

---

**TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING RECAP**

March 5, 2021

**1. WELCOME, VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES, AND MEMBER ROLL CALL PROTOCOL**

Staff described the procedures and protocols for the virtual meeting and conducted a roll call. Meeting participants are documented in the attached attendance list.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2021 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

There were no questions or comments regarding the February Technical Committee meeting. The minutes were approved.

**ITEMS FOR THE BOARD AGENDA**

**3. BRIEFING ON THE DRAFT FY 2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

Ms. Erickson said that this is the third and final presentation on the UPWP, and that she would talk about the actions the Board would be asked to take and the changes that have been made to the materials. There were no comments received except one from Mr. Snyder during the February TPB meeting. Staff are looking to develop a crosswalk/table that will demonstrate how some of the UPWP deliverables and activities match up with the TPB's policy focus areas. We have received the final revenue numbers on the new federal funding and the expended funding. The carry over funding, which contains projects/tasks that will not be completed between now and the end of June, is largely unchanged. One project in the Virginia Technical Assistance account will be carried over - \$14,000 for bicycle and pedestrian counts. The final UPWP total is \$18,035,794. There will be 3 actions: 1) amend the current FY 2021 UPWP to take out the carry over funding, 2) carry the funding over from FY 2021 to FY 2022, and 3) approve the FY 2022 UPWP.

Gary Erenrich asked how much funding would be available from the Technical Assistance account for the Transportation Land Use Connection Program (TLC). Due to the nature of the Technical Assistance accounts, this information does not have to be finalized at this time. MDOT and the states will provide that information as part of the TLC process.

**4. BRIEFING ON THE DRAFT FY 2022 COMMUTER CONNECTIONS WORK PROGRAM**

Nicholas Ramfos stated that the latest version of the FY 2022 Work Program in the meeting agenda packet had been presented to the committee last month and to the Board and there were no comments that had been received or significant changes made to the draft document. Mr. Ramfos stated that the next steps would be to present the final document to the TPB on March 17 and if the document is approved, then the funding amounts would be verified in the current TIP. COG/TPB staff would then work with the state funding agencies to secure funding commitments and the program should be ready for implementation on July 1.

Kanti Srikanth stated that he wanted to inform committee members that the incoming chair of the TPB, Charles Allen, was interested in advancing an educational campaign as part of the regional recovery efforts to welcome transit riders back as well as those carpooling and vanpooling. The development of the campaign in consultation with the state funding agencies will occur this fiscal year and it will be implemented as the region begins to recover.

Dan Goldfarb asked whether the campaign would be coordinated with other campaigns. Mr. Ramfos stated that NVTC representatives have been invited in to present the current NOVARides campaign

---

---

running to the Regional TDM Marketing group meeting next Tuesday. Mr. Ramfos stated that Commuter Connections would be coordinating with that campaign as well as a future campaign that will be developed through VDRPT and with WMATA. Jason Growth asked whether this information would be shared with the TPB during the March 17 meeting under this agenda item. Mr. Ramfos stated the information would be shared as part of the FY2022 CCWP agenda item.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **5. VISUALIZE 2045 – INPUTS SUBMITTED**

Jane Posey discussed project inputs for the air quality conformity analysis of the 2022 Update to Visualize 2045 and the FY2023-2026 TIP. She reviewed the schedule from TPB approval of Technical Input Solicitation in December 2020 to the TPB approval of inputs in June 2021. She showed a screenshot of the Project InfoTrak (PIT) database and explained how users input conformity project information into the PIT. She shared a sample page of the Conformity Project Table and explained that she started with the conformity project table from the 2020 Amendment to Visualize 2045 and updated it to add the new projects and project changes that agencies put into the PIT. Ms. Posey indicated that she would be sharing the Conformity Project Table with each agency and asked that everyone review the project listings for accuracy. She showed how she had shaded information in the table and added notes about comments or concerns that she had with the project information received to date. She reminded everyone that the public comment period starts on April 2. Ms. Posey also mentioned the agencies should review the mapping in the PIT and make sure all information is up-to-date. She reminded that group that in October 2020 she had requested any changes to network coding assumptions for transit projects in the LRTP and asked for everyone to provide those asap. She informed the committee that staff will develop a list of new major projects and major changes to projects and that those will be “called out” when all the projects are shared with the TPB and with the public during the comment period.

TPB Transportation Planner, Stacy Cook, noted that those agencies submitting inputs for the update to the LRTP, TIP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis on the LRTP and TIP should enter the responses to the regional and federal policy questions 32-45 as listed in the 2020 Technical Inputs Solicitation Guide and the in the Project InfoTrak system.

Ms. Cook also briefed the Committee on an upcoming TPB work session to take place on April 21, prior to the TPB April meeting. The TPB staff will hold the virtual work session to facilitate a review of the technical inputs. This session will provide an opportunity for the members of the Transportation Planning Board to register comments on these inputs, discuss inputs with other members and ask the submitting agencies questions about the inputs. The comments will be documented as part of the comment period documentation. Responses from the submitting agencies will be documented based on comments in the meetings but may also be supplemented during the comment response development process. Ms. Cook also noted that during the May 2021 board meeting, the TPB staff will present the complete comment summary to the board, along with draft responses. The board will have an opportunity to discuss comment summary and draft responses to comments. At the June 2021 board meeting, the TPB will be asked to accept a finalized summary of the comments and responses and approve the technical inputs.

Ms. Cook reviewed the draft agenda for the work session and indicated that the submitting agencies are asked to have a technical person available to respond to questions raised by members of the board. The TPB staff will also work with the technical staff following the meeting to document responses to any outstanding questions not answered during the meeting.

TPB Technical Committee Member Gary Erenrich noted that the TPB Work session is well into the review of comment period and asked if there was time to restart public comment after the board member

---

comments. TPB transportation planner noted that this session was not asking for approval, but rather an opportunity to address board member questions and register TPB member comments. Director Srikanth added that if a project is removed, the comment period does not need to restart, but if a project is added, a new comment period must be held. He also noted that the summary of comments and draft responses will be discussed at the May board meeting and that the board will be asked to approve inputs in June 2021. Director Srikanth noted that projects have to have the funding identified to be included in the plan, and that new additions after the first comment period are uncommon. Mr. Erenrich noted that there is some lack of schedule alignment for information finalization for the Maryland TRP project, there is uncertainty as various aspects, from funding to Maryland public comment on the project on the preferred alternative, are still outstanding. Director Srikanth noted that many projects evolve, and we need the best information available at this time, and we will make updates over time through plan amendments and updates, and that we cannot wait for everything to be done, and the information to be provided is up to the submitting agency. He provided past examples.

TPB Technical Committee member, Mark Phillips of WMATA asked what kind of information will be shared with the board at the workshop. Ms. Cook indicated that the board will receive the same materials that is provided for public comment on April 2, including the Air Quality Conformity Analysis Scope of Work, the conformity table, major project profiles, and other summary information. Director Srikanth detailed some of the types of project description information that is made available for the new major projects or existing major projects with significant changes. Ms. Cook also noted the Major Projects interactive map that includes the major project profiles.

TPB Technical Committee Chair, Jason Groth, asked a clarifying question as to if the project representatives asked to attend the meeting are technical staff for those projects, Ms. Cook confirmed.

## **6. VISUALIZE 2045 – UPDATE ON THE 2021 FOCUS GROUPS**

Ms. Armendariz briefed the committee on the objectives, recruitment, and framework for the 2021 Focus Groups. She said that TPB staff conducted 11 focus groups with approximately 110 participants. The findings from the focus groups will supplement the public opinion survey's results. See presentation slides for more details about the focus groups.

Mr. Groth asked how TPB staff is planning to use the results from these focus groups. Ms. Armendariz said that staff plans to release a report with results from the focus groups and their connection to the survey's findings. She also said that the results are expected to contextualize the technical material from the update to Visualize 2045.

Mr. Brown asked about the number of participants from the outer suburbs that qualified for the focus groups. Ms. Armendariz explained that 56 residents from the outer suburbs signed up to participate for the focus groups. While this number is smaller than those from the inner suburbs and the core, she explained that staff carefully curated the sessions to make sure the outer suburb perspective was represented in all sessions.

## **7. VISUALIZE 2045 – TPB POLICY PRIORITIES – TRACKING PROGRESS**

TPB Transportation Planner, Stacy Cook, briefed the Committee on a next step to respond to the board's implementation directive for Visualize 2045 by tracking progress on the TPB's Aspirational Initiatives and other policy priorities. The TPB staff would like to gather information from technical members about successes they'd like to share about completed or started projects, new programs and initiatives, or policies, that align with TPB policy priorities. The TPB staff will use this information, in close coordination with its members, to highlight recent accomplishments and demonstrate progress on its policy priorities.

Ms. Cook noted that she will send TPB Technical Committee members an email with directions on how to submit the requested information. The email will include an online link to a form that will be used to collect the following types of information for each project, program, or policy submitted. The TPB staff

---

ask that the TPB Technical Committee members please send 3-5 examples (more are welcome) of progress items. The TPB staff request that this first submission be provided by March 25, 2021. This activity will be ongoing so additional information may be submitted to refresh our tracking list over time.

Mr. Srikanth noted that policy priorities might also include equity activities or other land use related activities. TPB Technical Committee Chair, Jason Groth, noted that he endorsed Director Srikanth's recommendation, noting the importance of telework and land use policies. Member Bob Brown, of Loudoun County, noted that it would be helpful if TPB could connect with the local jurisdictions' and agencies' public information officers. He also suggested subscribing to the member newsletters to track some of this type of information. Ms. Cook thanked Mr. Brown for his suggestions and noted they'd be considered in future tracking progress activities.

Ms. Cook provided a minute for the TPB staff and the members of the TPB Technical Committee to provide examples of accomplishments. The following were a few ideas suggested:

From Sergio Ritacco (TPB staff): Bike lanes across VDOT re-stripped roads.

From John Swanson (TPB staff): 8-car trains on Metrorail.

From Nicole McCall (TPB staff): Lots of new housing in downtown Silver Spring.

From Alex Waltz (TPB Technical Committee member): We were forced into it but we significantly expanded teleworking after the pandemic hit.

From David Edmondson (TPB Technical Committee member): Bike lanes on Irving Street near Washington Hospital Center.

From Gary Erenrich (TPB Technical Committee member): Many new master plans including our new 2050 new county plan. Many new policy issues. Issue of middle housing.

From Betsy Massie (TPB Technical Committee member): Gaps in sidewalks along Route 1 in Fairfax County are being filled in with sidewalk or trails.

From Jason Groth (TPB Technical Committee member): Charles County adopted a new School Allocation Policy that promotes affordable Housing in our urban redevelopment/TOD area.

From Victor Weissberg (TPB Technical Committee member): Bike lanes in all new projects, including resurfacing, some separated and some green paint. Restructuring and adding bus service during Covid.

## **8. ROUND 9.2 COOPERATIVE FORECASTS**

COG DCPS Director Paul DesJardin briefed the Committee on the new draft Round 9.2 Cooperative Forecasts to 2045. Mr. DesJardin noted that the new Forecasts are an incremental update to Round 9.1, and that the COG Board of Directors approved the draft Round 9.2 projections at their February meeting for use by the TPB staff in the Visualize 2045 (constrained element) Air Quality Conformity Analysis. Mr. DesJardin presented the new Forecasts and noted that while many jurisdictions submitted revisions, the change to the regional totals was de minimis.

Mr. Phillips asked whether the region's Planning Directors were intending to develop alternative projections to meet the COG Board Housing Targets. Mr. DesJardin stated that the Cooperative Forecasts are based on a technical process and are not aspirational like the Targets.

Mr. Erenrich inquired as to whether the Forecasts should be reviewed by the public. Mr. DesJardin noted that all Cooperative Forecasts reflect extensive local input on individual commercial and residential development projects, as well as on local comprehensive and small-area plans.

---

## 9. TRANSIT WITHIN REACH

Ms. Nicole McCall and Mr. John Swanson briefed the committee on the proposed Transit Within Reach Program. It builds upon the TPB's aspirational initiative to improve pedestrian and bicycle access to transit as well as the Transit within Reach Study which combined regional analysis with member outreach to develop a regional list of 49 Transit Access Focus Areas (TAFAs), locations that present the greatest need and opportunity to improve pedestrian and bicycle access to transit. The program will fund design projects to improve bike and walk connections to TAFAs. The first solicitation is planned to begin in May 2021.

Over a half million dollars will be set-aside for this purpose in the FY 2021 to FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program Regional Transit Technical Assistance Account. Three solicitations will be conducted, one every other year, and approximately \$80,000 will be available per project. Ms. McCall shared the following tentative dates:

- May – Launch Round 1 Solicitation with release of Project Abstract Form & Application
- June – Project Abstracts Due
- July – Application Due

Staff will share applications with the region's state department of transportation as well as the NVTC and PRTC for comment in advance of convening the selection panel. Bob Brown with Loudoun County suggested that applications be shared with Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and Ciara Williams with DRPT requested that the applications be shared with her agency for comment. Ms. McCall agreed with these suggestions.

Mark Phillips with WMATA noted that improving bicycle and pedestrian connections to transit is a priority. While the Metrorail System has existed for over 40 years, many stations have barriers to access and poor bike and walksheds, it is valuable to advance these projects from initial planning to actual construction. Mr. Phillips also encouraged the Committee to think through how to link various funding opportunities to move concepts from initial planning to construction. WMATA is about to engage in conversations about its project development program. Mr. Swanson mentioned that the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program funds can be used for capital improvements and design beyond 30 percent. Gary Erenrich requested a listing of grant opportunities to help jurisdictions consider how to connect different award programs.

Sonali Soneji with VRE noted that people drive to many Commuter Rail origin stations. There are some stations that were designed as origin stations that are now functioning as destination stations and sometimes the infrastructure is in the wrong direction. She also asked if there is an opportunity to keep this program flexible and consider supporting microtransit projects in the future. Ms. McCall noted that after the first round of projects is complete, staff will evaluate the program to determine what was effective and what can be improved.

## 10. REGIONAL ELECTRIC BUS OVERVIEW

Antonio Castañeda briefed the committee on the status of electric bus procurement in the National Capital Region (NCR). Beginning with context on the overall growth of e-buses in the US, as well as national and state incentive programs. He noted that electric buses grew by 37% between the years 2018 and 2019, as well as the fact that over half of electric or zero-emission buses are located in California alone. Additionally, he commented on regional GHG emissions and climate goals across the NCR like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Transportation and Climate initiative and agency-specific plans and goals like the Clean Energy DC Act and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act Draft Plan which go hand in hand with e-bus procurement strategies and priorities.

Antonio informed the group on the number of electric buses at the end of 2020 (31 in total) as well as the breakdown of electric buses across service providers in the region. He then noted that DC Circulator

---

and Frederick County Transit currently have the largest share of electric buses, as well as the highest percent of e-buses in proportion to their own total bus fleet (fleet conversion). Lastly, Antonio noted the procurement of electric buses over the last 5 years as well as the projected procurement across 2021 and 2022, noting an additional 40 buses are expected to be in the NCR by the end of 2022.

Antonio ended the presentation with a few points on common e-bus concerns from the capacity constraints of US e-bus manufacturers, range anxiety and extreme weather impacts on mileage and the need for agencies to manage the expectations of e-bus deployment. The last point mentioned was regarding regional coordination needs for future procurement including topics like energy infrastructure investments, training programs and workforce development as well as harmonized policies / utility rate structures and additional funding sources for procurement and facility conversion.

Mark Phillips noted the need for a larger conversation on how we move beyond individual agency procurement towards tackling larger regional coordination / utility issues to move towards 100% zero emission buses. Additionally, he noted where and how this coordination happens, and what TPB's role will be in this is very important. He later commented via the chat "Our Sustainability Office put together a great summary on WMATA's efforts towards zero-emissions vehicles and the types of regional issues we need to start tackling. Question is where and how to do that coordination?"  
<https://wmata.com/initiatives/sustainability/Zero-Emission-Bus-Update.cfm>

Victor Weissberg commented via the chat "Prince George's County "TheBus" has 4 e-buses being currently built and to be delivered in May, with four charging stations being built as well through the Lo-No program. Also, 8 additional buses will be procured, enabled by the VW settlement."

Betsy Massie commented via the chat "PRTC will be doing a Feasibility Study in FY 2022 for Electric Buses."

Jason Groth noted that for Charles County, their buses are along the smaller end of the spectrum and that e-bus manufacturers don't currently make buses at that size. He also mentioned that as Charles County is preparing to build in their bus terminal, they are building in space for electric bus charging stations.

Frederick County noted that an issue they have with e-bus procurement is that based on the charging cycles they would require [to maintain the same level of service] they are not able to get enough buses because of the limits imposed on how many buses can be charging at a facility at any given time.

Gary Erenrich commented via the chat "We need to share charging stations at Transit Centers such as Silver Spring and Bethesda."

Mark Mishler commented via the chat "Based on charging cycles, can't get enough electric buses."

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Visualize 2045 General Update (Stacy Cook)**

Ms. Cook (TPB) briefed the technical committee on the Visualize 2045 update. She went over the schedule and highlighted some key dates and timelines.

#### **Resiliency Study Update and Outreach Response Reminder (Stacy Cook)**

Ms. Cook (TPB) updated the technical committee on the Resiliency Study and its current status. She also reminded the committee that the outreach responses are due and asked members to provide an update if more time is needed.

---

## **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSA) (Nicholas Ramfos)**

Mr. Ramfos (TPB) briefed the technical committee on the CRRSA proposal and schedule that was presented to the TPB board in February. He noted that the cutoff date for applications is March 24 and an overview of the received applications will be presented to the committee in April. Final recommendations will also go to the TPB Board in April.

## **TPB Climate Change Mitigation Study of 2021 (CCMS) – Phase 1 Memo/Report: Summary of past work by TPB and COG (Erin Morrow)**

Ms. Morrow (TPB) briefed the technical committee on the CCMS Phase 1 report. She noted that it will help to inform the scenario study that will be taking place later this year. The report will also be presented to the TPB Board this month.

## **CAV (Andy Meese)**

Mr. Meese (TPB) informed the technical committee on connected and automated vehicles (CAVs). He noted that the TPB will continue its series of webinars with their fourth webinar on Thursday, March 25. The preregistration is currently open and free to those interested. It will focus on planning issues that will arise with CAVs as they are introduced to the National Capital Region. Additional webinars will also be planned.

Mr. Meese noted that discussions on what CAV information should be included in the Visualize 2045 update will occur later this year.

## **RTDC RTS Tabulations and continued analysis (Ken Joh)**

Mr. Joh (TPB) informed the technical committee on the Regional Travel Data Clearinghouse: Regional Travel Survey (RTDC RTS) tabulations. The data is available for use on the RTS webpage. The tabulations provide descriptive summaries of RTS variables. He noted the data is a resource that is aimed to provide assistance with making planning decisions and bolster equity and inclusivity in the region. Staff is continuing analysis on RTS data based on questions from stakeholders to develop content that is planned to be shared in the summer.

## **USDOT INFRA Grants (Eric Randall)**

Mr. Randall (TPB) reminded the technical committee that if their jurisdiction or agency is applying for a federal grant and is interested in a letter of endorsement or acknowledgement from the TPB, please contact him or Lyn Erickson. INFRA grants are currently open until March 19 and the Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission Vehicle grants are open until April 12.

## **Bike to Work Day (Nicholas Ramfos)**

Mr. Ramfos (TPB) informed the technical committee that Bike to Work Day will still be happening this year but will operate differently than previous years. He noted that they will be monitoring the public health conditions in April and May, in case the event needs to be cancelled. Registration for the event is currently open and measures will be in place to keep those participating safe. Bike to Work day is scheduled for May 21.

## **Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) (Erin Morrow)**

Ms. Morrow (TPB) informed the technical committee that the TCI released two documents on March 1: the draft model rule for the TCI program and an update on public engagement planning. These documents will be included in the Director's Report at the TPB meeting as a memo and can also be found on TCI's website.

## **Staff announcements**

Ms. Erickson (TPB) announced that Jim Maslanka with Alexandria is retiring. She also announced that Sonali Soneji (VRE) will be leaving VRE.

Mr. Canan (TPB) announced that Arianna Koudounas will be joining COG's Department of Community Planning and Services.

---

**Transportation Land Use Connections (John Swanson)**

Mr. Swanson reminded the technical committee that the deadline for the TLC program application is Monday, March 8. He also mentioned that the Maryland TAP application period is from April 1 – May 17. The Virginia TAP pre-applications are due on July 1. Main application due October 1. DC TAP solicitations are anticipated from late March through May 2021.

**12. ADJOURN**

No other business was brought before the committee.

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT</b>	
Mark Rawlings – DC DOT Jason Groth – Charles County Alex Waltz – Charles County Mark Mishler – Frederick County David Edmondson - City of Frederick Eric Graye – MNCPPC MC Gary Erenrich – Montgomery County Victor Weissberg – Prince George’s County Kari Snyder – MDOT Jim Maslanka – Alexandria Dan Malouff – Arlington County Malcolm Watson – Fairfax County Robert Brown – Loudoun County Chloe Delhomme – City of Manassas	Sree Nampoothiri – NVTA Dan Goldfarb – NVTC Meagan Landis – Prince William County Betsy Massie – PRTC Norman Whitaker – VDOT Maria Sinner – VDOT Regina Moore – VDOT Ciara Williams – VDRPT Xavier Harmony - VDRPT Christine Hoeffner – VRE Sonali Soneji – VRE Mark Phillips – WMATA
<b>OTHERS / MWCOG STAFF PRESENT</b>	
Lyn Erickson Kanti Srikanth Tim Canan Andrew Meese Mark Moran John Swanson Stacy Cook Karen Armendariz Sergio Ritacco Leo Pineda Sarah Bond Andrew Austin Bryan Hayes Yu Gao	Paul Desjardin Nicole McCall Nicolas Ramfos Mike Farrell Lynn Winchell- Mendy Ken Joh Jessica Mirr Jeff King Feng Xie Erin Morrow Dusan Vuksan Charlene Howard Arianna Koudounas Antonio Castaneda