



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Unfunded Capital Needs Working Group

FROM: John Swanson, Department of Transportation Planning

SUBJECT: Working Group Kickoff Meeting

DATE: September 15, 2015

Overview

At the direction of the TPB, staff has compiled a draft inventory of unfunded capital transportation needs. This inventory comprises more than 900 projects that are included in state, local and regionally approved plans, but are not currently included in the region's Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP). In July, TPB Chairman Phil Mendelson appointed a working group to 1) oversee the completion of the draft inventory and 2) develop a scope of work for regional planning activities that will use the inventory as the basis for analysis and outreach.

The Unfunded Capital Needs Working Group will hold its kickoff meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2:30–3:30 p.m., in Meeting Room 1, following the TPB meeting. Representatives of the TPB member jurisdictions and their transportation agencies are invited to participate in the working group and attend the kickoff meeting.

Primary Tasks

The primary tasks of the Unfunded Capital Needs Working Group will be:

- Review and finalize the draft inventory of unfunded transportation projects compiled by staff including a summary document, a user-friendly database and map depicting projects on the list.
- Identify the policy questions to address via analysis of the inventory of unfunded projects compiled as above.
- Develop a scope of work outlining the process and products to be developed by the working group to inform the policy questions identified by the working group.
- Brief the Board and seek its concurrence on the above tasks and present the draft and final products on a periodic basis.

Membership and Structure

TPB Chairman Phil Mendelson on July 22 announced the formation of the working group with the following features:

- The working group will be chaired by Ms. Bridget Newton (2nd TPB Chair and Mayor of Rockville). TPB member Mr. Jonathan Way (Vice Mayor, City of Manassas) will serve as vice chair.
- Nominated members of the working group will include representatives of the Departments of Transportation and the Public Transportation agencies from the three states, WMATA and the chairman or his designee of the TPB's Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC).
- Invited members of the group include representatives of all member jurisdictions of the TPB.
- Staff will conduct the technical analysis as needed to execute the work scope approved by the board as part of its FY 2016 Work Program activities.

At its kickoff meeting, the working group will discuss how often it will meet and other practical questions related to how it will conduct its business throughout the remainder of the fiscal year.

The Current Inventory

In September 2014, the TPB asked staff to develop a compilation of the region's unfunded transportation projects. In October, the Citizens Advisory Committee passed a resolution supporting this request and asked that the list be made available for use in public outreach and other regional planning activities. In November, TPB staff reported that it would work with member jurisdictions to gather a list of projects that are in state, local, and regionally approved plans, but are not currently in the Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP).

As of September 14, 2015, the inventory includes more than 500 roadway and transit projects, and more than 400 pedestrian and bicycle projects. The projects were submitted by state, local and regional agencies from their approved plans. In compiling the list of unfunded projects, TPB staff excluded those projects that are in the 2014 CLRP and those that were submitted for the 2015 CLRP for construction. The inventory does not include specific price tags for projects, but instead provides cost ranges for each project.

The current inventory can be reviewed at: www.mwcog.org/transportation/activities/unfunded/ .

Suggested Approaches for Using the Inventory

A number of suggestions for using the inventory have already been made. They are likely to engender further discussion at the kickoff meeting:

- ***Use the inventory to define and analyze overall unfunded needs.*** The inventory, which is comprehensive and financially unconstrained, can be used to better understand overall funding needs. It might also be analyzed in its entirety to learn about impacts on system performance.
- ***Conduct regional analysis using the list.*** The list provides the basic ingredients that might be selected or sorted for a variety of regional analysis activities. Such analysis could explore how the projects that are being planned throughout our region would work together as a regional system, and whether key gaps can be identified.
- ***Identify subsets of highlighted projects.*** Regional planning activities— including technical analysis, stakeholder input and public outreach— could be conducted to identify smaller subsets of projects that the TPB might want to highlight as priorities.

- ***Promote project implementation.*** Ultimately, planning activities related to this list could be used to spur action and in particular, to promote new funding for a subset of significant projects identified as regional priorities.

Follow-up

For more information, contact John Swanson of TPB staff at 202-962-3295 or jswanson@mwkog.org.