of initial draft Round 9.2 Cooperative Forecasts

Department of Communication Planning and Services (DCPS) staff and members of the Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee (CFDS) and Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee (PDTAC) received and reviewed initial draft Round 9.2 Cooperative Forecasts. DCPS staff noted that while ten CFDS members elected to make updates to their jurisdiction’s forecasts, the changes are incremental and will not significantly affect the regional Forecast totals.

DCPS staff began geocoding records in the March 2020 InfoUSA regional employment database. The final file will be compared with a similar data set for September 2020 to document regional and small-area employment and business changes during COVID. A version of the InfoUSA database will eventually become the 2020 TAZ employment base for Round 10.

Housing Targets update

To assist with preparation of small-area housing Forecasts, DCPS staff completed and presented the 2019 Multi-family Rental Housing Report using the CoStar database that is also the source of the annual Commercial Construction report. During their October meeting, a briefing on the report

“Meeting the Housing Needs of Older Adults in Montgomery County” was delivered to the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee.

COVID-related impacts to the economy

To monitor current economic trends and begin to determine their potential effects to long-term growth, DCPS staff developed a PowerPoint presentation documenting the effects to date of COVID on the region’s economy. To inform elected officials, senior local government staff, and strategic partners, the October Region Forward Coalition meeting featured briefings from Nicholas Ramfos on the “Commuter Connections Employee Telework Survey” and Timothy Canan on the “Effects of COVID on the Region’s Transportation System”.

Task 9	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
MOBILITY AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS	\$624,450	\$39,993	18%	55

**9. MOBILITY AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS**

**9.1 Enhanced Mobility Grant Program**

Discussions on a replacement Chair for the Access for All Advisory Committee continued.

TPB Staff provided guidance and best practices with new staff at Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments on the Enhanced Mobility solicitation process and grants management.

Staff held a virtual AFA committee meeting on October 6:

- Staff from the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland presented on the Wheels to Wellness program. The program, in partnership with two hospitals and two human service providers, coordinates rides for patients to non-emergency medical appointments in Calvert, St. Mary’s, and soon Charles Counties.
- Staff from n4a/NADTC shared the following results of a national survey of organizations providing transportation services to older adults and people with disabilities:
  - For those who do not drive, finding alternative transportation is difficult according to 77% of agencies—and the difficulty is strongly related to affordability.
  - Only a quarter say transportation options are good—and only 3% very good. Less than 1 in 5 say options are highly affordable, and a third say not affordable.
  - Agencies receive funding from a patchwork of sources, including State, FTA Section 5310, and Older Americans Act, ranging from 5 to 11 sources.
  - The top three unmet requests are fairly & evenly distributed between limitations by trip type, service area/distance, and hours or frequency.
- TPB staff presented the timeline and planned activities for Visualize 2045, the federally mandated, long-range transportation plan for the National Capital Region and the public opinion research component of the plan. Through surveys and focus groups, TPB staff will seek to understand the importance of certain factors in transportation decisions made by the public.
- Chair Kostiuk shared that Virginia Tech PhD student Mahtot Gebresselassie, who is researching accessibility of TNCs, has expanded her work to include people using wheelchairs or scooters who travel into DC. A link to the survey was emailed to the committee following the meeting.
- Chair Kostiuk reminded participants of the October 9 deadline for public comment on TPB’s Public Participation Plan.

- Chair Kostiuk shared that she asked TPB staff to look for a replacement chair in order to allow other TPB members the opportunity to learn about and participate in the important work of the committee, but will remain involved to the extent she is able.  
iA committee member shared that WMATA will be holding a public hearing on October 13th regarding proposed service cuts. Staff shared details via a follow up email.

Chair Kostiuk, TPB staff, and some AFA members attended the TPB Connected and Automated Vehicles webinar on October 30.

**9.2 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program**

Staff conducted application review activities for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program for the District of Columbia. For FY 2021 in D.C., the TPB had an available sub-allocation of \$1,150,000. Seven eligible applications were submitted this year. A TPB selection panel met in October and recommended full funding for those projects for a total of \$727,161. The TPB was scheduled to vote on funding for those projects on November 18.

Staff also conducted research into possible uses for TAP surplus funds in Virginia.

**9.3 Transportation Land-Use Connections Program**

Staff continued procurement activities for the new TLC projects that were approved in April. For each of the projects, scores from Technical Selection Committee (TSC)s were compiled. The TSCs were asked to score the proposals received. Based upon the scores, winning bids were selected in most cases. In cases in which the competing scores were within three percentage points, staff convened consensus panels to determine final winners. The contracts moved toward finalization in October and kickoff meetings were scheduled for most of the projects.

Staff began working on solicitation materials for the FY 2022 TLC projects.

Task 10	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
TPB SUPPORT AND MANAGEMENT	\$858,369	\$44,083	21%	57

**10. TPB SUPPORT AND MANAGEMENT**

***TPB Support and Management***

This task includes activities not attributable to specific tasks in the work program but provides overall support for and management of the TPB and UPWP-related activities.

- Provide administrative arrangements (such as preparation and distribution of meeting materials) and staff support for TPB and its various Committees, Sub-Committees, Task Forces and special TPB work groups meetings.
- Respond to requests from TPB members, federal agencies, Congressional offices, media and others for information or data of a general transportation nature.
- Meet with TPB Board members and participating agency staff to discuss current and emerging regional transportation planning issues.
- Participate in meetings of other agencies whose programs and activities relate to and impact the TPB work program.
- Coordination of TPB Planning Activities with Program Directors and day-to-day management of and allocation of staff and financial resources
- Monitoring of all work program activities and expenditures.

Staff support was provided for the monthly meetings of the following committees and sub-committees:

- State Technical Working Group (STWG)
- TPB Technical Committee
- TPB Steering Committee
- MWCOG Board Meetings
- Transportation Planning Board (TPB)
- MATOC Steering Committee
- TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Access for All (AFA)
- Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee (RPTS)
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee
- COG Planning Directors
- TPB Freight Subcommittees

Support activities from the administrative staffs included: meeting logistics with meeting rooms and amenities, duplication and distribution of meeting materials, email/phone call follow ups. Additionally, staff also worked on monitoring work program activities, providing administrative assistance to senior staff and monitoring and prepare financial reports. Additionally, administrative staff work on monthly financial administration and management activity which includes review and finalization of monthly expense reports for all UPWP activities, development and submission of monthly UPWP invoices and any follow up activity with the funding agencies.

The Staff Director provided overall program management oversight to all the Department's activities. Work activities the Director was involved in during the months of October FY 2021 include:

- Discussions, review and finalization of the agenda topics for the TP's Technical Committee, State Transportation Working Group (STWG) and Board meetings. This includes meeting with the Program Directors and project staffs to review the progress and briefing materials.
- Participation in the STWG, TPB Technical Committee, TPB Steering Committee, TPB's Citizen's Advisory Committee and the TPB Board meetings.
- Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

Other additional activities for the TPB Staff Director for the months of October 2020 include:

- Panelists on GWU's Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration on COG's work in Transportation
- COG DEP – COG DTP Climate Planning
- Discuss Proposed Rail to Trails Pilot Program
- COG-DCPS Work on Impediments to Housing Study
- CAOs Meeting / IRE Poster Session
- RELI Transportation Meeting
- Rail Vision Advisory Committee Meeting
- LGW's Thought Leadership Series – Session #4
- AMPO Annual Meeting Session Prep and Annual Meeting – EJ Panel
- COG's Virtual Townhall Leaning in to 2021: More Equitable, More Resilient
- COG-DTP's Work Session on Equity
- Discussion with MDOT & MdSHA Media Comments/Questions on I-495/I-270 DEIS
- COG Strategic Planning – Introductory Meeting
- CAC Update – Board Follow-up – B. Hayes

- Panelist on GMU’s RELI Webinar for NoVA Elected Leaders Policy
- Internal discussions on VDOT RM3P Discussion – Dynamic Incentivization

**UPWP**

The UPWP activities include:

Supervise the preparation, negotiation, and approval of the annual work program and budget involving the State Transportation Agencies, the TPB Technical Committee, the TPB Technical Committee, the Steering Committee and the TPB.

- Preparation of monthly UPWP progress reports for each of the state agencies administering planning funding and prepare all necessary federal grant applications submissions.
- Review all monthly UPWP invoices going to each of the state agencies administering planning funding.

Task 11	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	\$2,055,007	\$1,809	2%	59
District of Columbia	\$294,366	\$592	9%	59
Maryland	\$807,806	\$64	0%	61
Virginia	\$578,978	\$256	2%	63
WMATA	\$373,857	\$896	1%	65

**11. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

***11.1 District of Columbia***

Program Development, Data Requests and Miscellaneous Services

Staff attended the monthly State Technical Working Group / Technical Committee / Steering Committee/ TPB meeting cycle.

Staff assisted DDOT by responding to a consultant request for DDOT traffic data. Staff provided a map showing traffic counting locations near 1520 North Capitol St NW, detailed count files from those locations, and a spreadsheet showing historical AADT at each of those locations and the years in which the counts were performed.

Traffic Counts and Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) Support

Staff worked with DDOT staff to plan and participate in the October 28 HPMS Committee meeting. Staff updated the committee on the CY 2020 data from continuous count stations and on 2020 short term counts. In addition, staff discussed the need to document the expected drop in VMT due to the pandemic as part of the HPMS submission. Staff prepared a summary of the meeting.

Staff summarized and analyzed the September 2020 traffic data from PCS and FTMS stations and shared the summaries with DDOT staff for field inspection purposes. Staff reviewed the first batch of short-term counts conducted by the contractor.

**11.2. Maryland**Program Development, Data Requests, and Miscellaneous Services

Staff attended the monthly State Technical Working Group/Technical Committee/Steering Committee/TPB meeting cycle.

Staff coordinated with MDOT to advance of a staff review of the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Feasibility/Special Studies*Traffic Relief Plan (TRP) Project Development Activities*

Staff continued to monitor the project development activities for MDOT projects related to the Traffic Relief Plan. TPB staff worked with COG's Office of Communications to prepare and provide responses to media inquiries related to MDOT's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study and TPB staff's interpretation of MDOT's analysis. DTP staff also met with MDOT staff and documented the differences in modeling methodology between MDOT's and TPB's analyses in a memorandum.

Transportation / Land Use Connections Program

As part of the Transportation/Land-Use Connections Program, five technical assistance projects in Maryland were fully or partially funded through the Maryland Technical Assistance Program. See TLC item above (9.3) for further details about the TLC Program.

**11.3. Virginia**Program Development, Data Requests, and Miscellaneous Services

Staff attended the monthly State Technical Working Group/Technical Committee/Steering Committee/TPB meeting cycle.

Travel Monitoring and Survey*Non-Motorized Counts / Active Transportation Counts*

The consultant completed collecting and began processing the fall non-motorized/active transportation counts.

Sub-Regional Planning Study*Park and Ride Study*

The consultant, VDOT, and COG/TPB participated in regular monthly check-in meeting, VDOT and COG/TPB staff reviewed and approve the fieldwork plan. The consultant updated the resource Summary and Experience Builder app/ lot inventory map with input from VDOT and COG staff.

Transportation / Land Use Connections Program

As part of the Transportation/Land-Use Connections Program, three technical assistance projects in Virginia were fully or partially funded under the Virginia Technical Assistance Program. See TLC item above (9.3) for further details about the TLC Program.

### ***11.4. Regional Transit***

#### Program Development

Staff attended the monthly State Technical Working Group/Technical Committee/Steering Committee/TPB meeting cycle.

In partnership with WMATA, staff developed and presented two potential ideas for the FY 2021 with the Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee (RPTS). The ideas include a schematic map showing the region's high-capacity transit system as well as a 5-year program to fund small feasibility and design projects to improve bike and walk access to high capacity transit. In advance of the RPTS meeting, staff drafted and finalized slides based upon input from WMATA

#### Transportation / Land Use Connections Program

As part of the Transportation/Land-Use Connections Program, three technical assistance projects were fully or partially funded under the Regional Transit Technical Assistance Program. See TLC item above (9.3) for further details about the TLC Program.

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#### CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING PROGRAM

##### Comprehensive Regional Air System Plan Update - Phase 3

There are no updates to report on RASP Phase 3, but it will remain an item until the finalized report has been published online (and possibly shared out with one or more TPB committees).

##### Survey Response Rate and Quality Study

TPB's on-call consultant, ICF, submitted a proposal for the Survey Response Rate and Quality Study on October 15. Staff reviewed the proposal and shared a series of clarifying questions with the consultant. A call was scheduled in early November to address the questions raised before moving forward with awarding the contract and beginning the study.

##### Process 2019 Air Passenger Survey - Phase 2

COG staff continued the analysis of the 2019 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey (APS), including conducting manual geocoding.

## **PROGRESS ON PLAN PRODUCTS**

### BIG DATA IN REGIONAL TRAVEL AND MOBILITY ANALYSES

- Completed kick-off meeting and second meeting with the Study Working Group
- Consultant completed the State-of-the-Practice review (Task 2)
- The consultant completed the Big Data Evaluation (Task 3)
- The consultant submitted the final report
- Big Data evaluation completed in June 2020
- The project was extended, and an amendment was executed for a new task – Task 4 for the Consultant to execute three coordination meetings to refine and develop an actionable path toward Big Data procurement for COG/TPB.

### Public Participation Plan

- Draft plan released for 45-day public comment period: August 25
- TPB approval: October 2020

### Public Opinion Survey for Visualize 2045

- Survey instrument and methodology developed: July-August 2020
- Respondents complete survey: September-October 2020
- Anticipated findings analyzed and report released: December 2020 – January 2021

### Qualitative Research (Focus Groups) for Visualize 2045

- Methodology developed and participants recruited: October-December 2020
- Focus groups conducted: January-February 2021
- Anticipated findings analyzed and report released: Spring 2021

### Transit Access Focus Areas Study

- Completed: July 2020

### Develop Regional Highway Safety Targets

- Draft targets to be presented in November 2020
- Final target approval anticipated in December 2020

### Develop Regional Safety Study Final Report

- Estimate completion April 2021

### System Performance – National Capital Region Freight Plan

#### Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

- Staff completed the compilation and clean-up of geospatial and other project data for the project database (a major basis for the plan update) submitted by the TB member jurisdictions based on their plan. From this point forward, jurisdictions will input information through an online data portal.
- Completion of the plan update is anticipated by mid-FY 2021.

National Capital Regional Trail

- Completed. Follow on actions continued leading toward future annual updates.

Metropolitan Washington Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems Architecture (MWRITSA)

- The most recent MWRITSA full update was posted on the TPB website in July 2019. No recent adjustments or updates have been requested by member agencies.

Coordination Human Services Transportation Plan

- The Current Coordinated Plan was adopted by the TPB in December 2018.
- The next Enhanced Mobility Solicitation will be in Spring/Summer 2021.
- The next update of the Coordinated Plan will occur in 2022.