

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

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**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD**

December 17, 2014

REVISED – January 21, 2015

Members and Alternates Present

Robert Brown, Loudoun County
Ron Burns, Frederick County
Rick Canizales, Prince William County
Allison Davis, WMATA
Marc Elrich, Montgomery County
Dan Emerine, DC Office of Planning
Dennis Enslinger, City of Gaithersburg
Lyn Erickson, MDOT
Jay Fisette, Arlington County
Seth Grimes, City of Takoma Park
Jason Groth, Charles County
Rene'e Hamilton, VDOT
Konrad Herling, City of Greenbelt
Julia Koster, NCPC
Michael May, Prince William County
Phil Mendelson, DC Council
Bridget Donnell Newton, City of Rockville
Mark Rawlings, DC DOT
Kelly Russell, City of Frederick
Peter B. Schwartz, Fauquier County
Linda Smyth, Fairfax County
David Snyder, City of Falls Church
Tammy Stidham, National Park Service
Todd Turner, Prince George's County
Jonathan Way, City of Manassas
Patrick Wojahn, City of College Park
Scott K. York, Loudoun County
Sam Zimbabwe, DDOT

MWCOG Staff and Others Present

Robert Griffiths
John Swanson
Andrew Meese
Eric Randall
Michael Farrell
Andrew Austin
Wendy Klancher
Dan Sonenklar
Ben Hampton
Bryan Hayes
Sergio Ritacco
Erin Morrow
Debbie Leigh
Deborah Etheridge
Steve Walz COG/DEP
Jeff King COG/DEP
Stewart Schwartz CSG
Jeanette Tejada de Gomez AAA Mid-Atlantic
John B. Townsend AAA Mid-Atlantic
Sean Egan Maryland DOT
Alex Tremble Self
Nancy Abeles Self/Community Advocate
Alyssa Souvignier Prince William County – Board of Supervisors
Kelsey Sweeney Prince William County – Board of Supervisors
Ebadullah Ebadi Prince William County – Board of Supervisors
Alex Stow Prince William County – Board of Supervisors
Jameshia Peterson DDOT
Malcolm Watson Fairfax County
Bill Orleans Area resident

1. Public Comment on TPB Procedures and Activities

Mr. Schwartz from the Coalition for Smarter Growth shared comments from his organization and a coalition of other none organizations calling on the TPB to strengthen the resolution before it to affirm COG’s accepted long range CO2 reduction targets in two ways: (1) include September 30, 2015 as the deadline to complete committee work and final report and (2) ensure an outcome of the working group includes interim and long-range targets for CO2 reductions

specifically for the transportation sector. Mr. Schwartz also urged the new multi-sector working group to model an ambitious smart growth agenda that would reduce carbon emissions from transportation. He outlined the following strategies: reduced vehicle miles of travel; increased mode share; significant reduction in road capacity; significant increase in miles of high quality transit and increased percentage of new development within activity centers. Mr. Schwartz highlighted Tysons Corner as an example of the benefits of transit, transit oriented development and walkable communities to the region.

2. Approval of Minutes of November 19 Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 19 meeting. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

3. Report of the Technical Committee

Ms. Erickson reported that the committee met on December 5 and discussed four Board items and three informational items:

Board items included:

- A briefing on the draft bicycle and pedestrian plan, scheduled for approval by the Board in January.
- An amendment to the UPWP, to be reviewed by the Board at the December 17 meeting.
- A briefing on the proposed goals, mission and membership of the Regional Public Transportation subcommittee.
- A discussion of the draft resolution regarding COG's GHG emissions reduction goals and the establishment of a multi-sector working group to examine GHG emissions in all four sectors.

Informational items included:

- A briefing on the development of a list of unfunded regional transportation projects, with project suggestions due in late February.
- A briefing on transportation emissions reduction measures analysis through the Commuter Connections program.
- An update regarding the development of MAP-21 performance measures regulations.

4. Report of the Citizen Advisory Committee

Dr. Loh noted that the committee discussed ways to make public participation through the Board meeting more meaningful. The committee suggested that the meeting be broadcast on the internet via live stream and that the Board revisit policies regarding public comment periods at the meetings.

Mr. Wojahn requested that TPB staff consider Dr. Loh's comments as an agenda item for a future meeting.

Mr. Srikanth reported that TPB staff will have another discussion on public participation with the Access for All committee, and staff will report results from both committees to the Board.

5. Report of Steering Committee

Mr. Srikanth reported that the committee met on December 5 and acted on two items:

- Approval of MDOT's request to update the TPB's procedures for processing revisions to the TIP, with the incorporation of Maryland's updated procedures.
- A response from TPB staff regarding a letter from WMATA regarding suggestions to the TPB travel demand model.

6. Chair's Remarks

Chair Wojahn thanked Board members and elected officials who were completing their terms with the TPB. He noted that in 2015 Mr. Turner would represent Prince George's County on the Board. He thanked Ms. Erickson for her service as chair of the Technical Committee and presented her with a plaque. He said that Mr. Rawlings from DDOT would be the Technical Committee chair in 2015. He introduced Kathy Porter to speak about the Community Leadership Institute (CLI).

Ms. Porter spoke about the importance of the CLI in promoting a regional perspective on transportation issues. She said that the CLI provides high-impact outreach for the TPB and helps to build a constituency of people who understand the regional perspective on transportation planning.

Mr. Tremble, a recent graduate from the CLI, spoke about his experiences with the institute. He thanked the board for offering the program. He appreciated that the program's participants reflected diverse perspectives from across the region. He found the interactive elements of the course particularly rewarding, and said they helped him identify new ways that he could get involved in his community.

Ms. Porter and Chair Wojahn presented certificates to recognize the service of several CLI graduates in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Lovain said that he enjoyed participating as a speaker for the recent session.

Chair Wojahn asked for a quick briefing on the status of the Purple Line.

Mr. Srikanth said that the Purple Line is currently in the 2014 CLRP with an anticipated completion date of 2020. He said that the project has been a part of the recently adopted financial

analysis, and an air quality conformity analysis of the Boards CLRP. He also said that if any of the planning assumptions about the project changes, such as the scope or the completion date, the CLRP would need to be amended and an air quality conformity analysis would need to be redone.

Mr. Turner suggested that there might be a subsequent correspondence provided in essence discussing where the Purple Line project is within the regional transportation planning process. He also said that it would be useful if TPB staff were able to brief Maryland's new governor on the status of the project.

Mr. Srikanth said that the staff would accommodate a request to brief elected officials, if a request were made.

ACTION ITEMS

7. Report of Nominating Committee for Year 2015 TPB Officers

Mr. York said that the committee nominated Phil Mendelson from the District of Columbia to be the TPB's 2015 Chair. He said that Mr. Lovain from Alexandria was being nominated as First Vice-Chair and Ms. Newton was being nominated as Second Vice-Chair. He said Mr. Zimbabwe from DDOT and Mr. Turner from Bowie was the other two Board members on the nominating committee.

A motion was made to approve the nominations. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

8. Approval of a Resolution to Affirm Support for the 2008 COG Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Goals and for the Establishment of a COG Multi-sector Working Group to Examine Greenhouse Gas Reductions

Mr. Srikanth briefed the Board on revisions made to a draft resolution that the Board reviewed at its meeting in November. He said that the revisions responded to comments made by individual Board members at the November meeting, as well as in subsequent conversations. In particular, he said that the revisions included: 1) explicitly identifying the four sectors that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and that the multi-sector working group will examine; 2) noting that the COG goals regarding greenhouse gas emissions reductions were first outlined in COG's 2008 climate change report and later agreed to through the Region Forward Voluntary Compact; and 3) detailing the four main tasks with which the multi-sector working group would be charged. The revised resolution, Resolution R10-2015, was included in the Board materials and made available at the meeting.

Mr. Lovain moved Resolution R10-2015 for adoption. Ms. Erickson seconded the motion.

Chair Wojahn opened the floor to discussion.

Mr. Snyder, who chairs the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, explained that MWAQC met earlier in the day to adopt a similar resolution. He spoke to two changes that MWAQC made to the version of the resolution included in the TPB meeting materials. The first was the addition of language, at the request of the state departments of transportation (DOTs) and air quality agencies, to emphasize the multi-sector approach of the working group – that it is not just about identifying reductions goals and strategies for the transportation sector. The other change MWAQC made was to include a September 30, 2015, deadline for an interim report from the working group. He offered these two changes to the TPB’s resolution as friendly amendment to the motion made earlier to adopt the resolution.

Mr. Lovain who had made the motion and Ms. Erickson who had seconded the motion both accepted the MWAQC revisions as friendly amendments to their motion.

Ms. Newton proposed a minor revision to emphasize the need for the working group to identify strategies that are measurable, in addition to being cost-effective, as already noted in the text of the resolution. Specifically, she asked that the word “measurable” be added to the resolution’s third “whereas” clause, to read, “There is a need to identify additional measurable cost-effective...”

Mr. Lovain and Ms. Erickson accepted the suggested revision as a friendly amendment.

Mr. Zimbabwe proposed adding the following at the end of the sentence that talks about the interim report” “in order to inform the 2016 CLRP process”.

Chair Wojahn opened the floor to discussion of the amendment.

Mr. Srikanth noted that the TPB has already identified greenhouse gas reductions as an urgent regional need for agencies to consider when submitting projects for inclusion in the CLRP, and stated that it therefore may not be necessary to have the working group’s report in order for greenhouse gas reductions to be a consideration in the CLRP update process.

Ms. Erickson pointed out that many of the reductions strategies ultimately identified by the working group may be things that would never need to be included in the CLRP anyway, and that therefore the working group’s report might not be that critical to the CLRP update process. She also noted that projects that enter the CLRP often take several years to develop, so any strategies identified by the working group that might manifest themselves as projects entering the CLRP would not be ready in the first year or two following the working group’s report.

Mr. Fisette said he thought that any effort or steps to have the findings of the working group inform the TPB’s work, including the annual update of the CLRP, would be a positive step for the region.

Ms. Smyth said she did not think the resolution needed to identify specifically how the TPB might use the findings of the working group. She said that that was ultimately up to the TPB, and

did not make sense to include in a request to the COG Board to establish and support the multi-sector working group.

Mr. May echoed Ms. Smyth's comments, saying that he thought that the resolution without the proposed amendment did not preclude staff or the Board from using the findings of the working group to inform future updates of the CLRP.

Mr. Fisette said he hoped that the word "explore" in the resolution meant "assessing and proposing" specific actions to take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, not just exploring it and coming back and saying that nothing can be done.

The Board voted on Mr. Zimbabwe's amendment. The amendment was defeated.

The Board adopted Resolution R10-2015, with friendly amendments from Mr. Snyder to include changes adopted earlier in the day by MWAQC and from Ms. Newton to include the word "measurable" in the third "whereas" clause.

9. Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to Revise the Budget and Work Elements

Mr. Miller briefed the Board, referring to a memorandum included in the meeting materials for today's meeting. He explained that the proposed amendment calls for adding approximately \$170,000 to the FY 2015 UPWP now that the actual funding levels made available by Congress are fully known. He said that when the UPWP was adopted early in 2014, staff relied on estimates of how much total funding would be available. He said that the additional funding would be allocated to a 1-percent increase in the budget for core work activities, to supporting the work of a forthcoming COG multi-sector working group to study potential greenhouse gas emissions reductions strategies, which will require TPB staff support, and finally to an evaluation of public participation work activities recommended in the recent federal certification review.

A motion to approve the amendment was made and seconded. The Board approved the amendment.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. Briefing on the Draft Update of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the National Capital Region

Mr. Sebastian, who serves as chair of the TPB's Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, briefed the Board, referring to an on-screen presentation made available as handouts to Board members and meeting attendees. He explained that the draft plan being presented today for Board review identifies hundreds of major bicycle and pedestrian improvements planned across the region through 2040. He said that it also includes recommended best practices as well as data on

regional traffic safety trends and growing use of bicycling and walking. He told Board members that they would be asked to approve the plan at their meeting on January 21.

Following Mr. Sebastian's presentation, Chair Wojahn opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Herling asked how many of the region's buses have bicycle racks. Mr. Sebastian said that the vast majority of buses have such equipment.

Ms. Loh expressed some concern that the plan seemed very bicycle-focused – that it does not seem to address pedestrian needs.

Mr. Sebastian said he thought that owed in part to the fact that bicycle improvements are often bigger and more expensive than pedestrian improvements, and therefore garner more attention. He also said that pedestrian improvements are so often built in to roadway and transit projects that they might not show up in plans like these.

Ms. Loh said she thought that suggested that the planning needs of the two modes might therefore be different enough to warrant developing separate plans. Mr. Sebastian said that the subcommittee could consider that at its next meeting.

Ms. Smyth asked that the draft plan be updated to include a reference to the recent passage of the Fairfax County bicycle master plan. Mr. Farrell said that staff would make that addition.

Mr. Fisette asked how the TPB intends to use the plan, once approved.

Mr. Srikanth explained that the plan would serve at the policy level to help identify where the gaps in the existing system are and where the focus of future investment should be – to highlight unfunded needs. He said it would also serve as a database of all planned projects in the region.

Mr. Fisette expressed an interest in using the plan to identify key regional projects that provide some increase interconnectivity between jurisdictions. As an example, he highlighted the possibility of creating a bicycle "beltway" for the region.

Mr. Sebastian and Mr. Farrell said that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee had discussed such a project, and that it was reflected conceptually in the plan, but that specific routing had not yet been identified.

Mr. Emerine asked whether national best practices are getting well integrated into various jurisdictions' planning processes and engineering manuals. He also asked whether there was anything that the TPB could do to help further the process of adopting and integrating best practices.

Mr. Sebastian explained that many national best practices actually have to be revised frequently to keep up with quickly evolving practices at the local level. However, he said, many

jurisdictions in the region seem to be adopting or endorsing the manuals that lay out the latest best practices. He encouraged Board members to check with their local transportation or parks departments to see whether they have endorsed, adopted, or recommended improvements that follow the best practices.

Ms. Koster asked whether the plan recommends creating regional metrics to set goals and measure progress toward achieving them.

Mr. Sebastian said that the plan includes some metrics already. Mr. Farrell said that many of the metrics in the plan are the same as those in Region Forward. He said that the plan does not identify specific targets, instead generally calling for more bicycling and walking. Mr. Sebastian said that many local plans include jurisdiction-specific targets and goals.

Mr. Grimes said he thought that establishing key metrics and standards at the regional level could help smaller jurisdictions in the region advocate for improvements by state, regional, or federal bodies.

Ms. Davis asked whether any key priority bicycle and pedestrian projects identified by this plan or through the future work of the subcommittee could be incorporated into the TPB's larger effort to develop a list of unfunded highway and transit projects in the region.

Mr. Sebastian and Mr. Farrell said that later this year the subcommittee would be developing a list of priority unfunded bicycle and pedestrian projects, as it has in past years, and that that list could get incorporated into the larger list of unfunded highway and transit projects.

Mr. Enslinger also encouraged the subcommittee to identify projects in the plan that should rise to the top and receive greater attention, and to help indicate how those projects might be funded.

Chair Wojahn reiterated Mr. Fisette's point that the plan should be used to identify key gaps from a regional perspective.

Mr. Sebastian reminded Board members of a new interactive map of the projects in the plan which can help to identify gaps to be filled.

11. Briefing on the Reconstitution of the Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee

Mr. Randall provided a brief overview of the TPB's Regional Bus Subcommittee that was established in 2007 and that how it was an effort at that time to bring in all the bus transit agency staff and jurisdictional transit planners to think about the opportunities for long-range planning for bus transit specifically across the region. He noted that while the subcommittee has continued since its focus has changed a bit over time to more of a forum for members to interact and discuss issues in common.

Mr. Randall noted that as part of MAP-21 a requirement was added in that federal act that

required increased representation of public transportation providers in the metropolitan planning process and on the boards. In response, the TPB passed a resolution and one of the actions was to reconstitute the Regional Bus Subcommittee and expand its scope to encompass the broader scope of public transportation service providers. Accordingly, the Regional Bus Committee was renamed as Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee, or RPTS.

Mr. Randall briefly reviewed broadened scope of the RPTS as described in the memorandum that was included in the Board's mail out packet. He noted that the one key thing that has been proposing is to start producing an annual report that has tentatively titled "State of Public Transportation." In addition, the idea behind this report would be to present the TPB with a summary of what is going on in the world of public transportation across the region. The idea is to provide a resource, education, and help inform the conversation. It would cover topics such as recent accomplishments and major events that are happening in public transportation across the region and highlight a little bit about each provider. He concluded that the Technical Committee was briefed both in November and in December about the proposed reconstitution. He said the committee endorsed the proposal.

12. Update on the TPB Community Leadership Institute

Mr. Swanson referred to his presentation and described the origins and history of the Community Leadership Institute (CLI). He described the objective of the CLI as a grass-tops approach to outreach, focusing efforts on community leaders who serve as conduits for TPB information and outreach. He said that curriculum is focused on the political realities of planning and decision-making in the Washington region. He said that since 2006, the TPB has hosted 13 CLI sessions for more than 250 participants. He said that graduates of the program include Board members and members of the CAC. The next session will be in the spring of 2015.

Mr. Turner said was a CLI graduate.

Chair Wojahn said that he was too.

13. Other Business

Referring to agenda item 8, Mr. Way reported that the documents distributed via paper copy were different than those shown in Mr. Randall's presentation.

Mr. Srikanth responded that the documents distributed under Item 8 reflected the resolution adopted by the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, which is very similar to the TPB's resolution that was shown on the screen, which the Board was referring to during its discussion

The resolution that the Board adopted was the TPB's resolution as was in the mailout with the changes from MWAQC's resolution as discussed and agreed to today. Mr. Wojahn recommended that staff review further comments and questions regarding Item 11 after the

meeting.

No other business was brought before the board.

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

