

## **ITEM 10 - Action**

January 17, 2007

Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2007 UPWP to Fund Phase I of the Planning and Implementation of a Bicycle Route-finding Web Site for the Washington Region

### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** Receive briefing on the implementation of a bicycle route-finding web site for the region, and approve Resolution R14-2007 to amend the FY2007 UPWP to plan and begin implementation of the new web site.

**Issues:** None

**Background:** At its January 5 meeting, the TPB Technical Committee was briefed on a proposal by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee to include funding in the FY 2007 and FY 2008 UPWPs to plan and implement an online bike route mapping web site for the region. The Technical Committee recommended that the FY 2007 UPWP be amended to fund Phase I of the planning and implementation of a route-finding web site, and that Phase II be included for consideration in the draft FY 2008 UPWP.

# **National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board**

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290 (202) 962-3310 Fax: (202) 962-3202

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Transportation Planning Board

**FROM:** Ronald F. Kirby, Director  
Department of Transportation Planning

**DATE:** January 11, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Amendment to the FY2007 Unified Planning Work Program to Fund Phase I of the Planning and Implementation of a Web-Based Bicycle Route-Finding System

### **Introduction**

In response to a request from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, the TPB Technical Committee on January 5, 2007 endorsed a proposal to include funding in the FY2007 and FY2008 Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWP) for the planning and implementation of a Web-based regional bicycle route-finding system, and asked that this be forwarded to the Board for action at the January 17 meeting.

### **Background**

A major deterrent to riding a bicycle to work, according to a survey of participants in the regional Bike to Work Day, is a lack of safe and direct routes. Because safe routes often follow minor streets, many people have difficulty finding the viable routes that currently exist. A Web-based software similar to that provided for motorists by Mapquest and Google would enable a potential bicycle commuter to enter origin and destination addresses, and get a detailed cue sheet and a highlighted route on the map, together with the trip distance and estimated travel time. Such a system has been of interest for a number of years to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, but only recently have costs come down to what was felt to be a reasonable level, making development feasible within the UPWP budget. The Subcommittee has examined successful bicycle route-finding systems in Portland, Oregon and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association and a number of member jurisdictions have expressed interest in getting such a system started for our region. The goal is to have an initial system up and running by the time of the next regional Bike-to-Work day in May 2007.

## **Transportation Planning Board**

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Options that have been explored include development of a bicycle route-finding system through an upcoming Commuter Connections software upgrade, or development of a separate system through a specialist vendor. Since the Commuter Connections upgrade is not likely to be accomplished until FY2009, the TPB Technical Committee endorsed a nearer-term, vendor-provided solution.

### **Proposed FY2007 UPWP Amendment and Follow-On Actions for FY2008**

A two-phase approach is proposed:

- Amend the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program task (I.G.) of the FY2007 UPWP to add \$33,000 for initial systems development. Phase I would cover jurisdictions for which data are already available, including the District of Columbia, Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax County. The budget for work activity IV. C. Household Travel Survey will be reduced by \$33,000 to fund Phase I.
- Include Phase II in the FY2008 UPWP. Phase II will develop the system for the remainder of the region not addressed in Phase I. Phase II would be at a cost of \$32,000 (within an overall proposed FY2008 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning task [II.E.] budget of \$108,700).
- Phase I is predicated upon the understanding that Phase II will be included in the FY2008 UPWP.
- The Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee and staff will consider and pursue the most cost-effective means of developing the system.
- The system will be developed in coordination with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association and the Commuter Connections program, and will be required to be compatible with current and future Commuter Connections software and technology.
- Due to eligibility requirements, long-term funding to maintain the system after FY2008 will need to come from sources outside the UPWP. Support by the Commuter Connections program, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, and other means will be explored.

TPB Resolution R14-2007 amends the Bicycle and Pedestrian task (I.G.) of the FY2007 UPWP to support Phase I of system development. The Phase II of implementation of the web site will be included for consideration in the draft FY 2008 UPWP.

TPB R14-2007  
January 17, 2007

**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD  
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002**

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE FY 2007 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM  
(UPWP) TO FUND PHASE I OF THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A  
BICYCLE ROUTE-FINDING WEB SITE FOR THE WASHINGTON REGION**

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Planning Regulations issued by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) require a Unified Planning Work Program for Transportation Planning (UPWP); and

**WHEREAS**, the UPWP is required as a basis and condition for all funding assistance for transportation planning to state, local, and regional agencies by the FHWA and FTA; and

**WHEREAS**, the FY 2007 UPWP for the Washington Metropolitan Area was adopted by the TPB on March 15, 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 5, 2007, the TPB Technical Committee was briefed on a proposal by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee to include funding in the FY 2007 and FY 2008 UPWPs to plan and implement an online bike route mapping web site for the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the TPB Technical Committee recommended that the TPB amend the FY 2007 UPWP to include funding of \$33,000 for Phase I of the planning and implementation of a route-finding web site in work activity I.G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, and that Phase II be included for consideration in the draft FY 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the budget of \$2,011,460 for work activity IV. C. Household Travel Survey in the FY 2007 UPWP will be reduced by \$33,000 to fund Phase I of the planning and implementation of a route-finding web site;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board amends the FY 2007 UPWP to include funding of \$33,000 for Phase I of the planning and implementation of a route-finding web site in work activity: I.G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program and reduce the budget for work activity IV. C. Household Travel Survey by \$33,000, as described in the attached narrative for the FY 2007 UPWP.

*From the FY 2007 UPWP*

## G. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM

Under this work task, TPB will provide opportunities for consideration, coordination, and collaborative enhancement of planning for pedestrian and bicycle safety, facilities, and activities in the region, advised by its Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee. An updated Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was completed in FY 2006, and provides guidance for continued regional planning activities. Major topics to be addressed include the following:

- Advise the TPB, TPB Technical Committee, and other TPB committees on bicycle and pedestrian considerations in overall regional transportation planning.
- Compile bicycle and pedestrian project recommendations for the FY 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Coordinate the annual "Street Smart" regional pedestrian and bicycle safety public outreach campaign.
- Transportation Safety: Examine regional bicycle and pedestrian safety issues, their relationship with overall transportation safety, and ensure their consideration in the overall metropolitan transportation planning process.
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Systems Usage Information: Examine regional data needs for bicycle and pedestrian planning, and ensure their consideration in the overall metropolitan transportation planning process.
- Provide the public with information on the status of bicycle and pedestrian facilities planning and construction in the Washington region.
- Maintain the Web version of the regional bicycle and pedestrian plan, and compile project listing updates (such as project completions) from member agencies as necessary.
- Monitor and provide advice on the implementation of regional bicycle and pedestrian programs, including the Employer Outreach for Bicycles Transportation Emissions Reduction Measure (TERM) 70b, implementation of bicycle and pedestrian components of the green space and circulation system projects developed under the Transportation and Community and Systems Preservation (TCSP) Pilot Program grant, and other programs as necessary.
- Coordinate and host one or more regional bicycle and pedestrian planning or design training, outreach, or professional development opportunities for member

agency staffs or other stakeholders.

- Provide staff support to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, supporting the regional forum for coordination and information exchange among member agency bicycle and pedestrian planning staffs and other stakeholders.
- **Fund Phase I of the planning and implementation of a bicycle route-finding web site for the region. Consultant assistance for implementation is anticipated.**

Oversight: Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee

Cost Estimate: ~~\$75,200~~ **108, 200**

Product: Compilation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities for the FY 2008-2013 TIP; maintenance of the regional bicycle and pedestrian plan on the TPB Web Site; one or more regional outreach workshops; Subcommittee minutes, agendas, and supporting materials; white papers or other research and advisory materials as necessary

Schedule: Bimonthly

**Bold indicates change.**