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Distributed by Peter Schwartz - TPB BOARD MEMBER
November 18, 2015
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

RESOLUTION

TO CREATE AN "UNCONSTRAINED" WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE "OUTSIDE-THE-BOX" SOLUTIONS TO LONG RANGE REGIONAL CONGESTION AND ACCESSIBILITY CHALLENGES

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) was created in 1965 by the region's local and state governments to respond to federal highway legislation that required the establishment of a "continuing, comprehensive and coordinated" transportation planning process in every urbanized area in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the TPB's 50th anniversary this year provides an opportunity to look back at the Board's role, accomplishments and disappointments with respect to the region's transportation challenges and goals; and

WHEREAS, the TPB's 50th anniversary also provides an opportunity for the Board to look ahead to the future of regional transportation in the National Capital Region, and to consider new and creative approaches to the region's transportation challenges, including "outside-the-box" approaches that have not heretofore been considered or even imagined; and

WHEREAS, despite massive investments in transportation infrastructure over the preceding 50-year period, traffic congestion throughout the region has increased dramatically to the dismay of our citizens, businesses, and local and state governments; and

WHEREAS, citizens, businesses, and local and state governments within the region also have expressed related concerns regarding accessibility to efficient transportation networks and infrastructure within the region, as well as the appropriate balance of prospective infrastructure investment on a regional basis; and

WHEREAS, projections prepared by TPB staff as part of its ongoing analysis of the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and the annual amendments thereto show that congestion will continue to increase substantially in the future despite the anticipated \$244 billion additional funding for regional transportation over the 25-year life of the CLRP as currently approved; and

WHEREAS, the TPB is concerned that a "business as usual" approach to future regional transportation planning and investment will not adequately address the identified congestion and accessibility challenges; and

WHEREAS, the TPB has the ultimate responsibility under federal law, including the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" (MAP-21), for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the entire metropolitan area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD hereby creates a working group entitled the "Fresh Look for the Next Fifty Working

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Group” specifically tasked and empowered to imagine, create and develop potential “outside-the-box” solutions to the region’s transportation challenges; that such Working Group be comprised of individuals selected by the Chairman on or before December 15, 2015 based on voluntary expressions of interest in participating, and with a chair designated by the Working Group at its first meeting; that such Working Group shall be expected report on its progress and ideas at the June , 2016 meeting of the TPB, and that the TPB staff shall be expected to participate in the Working Group and assist the Working Group as needed with administrative and analytic assistance from time to time;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the TPB challenges the “Fresh Look for the Next Fifty Working Group” to put aside “business as usual” thinking, and to return to the Board with new and innovative approaches that are intended to dramatically reduce traffic congestion and enhance accessibility to transportation options throughout the National Capital Region.