
**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

November 18, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT

Kelly Russell, TPB Chair – City of Frederick
Phil Mendelson – DC City Council
Charles Allen – DC City Council
Dolly Turner – DC City Council
Mark Rawlings – DC DOT
Kristin Calkins - DC Office of Planning
Jason Groth – Charles County
Patrick Wojahn – College Park
Denise Mitchell – College Park
David Edmonson – City of Frederick
Neil Harris - Gaithersburg
Emmet V. Jordon – Greenbelt
Evan Glass – Montgomery County Legislative
Gary Erenrich – Montgomery County Executive
Deni Taveras – Prince George’s County Legislative
Terry Bellamy – Prince George’s County Executive Office
Victor Weissberg – Prince George’s County Executive Office
Bridget Donnell Newton – Rockville
Kacy Kostiuk – Takoma Park
R. Earl Lewis, Jr. – Maryland DOT
Mark Korman – Maryland House of Delegates
Canek Aguirre – Alexandria
Christian Dorsey – Arlington County
Dan Malouff – Arlington county
David Meyer – City of Fairfax
Walter Alcorn – Fairfax County Legislative
James Walkinshaw – Fairfax County Legislative
David Snyder – Falls Church
Robert Brown – Loudoun County
Kristin Umstatt – Loudoun County
Pamela J. Sebesky – Manassas
Ann B. Wheeler – Prince William County
Victor Angry – Prince William County
Norman Whitaker – Virginia DOT
Maria Sinner – Virginia DOT
Mark Phillips - WMATA
Sandra Jackson – FHWA DC
Dan Koenig – FTA

MWCOG STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT

Kanti Srikanth
Chuck Bean
Lyn Erickson
Mark Moran
Tim Canan
Andrew Meese
Tom Gates
Stephen Waltz
Paul DesJardin
Stacy Cook
Eric Randall
Andrew Austin
Bryan Hayes
Sergio Rittaco
John Swanson
Jaleel Reed
Dusan Vuksan
Jon Schermann
Leo Pineda
Deborah Etheridge
Abigail Zenner
Charlene Howard
Kyle Nembhard – MTA
Katherine Youngblouth – DRPT
Jennifer Mitchell – DRPT
Nancy Abeles – CAC

Materials referenced in the minutes can be found here:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2020/11/18/transportation-planning-board/>

1. VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES, MEMBER ROLL CALL, AND VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Chair Russell reminded the board that the meeting is being recorded and broadcast. She said the process for asking questions and voting is the same as past meetings. After each item, members would be asked to comment or vote by jurisdiction

Ms. Erickson conducted a roll call. Members that were present are listed on the first page of the minutes.

Ms. Erickson said that two members of the public submitted public comment. The first comment was from Mr. James, a planning consultant, who said that autonomous guideways are the solution to transit in the Washington region. The second comment was a letter from the Coalition for Smarter Growth regarding Items 10 and 11 on the agenda. The letter commended the TPB for adding questions to the technical input solicitation regarding support for regional goals on equity, activity centers, and greenhouse gases. The letter asks that future solicitations be more in line with TPB and COG policy documents, including the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan. Both comments have been posted with meeting materials.

Ms. Erickson informed the board that the January TPB meeting is on Thursday, January 21. She said the presidential inauguration is the previous day.

2. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Sebesky made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 21 TPB meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mitchell and approved by the board.

3. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Nembhard said that the Technical Committee met on November 6. At the meeting the committee reviewed items on the board agenda, including the FY 2021 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside program project recommendations, Transit Safety Targets, and the recommendations for updating the Citizens Advisory Committee. He said the committee also reviewed the technical input solicitation for Visualize 2045. More detail can be found in the meeting summary.

4. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Abeles said that the CAC met on November 12. She said that the committee was briefed on recommendations for updating the CAC. She said the committee endorsed staff recommendations. In discussing the recommendations, the committee emphasized that the members represent people with similar travel patterns more than they represent everyone who lives in their jurisdiction. More recommendations from the committee can be found in the report. She said that the committee was also briefed on Visualize 2045.

Ms. Kostiuk said that the AFA met on November 10. At the meeting there was a presentation on WMATA's 2020 Title VI program, which included compliance procedures, public participation, and a language assistance plan. The committee discussed how WMATA gathers data, how service changes should require an equity analysis, the digital divide, and how WMATA uses the American Community Survey census data. She said that the remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on transportation and travel in the region. There was a briefing on the impact and response for projects funded via the Enhanced Mobility grant program. These include a decline in volunteer drivers and a shutdown of adult day and vocational programs. Some grantees report challenges developing virtual travel training. The committee was also briefed on the preliminary results of TPB staff research on data and information examining COVID's impact on travel and roadway traffic volumes in the region. More details can be found in the committee report.

Ms. Kostiuk also said she notified the committee that she is stepping down as chair.

Chair Russell thanked Ms. Kostiuk for her service.

Mr. Aguirre also thanked for her leadership.

5. STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Srikanth said that the TPB sent a letter of support for Montgomery County's FTA grant. Details can be found on page of the director's report. He requested that board members set aside an additional 30 minutes before the December TPB meeting for an event making the start of project solicitation for Visualize 2045.

Mr. Srikanth said that there are additional updates not in the memo. First, Maryland officials are hosting the 17th annual Maryland Remembers event on November 23. This event honors the lives of Marylanders who have been killed or injured in driving crashes. Second, he said that the TPB's StreetSmart pedestrian and bicycle safety program fall campaign is currently underway. He said the campaign includes new awareness strategies, including a testimonial video.

Mr. Srikanth said that after the TPB endorsed the region's interim 2030 greenhouse gas reduction goals at the October meeting, a number of board members asked about estimates for the level of outcomes in the transportation strategies necessary to attain the 2030 goal. He said that discussion focused on reduction of VMT and how much of the fleet needs to convert to electric vehicles, and how such

information would be useful for departments and agencies to consider as they develop their capital program and prioritize project funding. He said that WMATA had also sent a letter with their ideas and the types of information that would be useful. In response, he said that staff are examining how best to undertake such a technical analysis. He said that he plans to brief the board about it and expects to brief the board during the first half of 2021.

Mr. Philips referenced the letter from Coalition for Smarter Growth received as part of public comments and said that WMATA supports the letter. He said WMATA has additional comments related to setting VMT targets in the long-range plan that he would note later.

6. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Russell said that a nominating committee will meet and make recommendations for the 2021 TPB officers. She thanked Mr. Mendelson, Ms. Wheeler, and Mr. Wojahn for serving on the committee. She also reminded the board that COG and the TPB are co-hosting a virtual town hall on equity. This is the third of five sessions and it will focus on "Full Community Health Approach."

ACTION ITEMS

7. FY 2021 TA SET-ASIDE PROGRAM FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. Reed presented on staff recommendations for seven projects in DC for more than \$700 thousand in funding through the Transportation Alternatives Set-aside program, also known as TAP. The 7 projects will make it easier and more pleasant to walk, bike, and access transit in the District.

Mr. Wojahn noted that while he was pleased that these seven projects were selected, he was concerned that there was money left on the table. He asked if there could be more outreach to the three state departments of transportation to find ways for more projects to be eligible for funding.

Mr. Srikanth explained that from a staff perspective staff are working on outreach to member jurisdictions to increase awareness of the program.

Mr. Reed also explained that the TLC program is a good way to queue up projects to eventually be ready to receive funding through TAP.

Mr. Erenrich explained that some projects are too big and that the state requires them to be fully funded. He noted this is a challenge for taking advantage of the program.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution R9-2021 to approve projects for funding under the Federal Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program for DC for FY 2021. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

8. PBPP – TRANSIT SAFETY TARGETS

Mr. Randall presented staff recommendations for Transit Safety Targets. He explained that Transit Safety Targets are part of the federally required Performance Based Planning and Programming process. One goal of this target-setting process is that the focus on and understanding of the factors that affect safety on transit will inform project programming and thereby improve safety.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution R10-2021 to approve regional transit safety targets. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

9. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – UPDATE APPROVAL AND 2021 RECRUITMENT

Mr. Hayes referenced his presentation and shared the eight staff recommendations. He said that based on input received from the District of Columbia, Arlington County, and Alexandria, staff changed the

recommendation for the committee structure. He said that the new recommendations start by adding five members each from the District, Maryland, and Virginia. In addition to those 15 members, nine additional members will be selected to incorporate the perspectives of communities in TPB member jurisdictions. He said that selection criteria provide structure and consistency so that staff are recommending committee members based on common factors. He said the criteria were designed to help staff select experienced membership who represent the TPB subregions and as many member jurisdictions as possible, while also seeking to balance racial and ethnic diversity, and a variety of transportation perspectives. He requested that the board assist staff with recruitment for the 2021 CAC and encouraged the board to adopt Resolution R11-2021 to update the CAC.

Ms. Sebesky made a motion to adopt Resolution R11-2021 to update the CAC.

Mr. Allen seconded the motion.

Mr. Dorsey commended the new committee structure and said it ensures the TPB can continue to reflect the diversity of the region while seeking out expertise from new voices as needed.

Chair Russell concurred.

Ms. Newton supported Mr. Dorsey's statement.

The board approved Resolution R11-2021 to update the CAC.

Mr. Srikanth said that he received positive feedback from FHWA and FTA on these changes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. PBPP – DRAFT 2017-2021 HIGHWAY SAFETY TARGETS

Mr. Schermann said that in January, the TPB approved the third annual set of highway safety targets. He said this presentation covers the fourth annual set of highway safety targets. He showed the last five years of annual data for each of the five safety performance measures. He said that fatalities have increased, though the number of serious injuries declined. He shared the new highway safety targets and described the methodology for developing the targets. He said that the board will be asked to approve these targets in December. More detail on the highway safety targets can be found in the memo and presentation for this item.

Ms. Taveras said she was disappointed that the TPB is not trying to lower the goals. She asked how the TPB is working with jurisdictions to improve these numbers.

Mr. Srikanth said that the region has embraced Vision Zero and towards zero deaths approaches to safety. He said that in reference to these specific highway safety targets, the federal government advises that they not be aspirational. He said that the TPB is setting aside planning money to create a safety program to help with implementation of projects that will improve safety.

Ms. Taveras asked about behavior change.

Mr. Srikanth said that affecting behavior change is hard and requires a concerted and persistent effort to educate and build awareness. He said that a number of the safety strategies approved by the TPB earlier in 2020 take cognitive and behavior changes into consideration.

Ms. Taveras offered to share some of the work on safety from her district.

Mr. Weissburg said that in 2019, Prince George's County became a Vision Zero jurisdiction. He thanked the board for moving forward with the safety program.

Mr. Lewis endorsed the comments from Ms. Taveras and Mr. Weissburg. He said the region needs to raise awareness that driving behavior needs to change.

Mr. Snyder said that the TPB needs to be more ambitious than the targets that were presented. He said that is important for future success.

Mr. Angry said he appreciates these safety efforts and encouraged everyone to take a holistic approach.

Mr. Meyer said that elected officials and others need to talk more candidly about the relationship between alcohol use and drunk driving. He said that there is sometimes hesitancy to underline the connection because of the influence that restaurants and bars have on the local economy.

11. VISUALIZE 2045 – TECHNICAL INPUTS SOLICITATION

Ms. Cook said that a draft of the Technical Inputs Solicitation Guide and its associated appendix is available to the board for review. She said that the Technical Inputs Solicitation Guide was updated to reflect federal and regional priorities. She explained that one of these updates includes asking how a project aligns with any of the Aspirational Initiatives. Another question asks how a project makes a difference in the regional transportation system. She explained that in response to the 2020 Safety Resolution, a question was added to know if a project significantly reduces fatalities or injuries. She explained that in response to the 2020 TPB Equity Resolution, two Equity questions were added to ask if a project is physically located in an Equity Emphasis Area or if the project connects an Equity Emphasis Area to an Activity Center. She said that the new questions on climate ask if a project contributes to the reduction of criteria pollutants and whether a project helps the region reach the greenhouse gas reduction goal that is part of the 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan. She said that the board will be asked to approve the Technical Inputs Solicitation Guide in December.

12. LONG BRIDGE

Ms. Mitchell referred to her presentation and provided some context about rail in Virginia and the East Coast Rail Network. She said that significant rail lines that serve New York and the markets in the Midwest currently run through Virginia. She described passenger rail in the region and said that the Long Bridge is one of the biggest bottlenecks on the entire east coast. She said that Virginia has an agreement with CSX and Amtrak for a new program that will be implemented by the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority. She said that the Long Bridge connects Virginia and DC and described plans for building a new Long Bridge to serve passenger rail. She said that the new bridge will improve reliability for commuter, passenger, and freight trains. More information on the Long Bridge project can be found in the presentation.

OTHER ITEMS

13. ADJOURN

No other business was brought to the board. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.