

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD PLANNING AREAS AND ACTIVITIES



The National Capital Region [Transportation Planning Board](#) (TPB) prepares multimodal plans and programs that the federal government must approve for the region to receive federal funds. These include the [long-range transportation plan](#) (LRTP) and [Transportation Improvement Program](#) (TIP). Always using an equity lens, the TPB works with partners to conduct research, analysis, and to develop transportation strategies to address its goals and to meet federal planning requirements.

Planning & Research

Board Priorities

Through planning, coordination, and research, TPB staff respond to Board priorities and direction. Examples of staff activities include conducting analysis and coordination to support implementation of the [Aspirational Initiatives](#), address [climate change](#), advance [transit oriented communities](#), improve [safety](#), and consider and improve [equity](#) in transportation.



The TPB assembles and analyzes data to identify trends over time. Staff also conduct surveys to determine how people are traveling, for what purpose, and how far. The TPB performs [regional forecasting](#) to develop estimates about current or future travel conditions. TPB staff develop these forecasts based on projected [population](#) and job growth, and data about planned or potential improvements in the transportation system to provide insights about future travel demand.

Forecasts & Trends

Travel Demand Management

[Travel Demand Management](#) (TDM) is an approach of using strategies to improve mobility, accessibility, improve safety and air quality by making more efficient use of the transportation system. TDM strategies include reducing single occupant vehicular travel by carpooling, using public transportation, walking, bicycling and teleworking. TPB implements a regional TDM program called [Commuter Connections](#) that promotes these strategies by offering commuters various incentives and assistance.



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Through [air quality conformity](#) analysis, the TPB coordinates with its partners to meet federal planning requirements for established pollutants in the air known to be harmful to people's health. TPB staff forecast emission levels of these pollutants from vehicles to ensure that the LRTP and TIP comply with the region's plan to meet national air quality standards. The TPB also partners with COG and its members on issues of [environmental mitigation](#) and works to address [climate change](#) by identifying and evaluating strategies to reduce roadway [greenhouse gas](#) emissions and to ensure resiliency of the transportation system.

Environmental Planning

Funding Opportunities & Technical Assistance

TPB offers [Technical Assistance](#) to assist its members with the preliminary planning of projects, programs or policy evaluations. TPB's [Transportation and Land Use Connections](#) (TLC) program provides consultant services for small projects and its new safety program advances initiatives that improve transportation safety. Partnering with its member states, TPB implements the [Enhanced Mobility](#) program that provides matching grant funds to help transportation for people with disabilities and older adults, and the [Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside](#) program that funds activities that enhance the intermodal transportation system.



Every metropolitan planning organization (MPO) is federally required to have a [Participation Plan](#). This plan articulates the TPB's commitment to transparent communications and engagement with the public and relevant public agencies to support the regional transportation planning process. The [Community Leadership Institute](#) (CLI), is an educational opportunity that invites local leaders to get involved in the transportation planning process. Participants learn how, where, and when transportation decisions are made in the region.

Public Engagement

Committees & Coordination

The TPB's [committees](#) and subcommittees include a wide network of policy, technical, and advisory committees to advance TPB's vision and goals. The committees address topics related to bicycling and walking, public transportation, safety, freight, management and operations coordination, travel forecasting, and more. Public officials and experts come together to learn about the latest trends and data, share best practices, and develop solutions to the region's major transportation challenges.

