
**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

December 15, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT

Charles Allen, TPB Chair – Council of the District of Columbia
Brook Pinto – Council of the District of Columbia
Christina Henderson – Council of the District of Columbia
Kristin Calkins – DC Office of Planning
Mark Rawlings – DDOT
Lezlie Rupert - DDOT
Reuben Collins – Charles County
Jason Groth – Charles County
Patrick Wojahn – College Park
Jan Gardner – Frederick County
Mark Mishler – Frederick County
Kelly Russell – City of Frederick
Neil Harris - Gaithersburg
Dennis Enslinger - Gaithersburg
Emmett V. Jordan – Greenbelt
Brian Lee – Laurel
Gary Erenrich – Montgomery County Executive
Hannah Henn – Montgomery County Executive
Evan Glass – Montgomery County Legislative
Victor Weissberg – Prince George’s County Executive
Bridget Donnell Newton – Rockville
Kacy Kostiuk – Takoma Park
Marc Korman – Maryland House of Delegates
Carol Krimm – Maryland House of Delegates
Nancy King – Maryland Senate
R. Earl Lewis, Jr. – MDOT
Heather Murphy - MDOT
Canek Aguirre – Alexandria
Christian Dorsey – Arlington County
Walter Acorn – Fairfax County Legislative
James Walkinshaw – Fairfax County Legislative
David Snyder – Falls Church
Adam Shellenberger – Fauquier County
Matthew Letourneau – Loudoun County
Robert Brown – Loudoun County
Kristen Umstattd – Loudoun County
Pamela Sebesky – Manassas
Jeannette Rishell – Manassas Park
Ann B. Wheeler – Prince William County
Victor Angry – Prince William County
Jimmy Rogers – Virginia Senate
John Lynch - VDOT
Maria Sinner – VDOT

Amir Shahpar – VDOT
Shyam Kannan - WMATA
Mark Phillips - WMATA

MWCOG STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT

Kanti Srikanth
Chuck Bean
Lyn Erickson
Mark Moran
Tim Canan
Andrew Meese
Nick Ramfos
Paul DesJardin
Tom Gates
Leo Pineda
Stacy Cook
Sarah Bond
Sergio Ritacco
Bryan Hayes
Andrew Austin
Jane Posey
John Swanson
Dusan Vuksan
Deborah Etheridge
Jon Schermann
Erin Marrow

Elisa Walton - CAC
Michael Grant - ICF
Mike McQueen – ICF
Ella Hanson – Council of the District of Columbia
Christopher Laskowski – Council of the District of Columbia

Audio and video of the meeting, and materials referenced in the minutes can be found here:
mwkog.org/events/2021/12/15/transportation-planning-board/

1. VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES, MEMBER ROLL CALL, AND VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Chair Allen called the meeting to order and reminded the board that the meeting was being recorded and broadcast. He said the process for asking questions and voting would be the same as at previous meetings. After each item, members would be asked for comment or to vote by jurisdiction.

Ms. Erickson conducted a roll call. Members that were present are listed on the first page of the minutes.

Mr. Erickson said that four comments were submitted via email. She said a memo summarizing the comments, with the comments attached, was included with meeting materials. The Sierra Club of Maryland submitted a letter reflecting on the TPB's Climate Change Mitigation Study (CCMS) and asked the TPB to revisit the I-495 and I-270 managed lanes projects. The Coalition for Smarter Growth submitted a letter stating the findings from the CCMS show that the region can achieve necessary levels of greenhouse reduction. The letter included additional interpretations of the study findings. There was an email with an invitation to the December 8 West Montgomery County Citizens Association meeting and another opposed to the I-495 and I-270 projects.

2. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Allen made a motion to approve the minutes from the November TPB meeting.

Mr. Jordan seconded the motion.

The board approved the minutes for the November 17, 2021 TPB meeting with one abstention from Mr. Letourneau.

3. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Groth said that the Technical Committee met on December 3. He said that the committee was briefed on the District of Columbia's long-range transportation plan, moveDC and the 11th Street Bridge Park project. More detail can be found in the report for this item.

Mr. Groth reflected on the committee's work for 2021. He said the committee put a lot of work into Visualize 2045. He said that climate change was also a big topic for the committee.

Chair Allen recognized Mr. Groth's service as the Technical Committee chair and presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

4. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Walton shared highlights from the CAC's annual report. She said that over several meetings the committee discussed impacts of climate change on the region and ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She said the CAC applauds the TPB for conducting the Climate Change Mitigation Study and hopes that the board maintains a focus on climate change in 2022. She said that over the year the committee received eight briefings on Visualize 2045. She said that safety has been an ongoing focus of the committee over the last several years and the committee continued to weigh in on this topic. She said that project inputs for the long-range plan were also a topic of discussion, as it was a topic at the board as well. She said the committee shared lots of different opinions on the I-495 and I-270 project, but discussions focused more on overarching principles for the board to consider when reviewing projects for the long-range plan.

Chair Allen acknowledge Ms. Walton's service as the Community Advisory Committee chair and presented her with a certificate of appreciation.

5. STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Srikanth said that the application period for the new round of Transportation Land-Use Connections program projects would open on December 17. He said the deadline is February 21. He said that the Community Leadership Institute will return in 2022 and he asked board members to help raise awareness about the opportunity in their communities.

Mr. Srikanth referred to three items not in his memo. First, staff are accepting comments on the draft connected and automated vehicle principles, which were presented to the board in November. The board will be asked to approve the principles in January. Second, he said that the staff are expected to return to the office in January and intend to host the TPB meeting with an in-person option on January 19. He said that several board members expressed interest in alternating in-person and online-only meetings. He said that virtual options will be offered, even for in-person meetings. Third, he said that the Prince George's County hosted the Vice President of the United States, the United States EPA administrator, and the president's special advisor for climate change. They discussed federal programs to build electric vehicle infrastructure and to transition to electric vehicles.

Mr. Srikanth said that COG held its annual meeting and released a video describing the new integrated planning framework that advance's the regions four priorities: housing, transit-oriented communities near high-capacity transit stations, equity, and addressing climate change.

6. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Allen said that this is his last meeting as chair of the TPB and a member of the community. He said he served for six years and that in 2022 he will be a vice-chair on the Council of Governments board. He said he is proud of what the board has accomplished in the last several years. He said the board has pushed TPB staff and TPB members to be a more active in regional transportation planning. He said he hopes the TPB continues to push state and local leaders to develop transportation projects that take a larger regional perspective. He thanked staff for their support.

Chair Allen said that he hopes the board will approve the letter in Item 8. He described the board's emphasis on transportation safety and described some instances in the District of Columbia in which children and others were killed by drivers. He said that examples of road violence exist in all jurisdictions. He said that the letter is limited in scope. It urges the executives of the three state-level jurisdictions to create a regional task force that would work toward an agreement on regional reciprocity for automated traffic enforcement citations. He said the letter acknowledges the different way that automated traffic enforcement is evolving in each state.

ACTION ITEMS

7. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE 2022 TPB OFFICERS

Chair Allen said that Ms. Newton and Mr. Dorsey served on the nominating committee with him. He said that Ms. Sebesky from the City of Manassas was selected to serve as chair. He said that Mr. Collins from Charles County was selected to serve as first vice-chair. He said that Ms. Henderson from the District of Columbia was selected to serve as second vice-chair.

The board unanimously approved the TPB officers for 2022.

Ms. Sebesky said she accepted the position. On behalf of the TPB and staff she thanked Chair Allen for his leadership. She said that all of his meetings and board work sessions were online-only. She said he was always calm, respectful, and open-minded. She presented Chair Allen with a plaque acknowledging his service.

Mr. Collins thanked Chair Allen for his leadership navigating the board through challenging issues.

Chair Allen said that he is grateful that the TPB is in good hands.

8. ENHANCING REGIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY ENFORCEMENT

Chair Allen referred to his remarks from Item 6 and board discussion at the November meeting. He said that the TPB has said that improving regional roadway safety is a priority. He said this item would send a letter to the governors of Maryland and Virginia and to the mayor of the District of Columbia urging them to establish a reciprocity arrangement between the jurisdictions for automated traffic enforcement. He said he hopes the jurisdictions would extend their existing reciprocity arrangement about enforcing citations issued by law enforcement officers to unsafe motorists so that the reciprocity would also apply to citations issued by automated traffic enforcement devices. He said that the board reviewed a draft of the letter in November. He said the letter has been updated based on that discussion and additional comments and feedback sent over the last month. He thanked members of the board who provided input.

Chair Allen made a motion to approve a letter from the TPB to the Governors of Maryland and Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia to establish Interjurisdictional Reciprocity of Automated Enforcement Citations to Improve regional Traffic Safety.

The motion was seconded.

Ms. Kostiuk said she appreciates this effort and supports it moving forward. She said that she would abstain during the vote due to her concerns about the issues of inequity associated with traffic law enforcement that she has previously noted in the context of inclusion of the primary enforcement of seatbelt laws in the original resolution referenced by the letter.

Mr. Lynch thanked Chair Allen for his leadership on this topic. He said that safety is paramount to everything the TPB does.

Mr. Dorsey said that the letter reflects a good collaboration of input from all stakeholders. He said the letter is better as a result of this collaboration.

Mr. Glass said he appreciated Chair Allen's leadership. He said that as the DMV tries to figure out how to keep roads safe for everybody it is important to think beyond jurisdiction boundaries. He said the letter does that.

Ms. Newton said she supports the other comments.

Mr. Lewis seconded the comments made by the other board members. He said he appreciates the collaborative process.

The board approved the motion.

Ms. Kostiuk abstained.

9. REGIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY PROGRAM PROJECT APPROVALS

Mr. Schermann shared the second set of recommended Regional Roadway Safety Program projects. He said more detail on the projects, including maps, can be found in the materials for this item. He said the program provides technical assistance to member jurisdictions and agencies to promote the TPB's roadway safety priorities. He said that between August 16 and October 12 six applications were submitted to the TPB requesting a total of \$395,000 in funding. He said the selected projects were recommended by a selection panel. He said the panel recommended five of the six projects. He said each of these projects addresses one or more of the funding priorities and that all of the projects either directly or indirectly encourage improved road user behavior. He described the selected projects.

Chair Allen made a motion to approve Regional Roadway Safety Program technical assistance recipients.

Mr. Dorsey seconded the motion.

Ms. Wheeler expressed gratitude that the Dumfries project was selected.

Mr. Aguirre mentioned the Families for Safer Streets project and thanked the Alexandria police department for helping to make it happen.

Chair Allen asked about the project for collecting near-miss data.

Mr. Schermann said that once the project is complete one of the deliverables is to share findings with committees and other jurisdictions.

Mr. Srikanth said that there are plans to collect and share best practices to serve as an online resource for safety officials.

The board approved the motion.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. PERFORMANCE BASED PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING – DRAFT 2018-2022 HIGHWAY SAFETY TARGETS

Mr. Schermann referred to the materials for this item and said that they include a detailed report and additional information about the safety target setting requirements for MPOs and the methodology used to develop the proposed targets. He said a draft of the resolution is also included with the materials. He shared a table covering the last five years of data. He said the highway fatalities have gone up, but that serious injury rates are down. He said that the region is meeting the serious injury and serious injury rate targets. He said the region did not meet the fatality and fatality rate targets, nor did it meet the non-motorist fatality and serious injury targets. He shared the recommended targets and explained the method for setting those targets.

Ms. Krimm asked if TPB staff have recommendations for how the region can achieve the targets.

Mr. Srikanth said that strategies that have been proven effective were shared with the region as part of study the TPB conducted.

Ms. Kostiuk asked why the numbers declined between 2005 and 2009, before leveling out and going up again over the last ten years. She also asked if the 2020 numbers should be considered anomalous due to the pandemic.

Mr. Schermann said that the he would get back to the board with information contextualizing the drop described Ms. Kostiuk. In response to her second question, he said that he does not anticipate that the 2021 numbers are going to show much of an improvement. He said the numbers are not official, yet.

11. DRAFT RESULTS OF THE TPB CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION STUDY

Chair Allen said that a copy of the draft TPB Climate Change Mitigation Study of 2021 (CCMS) was shared with the board last week. There was also a work session for the board on Monday of this week. He said the results of the study are sobering and speak to the urgency of taking action to mitigate climate change.

Mr. Moran recognized the work that the consultant put into the study. He also thanked Ms. Morrow and Mr. Vuksan for their work. He provided a brief overview of the study, which had two goals. First, to identify pathways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the on-road transportation sector commensurate with the region's 2030 and 2050 greenhouse gas reduction goals. Second, to explore scenarios to understand what types of strategies are needed to achieve the goals. He said that the study was conducted over two phases that included a review of past TPB and COG climate change studies, as well as a literature review and scenario analysis. He said there are many different strategies that can be used to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He said that groups of strategies are called scenarios. He said a pathway is a broad classification of strategies. He said the study considered three transportation-related pathways: vehicle technology and fuels, mode shift and travel behavior, and transportation system management and operations. He described the cause of global warming.

Mr. Grant said that the team working on the CCMS considered three top-down scenarios. The first asked what would it take to meet regional goals within the on-road transportation sector if the focus was solely on vehicle travel reduction. The next was what if the region focused solely on electric vehicle adoption. Finally, they asked what level of vehicle travel reduction would be needed to meet the 2030 climate goal, assuming that technology is part of the region's multi-sector climate and energy action plan. He shared results of the analysis. More detail and a recording of this presentation can be found with the meeting materials.

Chair Allen asked in what ways can the CCMS inform and guide decisions locally and at the TPB.

Mr. Grant said that the study could broaden the way that the region thinks about transportation investments.

Mr. Kannan said the study shows that the path to a sustainable and healthy future is challenging and complex. He said the region cannot rely on electric vehicles alone. He said three potential things the board can do are: advocate for federal and state officials to incentivize electric vehicles, help agencies pool resources for federal grants and regional workshops, and finally though goal setting and plan approval. He formally requested that the TPB update Visualize 2045 to include VMT and GHG targets.

Mr. Srikanth said while he appreciated the suggestion, he said with regard to the third suggestion of setting goals, that while goals can be aspirational, it would be best if they were informed by what TPB member jurisdictions and agencies can actually contribute. He said that he would encourage board members to go back to their own decision making and legislative processes and determine what their own jurisdictions can contribute towards implementing the various strategies in the scenarios. He provided an example of the assumptions made in scenario combo 4.

Chair Allen asked Mr. Kannan if he wants to make his recommendation a motion.

Mr. Kannan said he did not want to start off by getting too far into the weeds. He said goals should be set up for future iterations of Visualize 2045.

Ms. Sebesky said she is committed to having the TPB engaged in this discussion in the next year. She said a lot of information has been shared and not a lot of time set aside to absorb and understand that information.

Ms. Kostiuk said that setting some goals and having a process for getting there is essential, because otherwise it could be hard to start. She said the TPB's role should be to bring together the individual jurisdictions to make sure the region is working together.

Ms. Krimm said that the transportation trust fund relies heavily on the gas tax. She said states will have to figure out a way to collect taxes on electric vehicles. She said that in Maryland, the transportation trust fund is used to subsidize transit.

Mr. Wojahn asked how to translate these objectives into specific policies.

Mr. Srikanth said that staff pushed to have the study completed by the end of 2021 so that it could be included in Visualize 2045 which is scheduled to be approved in June 2022. He said that the goal is to get the board to come together to identify one or more of the ten scenarios or the strategies in the scenarios to endorse. That would be the first step. The second step would be to host forums where subject matter experts and practitioners from other regions can share strategies with jurisdictions and agencies in the Washington region who would then have to implement the strategies at the local and state levels.

Mr. Harris said that the federal and state governments will provide significant subsidies for adoption of electric vehicles. He said they are also providing local jurisdictions with funding for adding the infrastructure for charging vehicles. He said the region needs to work together to build that infrastructure.

12. ADJOURN

Chair Allen acknowledged and thanked his legislative director, Mr. Laskowski. He wished the board a wonderful new year.

No other business was brought to the board. The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.