



MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee
FROM: Andrew Meese
TPB Systems Performance Planning Director
SUBJECT: March 31 Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Forum
DATE: February 28, 2020

This memorandum provides information regarding ongoing planning for the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board's (TPB's) winter/spring 2020 connected and autonomous vehicles forum events, with a focus on the kickoff event: Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Technical Forum #1. This event will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, from 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. All are welcome, but target participants for the March 31 forum will be TPB Technical Committee members and other member agency technical personnel. For registration, please see www.mwcog.org/cavforum.

BACKGROUND

Connected and autonomous/automated vehicles are becoming a reality. While the timeframe for widespread adoption can be debated, there can be no doubt that a more connected and automated society is in our future. Automobile manufacturers and technology companies are racing to get the upper hand in the CAV field.

Of particular importance to the TPB is how CAVs will fit into the long-range transportation planning process. Jurisdictions are considering how these new technologies may impact current and future infrastructure and plans. The FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Plan (UPWP) included a regional forum on the topic, now envisioned to be multiple forums, with assistance from TPB's on-call consultant team. These activities will advise on the topic of CAV in the context of the TPB's role as the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the National Capital Region.

ADVISORY GROUP

TPB staff has convened a CAV Forums Advisory Group to advise planning of the workshops. The advisory group is composed of several member agency technical representatives with a variety of perspectives and expertise, including:

- Bob Brown, Loudoun County
- Carole Delion, Maryland Department of Transportation – State Highway Administration
- Amanda Hamm, Virginia Department of Transportation Central Office
- Keith Jasper, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
- Ed Jones, Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation
- Kelli Raboy, District Department of Transportation
- Amir Shahpar, Virginia Department of Transportation Northern Virginia

Advisory Group meetings are taking place approximately monthly, conducted by conference call/webinar.

IDEAS FROM TPB TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

Director Kanti Srikanth presented at an April 29, 2019 VDOT CAV forum and described the following as being regionally important CAV topics:

- Regionally consistent laws, policies, standards, and guidance to make CAV beneficial to all
- Data exchange, which will be critical for CAV operations
- Reimagining transportation infrastructure and operations
- Freight movement's unique needs

Forum discussion topics, of course, are not limited to this list, but we hope to reflect these ideas among others. Also, we are striving to put together sessions that are particularly relevant to transportation planning in the National Capital Region, and are not unnecessarily redundant with other recent or current CAV-related events or activities.

EVENTS

Three events are planned. The first two workshops will convene transportation technical staff along with representatives from the TPB's Citizens Advisory Committee and Access for All Committee. Following and advised by the two workshops will be a TPB Work Session, oriented to TPB member officials. These events are open to the public, but are not being framed as public outreach events. The events (subject to change) are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, March 31, Technical Forum #1, 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., COG Board Room
- Thursday, May 14, Technical Forum #2, 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., COG Board Room
- (Proposed) Wednesday, June 17, 10:00 A.M. to 11:45 A.M., TPB Work Session (immediately prior to that day's TPB meeting), Location to Be Announced

Surveys of participants will be conducted prior to and during workshops to help guide discussions. Breakout portions will provide opportunities to delve into topics.

Because of the sheer number of topics related to CAVs, staff has planned two technical workshops instead of the originally envisioned single workshop. Even the two workshops will be only a beginning for discussions to come – the sheer breadth of CAV impacts will necessitate this. The goals for each of the workshops are noted below (note that speaker availability may necessitate some shifts between March and May topics).

WORKSHOP #1 (MARCH 31)

In the first workshop these three goals hope to be reached:

- 1) Establish a common baseline of CAV concepts, terms, and issues.
- 2) Inform participants of activities at Federal and State level.
- 3) Review and discuss potential impacts of CAV in next 5 to 10 years.

WORKSHOP #2 (MAY 14)

In the second workshop these three goals hope to be reached:

- 1) Discuss how CAV impacts MPO and local jurisdiction responsibilities.
- 2) Discuss what MPO and TPB members need to prepare /plan.
- 3) Recommendations of actions for MPO next steps.

TPB WORK SESSION (PROPOSED FOR JUNE 17)

The TPB work session will draw on information gathered at the March 31 and May 14 events.

POTENTIAL SPEAKERS

Staff is in the process of inviting potential speakers from a variety of perspectives and expertise. Also included will be representatives of member agencies and key stakeholder groups. CAVs encompass a broad range of topics at the local, national, and global levels; TPB staff's emphasis will be on aspects in the TPB's purview and specifically related to TPB's long-range transportation planning.

NEXT STEPS

Planning the forums continues. Save-the-date announcements have been emailed, with more detailed announcements to follow when they are available. TPB staff welcomes comments, please contact Andrew Meese at ameese@mwcog.org.