



## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS REGIONAL TRENDS, PROGRESS

During the January 21 TPB meeting, the Board approved the 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the National Capital Region. The plan serves as a centralized source of information on major planned improvements in the region, including those for which funding has yet to be identified.

The plan also pulls together key regional metrics provided by TPB and jurisdiction staff. The share of area commuters who bike to work is up in every jurisdiction in the region, since 2000, with Arlington,

Alexandria, and the District of Columbia seeing the steepest increases.

The plan also shows that the pace of planning and implementing significant bicycle and pedestrian improvements in the Washington region has picked up since the last plan update in 2010 to match the growth in mode share. Nearly 200 miles of major bicycle lanes and shared-use paths have been added since 2005, bringing the total to more than 700.

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## BOARD SEEKS ANSWERS ON I-66 TOLLING PROPOSAL SLATED FOR 2015 CLRP UPDATE

At its meeting on January 21, the TPB discussed a Virginia Department of Transportation proposal to toll portions of I-66 both inside and outside the Capital Beltway. VDOT submitted the proposal as two separate projects earlier this year for inclusion in the 2015 update of the region's Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP), which the TPB is responsible for updating each year.

On I-66 inside the Beltway, VDOT has proposed

converting existing high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to express toll lanes, like those which opened on the Virginia portion of the Capital Beltway in 2012, and on I-95 in late 2014. Vehicles with fewer than three people traveling in either direction during peak periods would pay a toll to use the lanes. Vehicles with three or more people would ride for free. Today, the highway is restricted to vehicles with two or more people during peak periods, but only in the peak direction. Under the proposal, travel lanes in the off-peak direction will also

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### Upcoming meetings and items of interest:

**TPB Meeting: February 18, 2015**

- Review of comments received and approval of project submissions for the Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2015 Financially Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and the FY 2015-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED FOR 2015

At its meeting on January 21, the TPB approved the appointments of 15 members and eight alternate members to serve on the TPB's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) in 2015.

The mission of the CAC is to promote public involvement in the regional transportation planning process and to provide independent, region-oriented citizen advice to the TPB on transportation plans and issues.

Ten of the 15 full members appointed on January 21 served on the CAC last year. The remaining six, plus six of the alternate

members, are new to the committee this year.

Bob Summersgill, one of the new members appointed from the District of Columbia, will serve as chair. Summersgill was appointed as chair by Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia councilmember who also serves as the 2015 chair of the TPB.

The first meeting of the 2015 CAC is Thursday, February 12. The CAC typically meets on the Thursday prior to regularly scheduled TPB meetings. For more information, please visit: [www.mwcog.org/CAC](http://www.mwcog.org/CAC). ♦

## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN UPDATE

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The updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan also details hundreds of capital improvements, studies, actions, and strategies that the region collectively proposes to carry out by 2040 to increase bicycling and walking.

During the next year, the region is expected to spend about \$84 million on major bicycle and pedestrian improvements, nearly four times more than in 2010, the last time the plan was updated. And some 1,600 miles of new or upgraded bicycle and pedestrian facilities are planned by 2040, about 600 miles more than in the 2010 update. The planned improvements are expected to account for at least 3 percent of all spending region wide on new transportation infrastructure.



Board member Jay Fisette, who represents Arlington County, proposed amending the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to include identifying a circumferential bicycle route or routes around the Washington region as a goal for the 2014 update. The amendment was accepted by the Board.

The TPB updates the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan every four years with the help of a subcommittee made up of local bicycle and pedestrian planners from around the region. The plan is meant to serve as a regional clearinghouse of information on key trends and best practices to help inform local planning and decision making. ♦

For a visual summary of the 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the National Capital Region visit: [www.mwcog.org/bikepedplan](http://www.mwcog.org/bikepedplan)

## TPB AWARDS \$2.7 MILLION IN FEDERAL “ENHANCED MOBILITY” FUNDING

A number of regional efforts to address the specialized transportation needs of persons with limited mobility will receive funding this year under the new federal Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program.

The TPB approved funding for the projects at its January 21 meeting. In all, it awarded \$2.7 million to nine different projects throughout the region, including a new multi-jurisdictional mobility management program led by Fairfax County and the purchase of new wheelchair-accessible taxicabs in the District of Columbia.

A panel selected the projects based on how well they address some of the region’s top unmet mobility needs, identified in 2014 by the TPB’s Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force. Both the panel and the Task Force include representatives of local and

national transportation and human service agencies.

The TPB accepted applications for Enhanced Mobility funding between August and October of last year. More than 1,200 eligible transportation agencies, non-profit organizations, and private transportation providers were invited to submit applications.

This isn’t the TPB’s first time selecting projects to receive federal funding aimed at improving mobility for transportation-disadvantaged groups. Between 2007 and 2013, the TPB awarded more than \$25 million to dozens of mobility services, programs, and training efforts for older adults, persons with disabilities, and low-income individuals through the federal Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs.

For more information, go to [www.tpbcoordination.org](http://www.tpbcoordination.org). ♦

### 2014 “Enhanced Mobility” Recipients and Projects

#### **Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind**

Provide audible maps of key Metrorail stations for people with visual impairments.

**Geographic focus:** Regional

**Federal:** \$200,000 **Total:** \$250,000

#### **Northern Virginia Mobility Access Project**

Fairfax County will lead a multi-jurisdiction mobility management effort to coordinate services in northern Virginia and train neighborhood groups to provide travel navigation support.

**Geographic focus:** Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, and the City of Alexandria

**Federal:** \$540,000 **Total:** \$675,000

#### **Jewish Council for the Aging**

Strengthen the “Connect-a-Ride” transportation information program with an improved database and a bi-lingual mobility specialist.

**Geographic focus:** Montgomery County with some services available in Prince George’s County, Fairfax County, Arlington County, and the District of Columbia

**Federal:** \$178,862 **Total:** \$223,577

#### **Montgomery County Dept. of Health and Human Services**

Increase coordination between the transportation and human service agencies within the county; outreach and marketing about existing transportation services and volunteer driver recruitment.

**Geographic focus:** Montgomery County

**Federal:** \$138,902 **Total:** \$196,247

#### **Yellow Transportation LLC**

Procure seven wheelchair accessible taxis that are available to serve the general public but are prioritized for wheelchair customers.

**Geographic focus:** District of Columbia

**Federal:** \$235,900 **Total:** \$297,500

#### **Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)**

Three applications from northern Virginia were combined into a single block grant to be awarded to DRPT administration for the purchase of vehicles for three non-profits that primarily serve people with intellectual disabilities: ECHO, Arc of Greater Prince William County, and Fairfax County Human Services Transportation.

**Geographic focus:** Fairfax County, Loudoun County, and Prince William County

**Federal:** \$700,000 **Total:** \$875,000

#### **Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)**

A block grant for vehicle purchase for suburban Maryland non-profits that serve the Washington urbanized area in the District, Maryland, and Virginia. Non-profits will apply directly to MTA for funding.

**Geographic focus:** Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, and portions of Charles County and Frederick County

**Federal:** \$700,000 **Total:** \$875,000

# I-66 PROPOSAL SLATED FOR 2015 CLRP UPDATE

*(Continued from page 1)*

operate as express toll lanes during the peak period. Tolling would start in 2017.

Outside the Beltway, officials are proposing to create two express toll lanes to operate 24 hours a day in both directions from the Beltway to Haymarket in Prince William County. One lane in each direction would be built new, and the other would come by converting existing high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to express toll lanes. The highway would retain three general-purpose, non-tolled lanes, as it does today.

The project, which is slated to be complete by 2022 at a cost of \$2-3 billion, also includes proposed improvements to bus service in the corridor and a number of nearby bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

At the January 21 TPB meeting, Board discussion focused on learning more about the transit, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements promised as part of the project.

Board member Linda Smyth, who represents Fairfax County, asked about the proposed bicycle and pedestrian improvements. “One of my concerns is some of the things that aren’t mentioned in the proposal, like replacement of all of the bridges and overpasses and the inclusion of sidewalks and bike lanes on those roadways,” Smyth said.

Board member Jay Fiset, who represents Arlington County, echoed Smyth’s concerns.

“Why are the multimodal improvements not incorporated in the proposal that is before us now?” he asked.

According to Renee Hamilton, the VDOT official who briefed the Board on the tolling proposal, the details of those improvements have yet to be worked out. But, she said, VDOT will be working closely with local jurisdictions in coming months to identify specific improvements to include. Hamilton told Board members that many more details would be available by September, when the TPB is scheduled to consider the proposal for final approval and inclusion in the 2015 CLRP update.



**I-66 outside the beltway will be converted to three general purpose lanes and two express lanes with dynamic, congestion-based tolling at all times in both directions by 2022.**

Board member Dan Emerine, who represents the District of Columbia Office of Planning, expressed concern that September would be too late to receive such information. “These are details that will impact people’s travel choices in the future and will therefore alter the output of the travel demand model,” he said. The TPB uses a travel demand model to forecast future travel patterns under proposed plans to assess potential air quality impacts and other changes in travel patterns and system performance that might be expected under the plan.

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## PROJECT SUBMISSIONS FOR 2015 CLRP UPDATE

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TPB staff director Kanti Srikanth noted that improvements such as travel demand management and pedestrian facilities are included in the modeling analysis and that staff expects to receive enough information about VDOT's transit plans by February to run the analysis this summer. He also said that any future changes to the assumptions can be reflected in future updates of the CLRP.

The other major new project proposed for inclusion in the 2015 CLRP update is an expansion of the District's dedicated bike-lane network by removing roadway capacity currently serving motor vehicles. Also up for consideration is the removal of a planned streetcar spur in the District connecting the soon-to-open H Street NE/Benning Road streetcar line to the Minnesota Avenue Metrorail station. In Virginia, officials have proposed

removing from the CLRP the planned Columbia Pike and Crystal City streetcars, following a vote by the Arlington County Board last year to cut funding for the projects.

The TPB is accepting comment on proposed changes to the CLRP through February 14. The Board is scheduled to approve the projects on February 18 for inclusion in the federally required Air Quality Conformity Analysis before considering the projects for final inclusion in the CLRP in October. ♦

Learn more about the 2015 CLRP update, including projects maps and the full schedule for this year's update at:  
[www.mwcog.org/CLRP2015](http://www.mwcog.org/CLRP2015)

### UPCOMING FEBRUARY AGENDA ITEMS

The February TPB meeting is expected to include the following items:

- Review of comments received and approval of project submissions for the Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2015 Financially Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and the FY 2015-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Approval of Scope of Work for the Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2015 CLRP and the FY 2015-2020 TIP
- Briefing on the COG Cooperative Forecasting Process
- Review of Draft FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Briefing on the Draft FY 2016 Commuter Connections Work Program (CCWP)
- Briefing on the implementation of the TPB Regional Priority Bus Project under the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program
- Notice of Proposed Amendment to Update Projects and Funding in the District of Columbia Section of the FY 2015-2020 TIP ♦

### OTHER JANUARY AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB's January 21 meeting also included the following items:

- Approval of funding and transmittal letter for TPB's 2015 Membership in the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Briefing on draft scope of work for the Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2015 CLRP and the FY 2015-2020 TIP
- Review of outline and preliminary budget for the FY 2106 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) ♦

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All meetings are at COG unless otherwise indicated. If you are in need of special assistance to participate in meetings, please call (202) 962-3315 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Bicycle racks are located in the parking garage at 777 North Capitol St., NE (Enter from First St., NE).

## February 2015

- 6 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 6 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 12 Vehicle Probe Data Users Group Meeting (1 pm)
- 12 Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 18 Transportation Planning Board (noon)
- 24 Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee (noon)
- 25 Regional Taxicab Regulators (1 pm)

## March 2015

- 5 Freight Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 6 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 6 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 11 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 11 Car Free Day Steering Committee (11:30 am)
- 12 Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 17 Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee (10 am)
- 17 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 17 Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 17 Regional TDM Marketing Group Meeting (2 pm)
- 18 Transportation Planning Board (noon)
- 20 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 24 Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee (noon)
- 26 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)

## April 2015

- 3 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 3 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 9 Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 15 Transportation Planning Board (noon)
- 23 Access for All Advisory Committee (noon)
- 28 Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee (noon)

Dates and times subject to change.

Please visit our website at

[www.mwcog.org](http://www.mwcog.org)

for up-to-date information.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Bryan Hayes at (202) 962-3273 or [bhayes@mwkog.org](mailto:bhayes@mwkog.org), or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Please allow seven working days for preparation of material.

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