

Comments on the 2022 Update, FY23-26 TIP, and Air Quality Conformity

Stacy Cook

TPB Transportation Planner

TPB Technical Committee

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Agenda Item #4

visualize
2045 A long-range transportation plan for the National Capital Region



(Cook/TPB)

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- Purpose of Comment Period
- Comment Period Notice
- Comments Received by Number
- Comment Themes
- Project Specific Comments
- Summary review of Comment Period Packet
 - Comment/Response Summary Memorandum
 - Attachment A: Letters Received and Comment Compilation

2022 Comment Period - Notice

Conducted
from April 1 -
May 1, 2022

- The TPB staff advertised the public comment period via:
 - TPB's public comment email distribution list
 - Social media
 - TPB News
 - Newspaper advertisements: Washington Post, Washington Hispanic, and the Afro-American Newspapers.
- Staff shared information about the public comment period with the TPB's Technical, Community and the Access for All Advisory Committees.
- A comment form was available on the TPB comment page: mwcog.org/tpbcomment
- All materials provided for review were available online at: [Draft Plan - TPB Visualize 2045](#)

Comments Received – Summary

Platforms for commenting	Comments received
Sending email to tpbcomment@mwkog.org	483
Writing a letter to the TPB Chair at TPB (USPS)	1
Using the form online at mwkog.org/tpbcomment	34
Calling the TPB Public Comment Line at (202) 962-3262 and leaving a 3-minute message.	0

Comments Received – Summary

Commentor	Comments received
Individuals	506
Non-Profit Organizations	10
Members of TPB	1
Advisory Committee	1
Business & For-Profit Organizations	0

TPB staff also worked with technical staff from jurisdictions in their review to correct or clarify information, primarily in Appendix B of the plan and the TIP.

Overarching Comment Themes

1. Concerns over official status of the MDOT Op Lanes projects in the constrained element of the plan (143 comments)
2. Stop climate change: adopt the full slate of climate strategies (263 comments)
3. Improve the safety of the transportation system (5 comments)
4. Invest in sustainable, walkable communities and continue to improve options for biking and walking in the region (275 comments)
5. Consider Equity in Transportation Planning (41 comments)
6. Opposition to highway expansion and road widening (303 comments)
7. Approve Visualize 2045 which invests in ALL modes of transportation (38 comments)

Project Specific Comments

- A. Maryland 270 Dynamically Managed Op Lanes Project (143 comments)
- B. New Hampshire BRT
- C. Belmont Ridge Road Reconstruct/VA 234 Bypass Extension North (CE1897)
- D. US 15 Widening between Battlefield Parkway and Montresor Road (CE3738)
- E. Manassas National Battlefield Park Bypass (CE3061)
- F. VA 28 Manassas Bypass (CE1865)
- G. Northstar Boulevard between Tall Cedars Parkway and Braddock Road (CE3737)

Also, a letter was received that includes a series of tables with comments or suggestions for numerous projects. This will be included in the comment listing for TPB member and technical agency consideration.

Public Comment Topics

- Topic 1: Concerns over the official status of the MDOT Op Lanes projects in the constrained element of the plan (143 comments)

- Example excerpt:

“....Item T6432 on page 95 of Appendix B includes text stating that the Op Lanes Maryland Program Development will move forward along the entirety of I-495 from the American Legion Bridge to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge (text below).”

“Planning, preliminary design, and full delivery stream restoration activities in support of the Op Lanes Maryland program, which will implement high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes along I-270, between I-495 and I-70, and I-495, between the American Legion and Woodrow Wilson bridges.”

Public Comment Topics

- Topic 2: Stop climate change: adopt the full slate of climate strategies (263 comments)
 - Example excerpts:
 - “Specifically, I call on you to:*
 - Set specific, numerical performance targets in Visualize 2045 informed by TPB’s climate study....*
 - Commit to pursue the types of strategies in the Mode Shift and Travel Behavior Scenarios 1 and 2...”*

Public Comment Topics

- Topic 3: Improve the safety of the transportation system (5 comments)

- Example excerpt:

“To get to vision zero there will need to be a tremendous improvement to walking and biking infrastructure. Also, to get to vision zero there will have to be street redesign to slow the cars down in dense pedestrian/cycling areas.”

Public Comment Topics

- Topic 4: Invest in sustainable, walkable communities and continue to improve options for biking and walking in the region (275 comments)
 - Example excerpt:

“... I urge you to invest in transit, biking, walking and other active transportation modes that are healthy financially, physically and ecologically. Highway widenings are expensive and have yet to solve our region’s transportation woes because solo driving does not scale.”

Public Comment Topics

- Topic 5: Consider Equity in Transportation Planning (41 comments)

- Example excerpt 1:

“Removing roadway projects from this plan will jeopardize the quality of life and access to opportunity for the 92% of people in the DC region who own a vehicle and rely on automobile travel to live, work, and play. That includes households in our region making \$60,000 or less who are twice as likely to drive than take any other form of transportation to get to work.”

- Example excerpt 2:

“The plan can be improved by setting specific numeric targets for shifting more travel to non-auto modes and for adopting electric vehicles for other travel, and it needs to shift its investment to projects that better support the region's goals for walkable, bikeable and transit-friendly communities. Please revise this plan to take the lead in moving us toward a sustainable and equitable future.”

Public Comment Topics

- Topic 6: Opposition to highway expansion and road widening (303 comments)

- Example excerpt 1:

“There is ample evidence that increasing freeway capacity does not reduce traffic in the long term. Indeed, look at LA and the Bay Area, which have been building freeways for decades and still boast the nation's worst traffic.”

- Example excerpt 2:

“Removing roadway projects from this plan will jeopardize the quality of life and access to opportunity for the 92% of people in the DC region who own a vehicle and rely on automobile travel to live, work, and play. That includes households in our region making \$60,000 or less who are twice as likely to drive than take any other form of transportation to get to work.”

Public Comment Topics

- Topic 7: Approve Visualize 2045 which invests in ALL modes of transportation (38 comments)

- Example excerpt:

“As a resident of the DC area, I am asking that you please approve the Visualize 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan without removing any projects. We cannot expect our region to be competitive for economic development if we do not invest in appropriate transportation infrastructure. We need to take an all-of-the-above approach to transportation solutions that keep our region moving including investments in roadways, transit, bike, pedestrian, airport, and technology infrastructure.”

Next Steps

- TPB Staff will present a summary of comments to the board during its May meeting
- TPB staff will provide a summary memorandum for the May TPB meeting, with a listing of the full comments attached
- TPB staff will send an email to the TPB Technical Committee with a link to the memorandum and listing
- In June, TPB staff will recommend that the board approve the plan, FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Air Quality Conformity analysis findings of the plan and TIP