



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Andrew Austin, TPB Transportation Planner
SUBJECT: Public Forum on the FY 2017-2022 Transportation Improvement Program
DATE: September 21, 2016

On Thursday, September 15, TPB staff held a Public Forum on the development of the FY 2017-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as required by the federal Metropolitan Planning Regulations. The forum was broadcast live via webinar and held following an abbreviated meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The TIP will be released for a 30-day public comment period on Thursday, October 13.

BACKGROUND

Metropolitan Planning Organizations are required to produce a long range *plan* and a short range implementation *program* every 4 years. They can be amended at any time. The long range plan is the region's best *guess* at the projects the region thinks it may be able to implement in the next 20 years. The TIP is the region's short term "budget" and includes all projects and phases of projects which we *know* can be implemented. Projects in the TIP must come from approved local and state budgets in order to meet federal fiscal constraint requirements. The last step that implementing agencies take before a project can begin is to make sure specific project funding details, among other requirements, are included in the TIP.

Projects must first be included in a long range plan before they can be included in a TIP. The TPB's Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) identifies projects that may be implemented through the year 2040. Funding for projects in the CLRP is "constrained" and must be demonstrated to be "reasonably expected to be available," as reflected in the 2014 CLRP Financial Plan. TPB frequently amends the CLRP as project development occurs and priorities are identified.

The TPB's TIP is a federal obligation document, and may seem confusing as we struggle to both meet federal requirements and produce user-friendly information. It covers a six-year period and provides much greater detail on the specific combinations of federal, state, and/or local sources that will be used to pay for the planning, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of projects. Federal regulations require that funding in the first two years of the TIP be "available and committed," and TPB meets that requirement by utilizing local and state budget approval processes.

OUTREACH AND ATTENDANCE

The Public Forum was advertised using multiple media formats. The forum was highlighted in a TPB News article on August 23 which is delivered to more than 900 subscribers. On the week of August 29, approximately 1,000 postcards were mailed out to the TPB's "The Region" magazine distribution list. On September 9, an email was sent to over 1,100 recipients, with a follow-up reminder email sent on

the day of the forum. The reminder email included an invitation to participate in the Public Forum online. In the weeks leading up to the forum, approximately 20 posts were made to the TPB's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

The forum was attended by 20 people including members of the CAC. Five people participated in the forum online. TPB staff would like to thank Mark Rawlings from the District Department of Transportation, Kari Snyder from the Maryland Department of Transportation, Norman Whitaker and Cina Dabestani from the Virginia Department of Transportation, and Allison Davis from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for their participation in the forum's Question and Answer session.

PROJECT SELECTION AND FUNDING

TPB staff presented information on how the District, Maryland, Virginia and WMATA each select and fund projects from their long-range transportation plans into their short-term budget programs and the TPB's TIP. Upcoming opportunities for public involvement were highlighted for each of the DOTs and WMATA's programs currently under development.

A preliminary draft of the FY 2017-2022 TIP contains more than 300 projects with a total of about \$9 billion, almost half of which is from state and local funding. Large-scale projects in the TIP include the Purple Line and Silver Line Phase II Metrorail extension, the South Capitol Street Bridge, and the I-66 Multimodal Improvements inside the Beltway.

Often, implementing agencies cannot update projects in the TIP until the project is "shovel ready." The TIP is continuously being amended and modified, so any financial summary can only provide a momentary "snapshot" of the TIP. Due to varying schedules across the National Capital Region, some agencies have more fully developed inputs to the TIP through FY 2022. Other agencies are in earlier stages of program development and anticipate requesting amendments to the TIP early next year.

The presentation, and a preliminary draft of the FY 2017-2022 TIP tables are available online at www.mwcog.org/TIPforum along with a recording of the webinar presentation and audio.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Forum attendees asked questions or made comments on a wide range of subjects. The discussion included:

- The impact of Maryland's new project scoring system on the draft FY 2017 Consolidated Transportation Program, and inputs into the TPB's TIP
- The lack of funding for specific projects including American Legion Bridge improvements and elements of Metro 2025
- The possibility for projects to be withdrawn from the TIP if they are delayed or dropped from state plans
- The potential for TIP tracking of funding for State of Good Repair of transportation systems
- The commitment of funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
- Cross-jurisdictional projects
- More and better use of graphics to explain funding and project distribution in the TIP
- The development of a TIP "Dashboard"

NEXT STEPS

On October 13, the TPB will release the draft FY 2017-2022 TIP for a 30-day public comment period along with the 2016 CLRP amendment and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis. The draft FY 2017-2022 TIP will include multiple indices of projects according to type, funding source, and location, a financial summary with enhanced graphics, and the [CLRP website](#) will feature an interactive GIS-based map of the draft TIP projects. The TPB will be asked to approve the TIP at its November 16 meeting.