



TPB REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting Summary: April 27, 2021

ATTENDEES, total: 24

Deanna Archey, MCDOT (Chair)
Gary Erenrich, MCDOT
Megan Kanagy, DDOT
Michael Felschow, Fairfax County
Kevin Thornton, Prince George's County
Kyle Nembhard, MTA
Ria Kulkarni, NVT
Dan Goldfarb, NVTC
Clinton Edwards, VDRPT
Jordan Holt, WMATA
Jim Hamre, WMATA
Melissa Kim, WMATA

Yonah Freemark, Urban Institute
Andrew Meese, TPB
Eric Randall, TPB
Arianna Koudounas, TPB
Dusan Vuksan, TPB
Jane Posey, TPB
Lyn Erickson, TPB
Stacy Cook, TPB
Joe Davis, TPB
Mark Moran, TPB
Antonio Castañeda, TPB
James Li, TPB

AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS, Deanna Archey, RPTS Chair**
 - The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM and a roll of online attendees was called.
- 2. UPDATE ON REGIONAL INFORMATION GATHERING REGARDING TRANSIT OPERATIONS AND COVID-19, Eric Randall, TPB**
 - Eric updated the subcommittee on the MATOC TTF questionnaire conducted in the past by TPB and the updated questionnaire sent out.
 - It was noted that Montgomery County Ride On would continue fare free through June 30 at least.
- 3. BUS PRIORITY PROGRAM TOOLBOX, Megan Kanagy, DDOT**
 - Megan updated RPTS on DDOT's new Bus Priority Program Toolbox, how it is helping identify bus priority needs / improving service and project delivery. She spoke to the DC context for transit and the importance of working with WMATA. She provided an overview of toolbox strategies including bus operations traffic control, infrastructure, bus lanes, bicycle and bus. She closed by noting that most of these measures have been implemented successfully elsewhere, and that it needs to be kept simple.
 - Discussion: How has the toolbox helped improved project delivery? What has been most useful? Primarily with internal discussions on tradeoffs between tools. The toolbox is still in its infancy, only finalized in March. Will look back in a year.
 - Who is the target audience / how did you market it? Currently just in soft launch and being

used in engagement on specific projects. Later this year we plan to incorporate it with larger projects moving forward (e.g. future MoveDC planning).

- It is challenging implementing bus priority measures in the current built environment, some of it to pre-20th century standards. Narrow bus lanes, rebalancing lane widths, takes effort. Information gathering at the beginning of the project on curbside use is particularly important. There is a tension between delivering bus lanes and transitways and retaining or reducing general purpose lanes.
- We should keep in mind that certain projects have to go into TPB's congestion/air quality conformity analysis before being implemented. Only if they have significant regional impacts, and projects can be implemented as pilots.

4. REGIONAL TRANSIT DATA SHARING UPDATE, *Jordan Holt, WMATA*

- Jordan informed the subcommittee on the top use cases for regional data sharing including regional long range planning, bus network redesigns (with a regional lens), service planning, facility assessments and performance reporting
- Discussion: there is also interest in coordinating transit on board surveys for use in developing and validating the regional travel demand forecast model, particularly O-D data. The census may be a trigger for new travel surveys, and to update trends in trip patterns. Are also important for fare information.
- Will real-time data be shared? Will data be used for customer information and to promote making transfer connections? At the Pentagon and Silver Spring transit centers, there are large numbers of users making connections between bus, rail, and other modes. WMATA is currently collecting transfer info – locations from to and mode, which is useful for planning, assessments and redesigns.

5. ROUTE OPTIMIZATION ANALYSIS & TITLE VI, *Michael Felschow, Fairfax County*

- Michael updated the subcommittee on transit strategic plan updates for Fairfax County, particularly service plan reviews. The County is looking at minority populations, which make up the majority of bus riders. No longer a focus on “connecting” to Metro, but instead re-evaluations service and needs in five sub-areas across the County, with a broad overarching emphasis on equity. Bus service will have 3 to 5-year plans, using the NVTC TBest model. Local Market / customer surveys, bus service reviews, public meetings, and stakeholder input will all go into the TSP process.
- Discussion: Did you look at existing mode share within DMV? Modeling group ran the COG model, as well as OD / Census info.

6. TRANSPORTATION POLICIES & CLIMATE CHANGE, *Yonah Freemark, Urban Institute*

- Yonah discussed with the subcommittee a broad overview of the interconnections between transportation & climate change. He discussed the current vicious cycle of our transportation system: auto-dependency, increased traffic congestion, slower transit option and then reinforced auto-dependency. Urban development is also critical, with greenfields cheaper to develop leading to exurban strip malls, while new roads are built at 500 times the rate of new fixed guideway. He referenced a few remedies like road charging, vehicle electrification, dedicated transit lanes, concentrated growth and improving walkability.
- Discussion: Do you think we are underpricing transportation overall? No. But some modes don't take into account externalities; perhaps we should be paying walkers and bikers.
- What else can we do? The DC region is the only region properly leveraging rail transit; we are doing things correctly, just not enough of it.



7. TPB BRT INFO / MOTION GRAPHIC UPDATE, Stacy Cook, TPB

- Stacy updated the subcommittee on TPB's BRT and transitways infographic and the related motion graphics available in English and Spanish.

8. TRANSIT INPUTS UPDATE FOR VISUALIZE 2045, Jane Posey, TPB

- Jane informed the subcommittee that the comment period is ongoing until May 3. Following which the board will approve the Visualize 2045 plan inputs. Major new projects were shared for each agency, Jane asked local transit providers to review their sections and inform TPB if any changes need to be made.

8. TPB INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES UPDATE: TDP/TSP STATUS, EQUITY ANALYSES, AUTMATED VEHICLES PLANNING, TRAVEL SURVEYS, RIDERSHIP AND FARE DATA ANALYSIS, Eric Randall, TPB

- Eric informed the subcommittee that the questionnaires have been sent out, briefly went over the items and types of responses TPB is looking for and confirmed the response deadline of April 2nd.

10. OTHER BUSINESS / ADJOURN, Deanna Archey, Chair

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 PM.
- The next meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2021

All meeting materials are available for download from the subcommittee's website:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2021/4/1/tpb-regional-public-transportation-subcommittee/>

