



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** TPB Technical Committee  
**FROM:** John Swanson, TPB Transportation Planner  
**SUBJECT:** Proposal for Identifying Priority Non-Motorized Projects to Include in 2018 Long-Range Transportation Plan  
**DATE:** May 5, 2017

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This memo describes an approach that TPB staff is proposing to use to develop a list of pedestrian and bicycle priorities for inclusion in the 2018 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The work described here will be carried out over the course of the next few months, culminating in a proposed TPB action in the fall of 2017.

## PURPOSE

Including pedestrian and bicycle projects in the 2018 LRTP will demonstrate the TPB's commitment to supporting active transportation and the many health, economic development, and quality of life benefits that it supports. The TPB has committed to promoting walking and bicycling as viable transportation options and to promote better non-motorized circulation within and between regional Activity Centers.

The FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) calls upon staff to develop a draft list of regionally significant pedestrian and bicycle projects for inclusion in the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan. The articulation of these priority projects will build upon recent planning activities conducted by the TPB and its member jurisdictions, which are described below.

The endorsement of these projects can help to build support and galvanize resources for their implementation. Results of these efforts may also provide information to the Long-Range Planning Task Force.

## PROPOSAL

Staff proposes that the pedestrian and bicycle package of priority projects for inclusion in the 2018 Long-Range Transportation Plan consists of two parts:

- *A package of high-impact station-access improvements around Metrorail stations within Activity Centers*

Pedestrian and bicycle projects near Metrorail stations can improve local access to Metrorail, the backbone of the region's public transportation network. By investing in local improvements that fill in gaps in the walking or biking network, as well as expanding facilities, residents throughout the region will have increased access to jobs and services.

These relatively low-cost improvements have the potential to make a difference in transportation options, commute times, access to services and quality of life for thousands of people throughout the region.

Staff proposes to work with WMATA's inventory of pedestrian and bicycle projects near Metrorail stations as identified in local jurisdictions' plans (this work was built upon a 2014 TPB study funded through a federal TCSP grant). WMATA ranked the projects based on many factors, such as safety, prioritizing low-income areas, and the potential for increasing ridership. WMATA worked with jurisdictions' staff to narrow the highly-ranked projects to a limited list of projects that are likely to have a high-impact and be beneficial to the local community and the region.

Staff recommends taking WMATA's list of prioritized projects and cross-referencing it with Metrorail stations which are located within regional Activity Centers. The prioritized projects which fall in Activity Centers would make up the station-access improvement portion of the pedestrian and bicycle improvements for the 2018 LRTP.

- *A package of high-priority projects to provide key connections between jurisdictions and between Activity Centers*

Staff will compile a list of longer-distance bicycle and pedestrian projects that improve connectivity on a wider regional basis. These projects will be drawn from:

- The TPB's Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, approved in January 2015
- The National Capital Trail, a circumferential route identified in the National Park Service Paved Trails Study, which is currently more than 60% complete
- The Regional Trails Plan under development by the Capital Trails Coalition

## **NEXT STEPS**

The proposed schedule for carrying this out is as follows:

- **May-June:**
  - Staff will finish compiling the proposed projects to be incorporated into the pedestrian and bicycle element of the LRTP.
- **June-July:**
  - Conduct follow-up outreach to the TPB's member jurisdictions to fine-tune and finalize the list of projects.
- **September - October:**
  - The draft package of pedestrian and bicycle priority projects will be presented to the TPB for inclusion in draft form in the 2018 Long-Range Transportation Plan.