



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

Item 4

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: TPB Technical Committee

FROM: Eric Randall
Department of Transportation Planning

SUBJECT: Reconstitution of the Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee

DATE: November 26, 2014

The purpose of this memorandum is to brief the TPB Technical Committee on the mission, goals and membership of the reconstituted Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee (RPTS). The RPTS will replace the Regional Bus Subcommittee, broadening its scope and responsibilities to cover all modes of public transportation in accordance with a resolution of the TPB and in response to federal regulation under MAP-21.

Background

On June 2, 2014, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) jointly released final guidance on the MAP-21 requirement that providers of public transportation be represented on the MPO policy board. This guidance stems from the MAP-21 requirement that FTA establish safety and state of good repair performance measures and require each provider of public transportation to establish performance targets in relation to these performance measures. The new rules stipulate that the targets must in turn be coordinated with performance targets set by the MPO for these same measures, and that the MPO describe in its Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) how the programs included in the TIP are expected to affect progress in achieving the targets.

Elements of TPB Resolution R4-2015

On September 17, 2014, the TPB adopted Resolution R4-2015 responding to the MAP-21 requirement and the federal final guidance. The resolution had three elements:

1. TPB is in compliance with the MAP-21 requirement as WMATA is a voting member on the policy board together with the local public transit and commuter bus and rail providers as represented by the respective jurisdiction that provides the funding.
2. Changed the name of the TPB Regional Bus Subcommittee to the Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee and broadened its scope to include all eligible public transportation service providers.
3. Committed to continuing a cooperative discussion with the providers of public transportation to determine respective responsibilities in carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process, and to consider procedures for representation of all eligible providers of public transportation, including the role and responsibilities of the public transportation representation, and to making any mutually agreed changes to the TPB's Board membership and/or its committee process.

The text of TPB Resolution R4-2015 can be found at the following link:

<http://www.mwcog.org/uploads/committee-documents/fl1YWFZY20140922153142.pdf>

Reconstitution of the Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee

In accordance with Resolution R4-2015, the Regional Bus Subcommittee is being reconstituted as the Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee, and is undertaking the following:

1. Broadening attendance and activities to include all eligible public transportation service providers, including:
 - Other public transportation modes operated by existing subcommittee members, including: DC Streetcar, Metrorail, MARC;
 - New members from other public transportation modes, including: Virginia Railway Express;
 - Other providers of public transportation, including: human services transportation providers, private providers.
2. Broadening the scope of the Subcommittee's discussion to include topics of interest and consideration of the needs of all providers of public transportation, in order to ensure these are being met through the federal metropolitan planning process and the MAP-21 performance provisions.

3. Providing input on the work activities in the Transit Planning element of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), including inputs to the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP), ridership surveys, congestion reports, regional coordination and inter-operability items, accessibility issues, and the MAP-21 performance provisions for state of good repair and transit safety.

In regard to the above, the following mission and activities are proposed for the Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee.

RPTS Mission Statement

The mission of the Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee is to provide a permanent process for the coordination of public transportation planning throughout the Washington region, and for incorporating regional public transportation plans into the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and for implementing the performance provisions of MAP-21.

This mission is based on the belief that high quality public transportation service in the region depends upon successfully linking vehicles, services, stops and stations, running ways, operating facilities, maintenance shops, storage yards, and passenger and operating support systems to produce transit service that is easy to use, provides rider information where and when needed, and facilitates intra- and inter-agency service transfers. Increased customer satisfaction can broaden the appeal of public transportation in the transportation market place and generate increased ridership. Considerable cooperation among the various agencies responsible for transportation in the region is required to implement high-quality public transportation services, owing to the complex nature of public transportation service provision and transportation facility ownership in this multi-state region.

RPTS Activities

The activities of the RPTS will support the TPB's work plan and objectives. TPB studies and the unified planning work program (UPWP) are one of two primary sources for RPTS agenda items, with member-initiated topics the other primary source. Activities of the RPTS include:

1. Facilitation of technology transfer and information sharing, as it relates to regional, state and local public transportation services.

2. Coordination, input definition, and data collection for the TPB's long-range transportation plan (CLRP) and regional travel demand forecasting model.
3. Technical advice and input regarding regional transportation and land use coordination and the development of public transportation assumptions, including service, ridership, finances, safety, and other projections, for TPB planning studies.
4. Consultation and coordination on federal regulations and requirements including future implementation of the MAP-21 performance provisions and processes for data collection and target-setting for transit safety and state of good repair measures.
5. Input on public transportation strategies and projects for consideration by the TPB in the members' project planning process.
6. Coordination with other regional committees regarding transit participation in planning, operations, and training activities, including:
 - a. Regional Emergency Support Function (RESF) #1
 - b. MATOC Transit Task Force
 - c. TPB Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Task Force
 - d. Commuter Connections
 - e. TPB Private Providers Task Force
 - f. TPB Access for All Advisory Committee
 - g. TPB's Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force
 - h. Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
 - i. Transportation Safety Subcommittee.

A work activity and budget for Transit Planning is developed annually for inclusion by the TPB in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and will support the activities of the RPTS.

RPTS Participation and Membership

Participation is encouraged by all providers of public transportation in the TPB Planning Area to support the described planning processes and activities for public transportation activities in the National Capital Region. Participating subcommittee members are ideally public transportation planners for local, state, and regional agencies. RPTS participation is on an as-willing basis, with members attending as responsibilities permit.

The Subcommittee will coordinate with and engage the following public transportation providers in the region:

1. Metrobus and Metrorail
2. Montgomery County Ride On
3. Prince George 's County The Bus
4. DC Circulator and Streetcar
5. Alexandria DASH
6. Arlington Transit (ART)
7. City of Fairfax CUE
8. Fairfax Connector
9. Frederick TransIt
10. Loudoun Commuter Transit
11. PRTC Omni Ride
12. MTA Commuter Bus
13. Virginia Railway Express
14. MARC (Maryland Commuter Rail)
15. Providers of other public transportation services, including human services transportation
16. Private providers of public transportation services

RPTS Governance

Governance of the Subcommittee will follow standard TPB protocols. The RPTS is established as a subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee, with a regular meeting schedule and members appointed by the transportation agencies of the TPB member jurisdictions. A chair is selected by the subcommittee members, rotating annually. TPB staff support the activities of the subcommittee.

Annual “State of Public Transportation” Report

To provide a formal means of communication of public transportation interests and needs to the TPB, the RPTS will coordinate to produce an annual report summarizing the state of public transportation in the region. A potential outline of the “State of Public Transportation” report includes:

1. Intro / Overview
2. Past Year Accomplishments / Major Events
 - Projects completed / started, major studies, etc.
3. Operator Profile Page
 - Financial Data – Funding and Operating & Capital Expenditures
 - Ridership and Service Data
 - *in future...*MAP-21 Data (State of Good Repair and Safety)
4. Issues Discussed at RPTS
 - E.g., customer info, commuter bus staging, technology integration, etc.
5. Findings / Recommendations for consideration by the TPB
 - Priority Project Listing
6. Upcoming Year’s Projects / Events

The RPTS will provide input on the development of the metropolitan region’s performance measures and targets for MAP-21 for transit safety and state of good repair & asset management. These performance provisions are scheduled to be published in draft form in June 2015, finalized in the subsequent year, and become a required part of the metropolitan planning process two years later.

RPTS Relationship with Human Services Transportation Providers and Private Providers

The TPB’s Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force is the main venue for coordination and discussion of the issues and needs of human service providers and their customers. Similarly, private providers of public transportation are typically engaged through the TPB’s Private Providers Task Force, the Chair of which sits on the TPB. Members of both committees are welcome to attend meetings of the RPTS and to engage in the topics taken up by the subcommittee. Relevant information for these committees (e.g., major events, studies completed, etc.) would be included in the State of Public Transportation report.

Approval by Technical Committee

TPB Technical Committee approval of this mission statement, goals, activities, membership and governance of the reconstituted Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee is requested.

The TPB is scheduled to be briefed on the roles and responsibilities of the RPTS at the December 17 TPB meeting.