

ITEM 10 – Information

September 18, 2019

Visualize 2045 Aspirational Initiatives: Site Visits
with TPB Member Technical Staff

Background:

The board will be briefed on an upcoming TPB activity.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Stacy Cook, Transportation Planner
SUBJECT: TPB Aspirational Initiatives Activities
DATE: September 12, 2019

PURPOSE OF THIS MEMORANDUM

This memorandum provides the purpose of and approach to a series of site visits that TPB staff will conduct with TPB member jurisdiction transportation, planning and independent transit agency senior technical staff. TPB staff will ask Board members to send a letter requesting this meeting (draft letter attached).

BACKGROUND

The TPB endorsed seven initiatives in early 2018 for inclusion in the aspirational element of Visualize 2045 and for other future concerted action.

The Aspirational Initiatives are:

- Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together
- Expand Bus Rapid Transit and Transitways Regionwide
- Move More People on Metrorail
- Provide More Telecommuting and Other Options for Commuting
- Expand Express Highway Network
- Improve Walk and Bike Access to Transit
- Complete the National Capital Trail

The TPB noted that these ideas, if funded and enacted, would have the potential to significantly improve the region's transportation system performance compared to current plans and programs.

With its endorsement, the board issued a call to action for its member jurisdictions and agencies to commit to fully explore the concepts contained in the initiatives and act to implement projects, programs, and policies to fully realize the potential improvements in the transportation system's performance. In 2018, TPB staff began working with the appropriate subject matter experts to identify specific implementation actions that TPB members could take—individually and collectively—to make the projects, programs, and policies part of TPB's future financially constrained long-range plans. The Transportation Planning Board adopted Resolution R10-2019 in December 2018. The resolution directed TPB staff to advance several projects that could get started quickly, linked to three of the seven initiatives. Currently, TPB staff are leading projects in response to this resolution.

The projects include:

- **Transit Within Reach Study** – addresses initiative ‘Improve Walk and Bike Access to Transit’.
- **National Capital Regional Trail Network** – addresses initiative ‘Complete the National Capital Trail’.
- **Incentrip App** – addresses initiative ‘Provide More Telecommuting and Other Options for Commuting’.
- **Develop policy templates for small and mid-size employers to adopt and implement FlexTime and Telework programs at their work places** – addresses initiative ‘Provide More Telecommuting and Other Options for Commuting’.

PURPOSE AND APPROACH OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND TPB MEMBER SITE VISITS:

Every four years the region must update its long-range plan. The next plan will be due in 2022. To improve system performance, this next plan will emphasize including projects, programs and policies that significantly improve the region’s transportation system performance – ideas that align with the initiatives. The TPB is looking for additional opportunities to support TPB members in this effort. To this end, in September 2019, TPB staff will brief the State Technical Working Group, TPB Technical Committee, and the Board on upcoming Aspirational Initiative activities.

In September staff will ask Technical Committee members to complete an online questionnaire to help identify new projects, programs, and policies that TPB members are advancing that align with the initiatives. TPB staff are also planning site visits with TPB members’ senior level technical staff to discuss the aspirational initiatives, implementation challenges, and how TPB might be able to help. **To arrange the site visits, TPB staff will ask Board members to send a letter to directors of their corresponding local transportation, planning agencies and independent transit agencies requesting a meeting with senior technical staff (draft letter attached).** The TPB staff will then schedule the meetings.

These activities will be designed to achieve the following outcomes:

- Raise awareness of the Aspirational Initiatives.
- Identify how TPB can help our members advance their projects, programs, and policies that align with the Aspirational Initiatives.
- Identify activities TPB can undertake at the regional level (studies, research, facilitate peer exchanges or other activities) that respond to the Aspirational Initiatives.
- Gather information on what projects, programs, and policies TPB member jurisdictions and agencies are advancing that align with the initiatives.

After the first set of meetings with technical staff, TPB staff will discuss the findings and determine next steps as to activities that TPB staff could undertake to support TPB members.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Table 1 Aspirational Initiatives Site Visits Preliminary Schedule

<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Activity</i>
September 2019	Briefings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STWG September 3 (completed) • TPB Technical Committee September 6 (completed) • TPB September 18
September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPB Technical Committee members complete a questionnaire about activities that the TPB member local government and independent transit agencies are undertaking that align with the Aspirational Initiatives.
September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request TPB members sign a letter (letter drafted by TPB staff) that is to be sent to the directors of TPB member transportation, planning and independent transit agencies. • TPB staff schedule meetings.
October 2019 - January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPB staff meets with TPB member transportation, planning and independent transit agency senior technical transportation staff. • TPB staff documents findings from the local site visits.
February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPB staff meets to discuss findings of meetings and determine next steps to assist TPB members with projects, programs, and policies that align with the Aspirational Initiatives.



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

September 18, 2019

Name
Title
Agency Name
1234 Main Street
Springfield, MA 00000

Dear Title:

I am writing to request that you and your senior technical staff meet with TPB staff to discuss the region's recent long-range transportation plan, Visualize 2045 and in particular, the plan's Aspirational Initiatives. The TPB has asked its staff to discuss what projects, programs, and policies are being considered or are underway in each of our jurisdictions that align with these initiatives. TPB would like to know how it can assist you if you are developing projects, program, and policies that align with the Aspirational Initiatives that you want to include in the next plan.

The TPB approved Visualize 2045 in October 2018. Included in the long-range plan was a list of seven Aspirational Initiatives that, if implemented through projects, programs, and policies, could have a significant impact in helping the region meet its transportation goals. The TPB approved these initiatives through a consensus building process in 2017. In 2018, the board called on TPB staff and the region's transportation and planning agencies to work towards making these initiatives a reality.

The seven initiatives are:

- Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together
- Expand Bus Rapid Transit and Transitways Regionwide
- Move More People on Metrorail
- Provide More Telecommuting and Other Options for Commuting
- Expand Express Highway Network
- Improve Walk and Bike Access to Transit
- Complete the National Capital Trail Network

To learn more about these initiatives please visit visualize2045.org/aspirational-element or read the enclosed brochure.

As a next step, I'd ask you to please advise Stacy Cook, at scook@mwkog.org, of the preferred contact person whom Ms. Cook should contact to arrange the meeting. Please feel free to advise Stacy of any other agency in the jurisdiction that works in areas associated with the aspirational initiatives, that you believe should be part of the discussions.

Sincerely,

Name
Title, National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

Aspirational Initiatives Activities

Stacy M. Cook
TPB Transportation Planner

Item 10
Transportation Planning Board
September 18, 2019

visualize2045
A LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION



Outline

1. Brief overview of the Aspirational Initiatives
2. TPB staff activities to promote the initiatives
3. Site visits to TPB members technical staff



TPB Policy Framework

Think Regionally, Act Locally: *Local decision-making process to consider regional needs.*



Aspirational Initiatives

Why these 7 initiatives?

- TPB Consensus - Top performing, Regional, Multimodal, and Multidiscipline
- Two-year systematic examination of local jurisdictions' plans
- Selected from 100+ ideas and an analysis of 10 “bundled” initiatives
- Includes mutually supportive projects, programs and policy strategies
- Informed by findings from many past scenario studies
- Addresses identified challenges to achieving transportation goals



TPB's Aspirational Initiatives

- Bring jobs & housing closer together
- Expand BRT & transitways
- Move more people on Metrorail
- Provide more telecommuting & other commuting options
- Expand the express highway network
- Improve walk & bike access to transit
- Complete the National Capital Trail Network



(BeyondDC/Flickr)



(BeyondDC)



Aspirational Initiatives activities

TPB staff activities underway responsive to resolution R10-2019

- Transit within Reach study
- National Capital Regional Trail Network
- Incentrip App
- Develop FlexTime and telework program policies

(BeyondDC/Flickr)



Aspirational Initiatives activities

Upcoming TPB staff site visits to discuss:

- Visualize 2045 and TPB-endorsed Aspirational Initiatives
- Identify TPB member projects, programs and policies that members want to include in the next Plan that align with the initiatives
- Identify how TPB can help to address challenges or facilitate opportunities

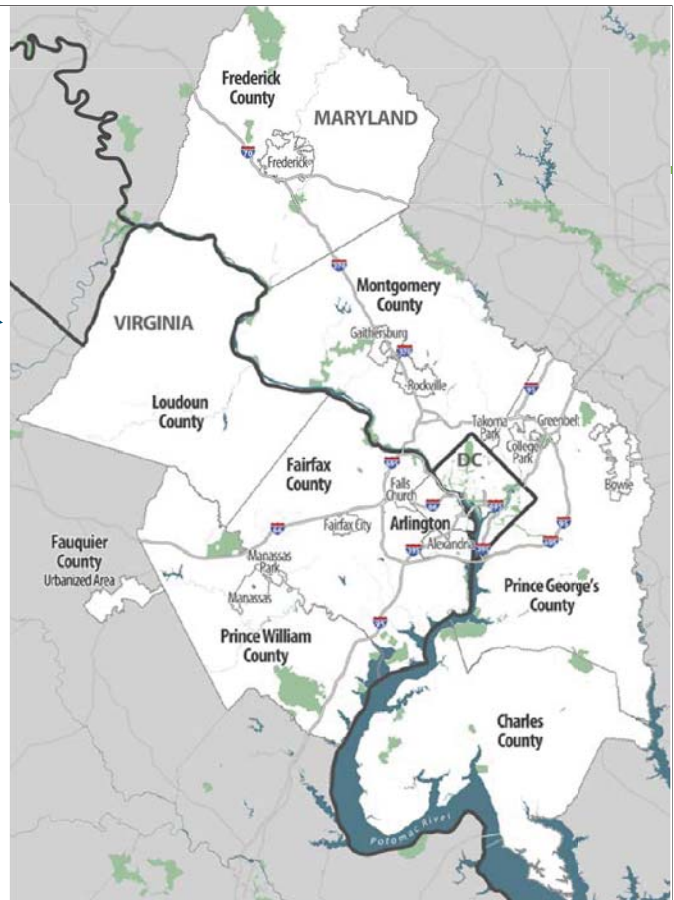
(Aimee Custis/Flickr)



TPB Member Site Visits

Next steps:

- Send letters to request meetings
- Schedule and conduct meetings
- Based on findings, determine next steps to assist TPB members with projects, programs, and policies that align with the Aspirational Initiatives



TPB Member Site Visits

We need your help!

- Support TPB staff by signing a letter to transportation and planning directors at your local government/agency requesting senior technical staff attend the meeting
- TPB staff will email the signed letters to the directors
- We will follow up to coordinate and work out the details
- A draft of the letter is in the mailout



Stacy Cook

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Visualize2045.org

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