

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

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**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
July 16, 2014**

Members and Alternates Present

Robert Brown, Loudoun County
Rick Canizales, Prince William County
Helen Cuero, VDOT
Dan Emerine, DC Office of Planning
Gary Erenrich, Montgomery County Executive
Lyn Erickson, MDOT
Jay Fisette, Arlington County
Seth Grimes, City of Takoma Park
Jason Groth, Charles County
Cathy Hudgins, Fairfax County
Sandra Jackson, FHWA
John D. Jenkins, Prince William County
Shyam Kannan, WMATA
Julia Koster, NCPC
Tim Lovain, City of Alexandria
Michael May, Prince William County
Dan Madoff, Arlington County
Phil Mendelson, DC Council
Mark Rawlings, DC DOT
Rodney Roberts, City of Greenbelt
Kelly Russell, City of Frederick
Paul Smith, Frederick County
David Snyder, City of Falls Church
Todd Turner, City of Bowie
Kanathur Srikanth, VDOT
Jonathan Way, City of Manassas
Victor Weissberg, Prince George's County-DPW&T
Tommy Wells, DC Council
Patrick Wojahn, City of College Park

Scott K. York, Loudoun County
Sam Zimbabwe, DDOT

MWCOG Staff and Others Present

Gerald Miller
Nicholas Ramfos
Robert Griffiths
Eric Randall
John Swanson
Rich Roisman
Andrew Meese
Dusan Vuksan
Jane Posey
Andrew Austin
Wendy Klancher
Ben Hampton
Bryan Hayes
Lamont B. Cobb
Debbie Leigh
Deborah Etheridge
Lifeng Xu
Bill Orleans
Matt Kronenberger COG/OPA
John B. Townsend AAA Mid-Atlantic
Nick Alexandrow PRTC
Pierre Holloman City of Alexandria
Jeanette Tejada de Gomez AAA Mid-Atlantic
Mike Lake Fairfax County DOT
Maria Sinner VDOT
Jameshia Peterson DDOT
Mike Lambert Kimley-Horn
Wendy Sanford City of Fairfax
Nicolas Ruiz Coalition for Smarter Growth
John Hartline Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
Aidan Houston Office of Mike May/Prince William County
Ian McElhaney Prince William County
Alyssa Brown Prince William County
Patrick Durany Supervisor Jenkins' Office/Prince William County

1. Public Comment on TPB Procedures and Activities

No public comments were submitted at this meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 18 Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

3. Report of the Technical Committee

Mr. Srikanth reported that the Technical Committee met on June 27 and discussed three action items on the Board's current agenda.

- For Item 7, the committee reviewed the proposal to designate September 22 as "Car-Free Day." The Board will be asked to approve a proclamation at the September meeting.
- For Item 8, the committee reviewed applications for technical assistance through the Transportation and Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program. The Board will receive the full list of recommended applications for funding later in this meeting.
- For Item 10, the committee reviewed the addition of Fauquier County, specifically the urbanized area including the town of Warrenton, to the Board's planning boundary and membership. The expansion is based on 2010 Census data and is consistent with federal requirements. Representatives from Fauquier County and the Town of Warrenton accepted the invitation to join the TPB.

Mr. Srikanth also noted that the Committee was briefed on the proposed MAP-21 MPO planning rule and guidance that called for the MPO to include representation of public transportation providers. He said that representatives of the region's three state-level jurisdictions and WMATA were discussing this guidance.

In addition to the TPB's agenda items, Mr. Srikanth reviewed other items discussed by the committee. He said that staff gave an early preview of the financial plan for the CLRP and TIP. He also reported that the committee was briefed on the TIP Forum, which was held on July 10 in conjunction with the meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). He said that at the forum, members of the public and the CAC were briefed on the proposed FY 2015-2020 TIP. Representatives of three state DOTs and WMATA were present at the forum.

4. Report of the Citizen Advisory Committee

Ms. Loh reported that the CAC passed a resolution on MAP-21 that will expire September 30. The committee requested the TPB establish a working group that would draft a set of region-specific principles regarding reauthorization of MAP-21. The CAC further requested that this working group include two CAC representatives.

Chair Wojahn thanked Ms. Loh for her comments and requested that TPB staff work with the CAC to report to the Board on how to proceed with this request at the September meeting.

5. Report of Steering Committee

Mr. Miller said that the Steering Committee was briefed on two agenda items for today's Board meeting and one handout that is in the packet. He said that on June 27 the Steering Committee passed four resolutions to amend the FY 2013-2018 TIP:

- Approval of a request from Maryland DOT to include funding for four highway projects;
- Approval of an amendment for \$5.6 million for the TPB's Enhanced Mobility Program for seniors and individuals with disabilities;
- Approval of an update from WMATA on project information for FY 2014 to match the agency's capital budget; and
- Approval of an amendment from DDOT for additional funding for an emergency communications system in the Mall tunnel project

Mr. Miller then reported on letters sent/received and noted: the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration letter outlining the TPB's federal certification review, he said that this review occurs every four years and that staff will work with representatives from those agencies to complete the process; a memorandum from the Mr. Griffiths about a presentation on July 9 from the three state DOTs to the COG Board of Directors about the region's highway and bridge infrastructure; and a one-page memorandum further describing the TIP forum, held in conjunction with the CAC committee meeting on July 10.

Mr. Miller also announced a second Green Streets workshop to be held July 28. .

6. Chair's Remarks

Chair Wojahn announced that the hiring committee and COG Executive Director had chosen Kanti Srikanth as the new Director of the Department of Transportation Planning. He said that Mr. Srikanth has 18 years of experience with COG and the TPB. He reported that he would officially join staff on August 6. Meeting attendees welcomed Mr. Srikanth with applause.

Chair Wojahn also noted that the 40th anniversary celebration of the Commuter Connections program occurred before the Board meeting. That event included a keynote presentation from Bob Marburg of the WTOP radio program and remarks by a few other guests associated with Commuter Connections during the past 40 years.

ACTION ITEMS

7. Approval of Regional Car Free Day 2014 Proclamation

Mr. Ramfos briefed the Board on the 2014 Regional Car Free Day and asked the members of the

TPB to help raise awareness for the regional event. Referring to his presentation, he said that although cities across the planet have been holding Car Free Day since 2000, the Washington region's first car free event occurred in 2007. He said that last year's event was held over a weekend and as a result, there was not much media coverage. He said that organizers will use social media such as Facebook, Twitter, together with some traditional marketing to raise awareness and encourage people to pledge to go "car free" or "car-lite" at www.carfreemetrodc.org. The goal is to get 10,000 pledges from the Washington area.

A motion was made to approve the Regional Car Free Day 2014 Proclamation. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

8. Approval of Technical Assistance Recipients Under the FY 2015 Transportation/Land Use Connections (TLC) Program

Ms. Koster thanked the TPB for the opportunity to chair the TLC Selection Panel. She thanked selection panel members Joel Mills from the American Institute of Architects, Jonathan Esslinger from the American Society of Civil Engineers, and Kimberly Fisher of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of the Sciences. She asked John Swanson to provide some background on the program and the grant applicants.

Mr. Swanson briefed the panel on the history of the TLC program. He noted that the program in addition to providing technical assistance to the applicants for project development also included various program activities, including webinars and peer exchange forums. He said that in 2013, the TLC Program was expanded to include funding assistance for capital projects through the FHWA Transportation Alternatives Program.

Mr. Swanson mentioned that for FY 2015 the TLC Program has a total of \$420,000 in funding. Of this \$260,000 is from federal planning funds in the TPB's Unified Planning Work Program, and an additional \$160,000 from Maryland's Technical Assistance account within the UPWP. Solicitation for projects for the FY 2015 program was issued on March 7. The TPB had received fourteen applications from ten jurisdictions. The panel was recommending nine projects for technical assistance funding. The mailout memorandum provided details on the projects. He said upon the Board's action today the applicants would be formally notified and that consultant selection would occur in August and September, and projects will begin by October.

Mr. Fisette observed that Maryland contributed extra funding for TLC projects, and asked why Virginia did not provide any supplemental money.

Mr. Srikanth said that in the past Virginia did provide supplemental funding for TLC, using funds made available by the Commonwealth's Transportation Secretary's Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment. He added that in the recent past and for FY 2015 this supplemental funding has not been available.

Mr. Fisette said that it sounds like the Maryland side has made an ongoing commitment to provide extra TLC funds and expressed a desire to see a similar commitment from Virginia.

Ms. Koster moved approval of the recommended projects.

Mr. Weissberg requested an amendment to one of the recommended projects in Prince George's County. He asked that a word in the title of the Central Avenue project be changed from "implementation" to "feasibility." Ms. Koster accepted this change as a friendly amendment.

The motion was seconded and approved with no opposition or abstentions.

9. Approval of an Update of the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan for the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program

Mr. Lovain spoke to the item. He reminded Board members of a briefing on the key elements of the update of the plan that the Board received at its June meeting. He directed Board's attention to the mailout materials for a detailed description of the key elements and the background on why the plan was being updated. He reported that the 30-day public comment period on the key elements of the plan update took place from June 12 to July 12, and that no comments were received. He said that staff will conduct a solicitation for Enhanced Mobility grants between August and October of this year and will choose grant recipients using a similar competitive selection process as the one used for the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs.

Mr. Lovain moved Resolution R1-2015 to approve the key elements of the update of the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Coordination Plan. Mr. York seconded the motion.

The Board approved the motion with no opposition or abstentions.

10. Approval of Fauquier County, Virginia to Become a Member of the TPB

Mr. Griffiths briefed the board on the resolution to approve Fauquier County membership in the TPB. He noted that based on updated definition of urbanized areas using the 2010 census data portion of Fauquier County around and including the Town of Warrenton had been determined to be an urbanized area and contiguous with the Metropolitan Washington urbanized area. He said that federal planning regulations require that this urbanized portion of Fauquier County around and including the Town of Warrenton participate in the metropolitan transportation planning process conducted by the TPB. Referring to the April 16, 2014 meeting he said that the TPB had sent Fauquier County a letter inviting them to become a member of the TPB and that the Fauquier County Board had on June 12, 2014 adopted a resolution accepting the invitation. Approval of the proposed resolution today would officially make Fauquier County a full voting member of the TPB, allowing them to participate in the TPB work program. He said that, if approved, the County would join the TPB in September, and that Supervisor Peter Schwartz would be their representative, and that Director of Community Planning for Fauquier County,

Kimberley Fogle, would be their alternate. He added that the boundaries of the TPB planning area would be extended into Fauquier County to include the Town of Warrenton and the outlying service districts.

A motion was made for Resolution R2-2015 to approve Fauquier County membership in the TPB for Board approval.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

11. Briefing on an Update of the TPB Participation Plan

Referring to his presentation, Mr. Swanson briefed the Board on the 2014 update to the federally required TPB Participation Plan and announced the 45-day public comment period. He said that this update includes feedback from the TPB Technical Committee, the Citizens Advisory Committee, and the 2010 federal certification review. He said that since a discussion draft was released in May, the document has been revised to clarify the plan's goals, strengthen the narrative, and consolidate redundancies.

Mr. Swanson said the revised document explains that participation activities should be tailored to reach different constituencies. He said that the updated plan reflects changes in the actual activities undertaken by the TPB staff in recent years since the last publication of this document in 2007. He said the TPB would be asked to approve the TPB Participation Plan update at the September Board meeting.

Mr. Erenrich asked if the TPB has discussed opportunities to broadcast and archive the Board meeting and other committee meetings.

Mr. Swanson said that TPB staff has discussed ways to share audio and video from Board meetings, but that the implementation of such a system has been delayed for various reasons and that staff will look into this. He thanked Mr. Erenrich for the reminder.

12. Update on Implications for the TPB of the MAP-21 Guidance on the Representation by Transit Agencies on the MPO Board and the Proposed Rule on Statewide and MPO Planning

Mr. Griffiths briefed the Board. He described the guidance and the proposed MPO planning rulemaking released in June by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to implement Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). He said that MAP-21 mandated a performance-based approach to state and metropolitan transportation planning processes. He said that FHWA and FTA will issue rules in other areas,

including highway safety, highway conditions, congestion and system performance, and transit performance and state of good repair. Comment on the proposed planning rule is due by September 2.

Mr. Griffiths said that the guidance also requires the membership of MPO policy boards to include public transit providers to ensure that their interests are considered fully in developing performance targets related to transit safety and state of good repair. He said that the TPB has always had strong transit representation on the Board, most notably through WMATA, and that local jurisdictions represent transit systems that they operate. He suggested that this level of representation already meets the basic MAP-21 requirements. He told Board members that staff would draft a resolution describing the TPB's existing representation and a process for ensuring adequate transit representation. He said staff would circulate the draft motion among TPB member staff for comment in late August and that the Board would be asked to approve the resolution at its September meeting.

Chair Wojahn opened the floor to questions and comments.

Mr. Smith said he agreed with the need for adequate transit representation on the Board but cautioned against creating additional voting seats for individual transit operators. He said this could open a floodgate of agencies and groups seeking additional representation.

Mr. Griffiths recognized that issue. He said that in a meeting with area transit agencies on July 11 there was general agreement that the interests of local transit agencies could be adequately represented by representatives of the local governments that operate them.

Mr. Lovain said he thought that the plan laid out by staff made sense, especially in light of an October 1 deadline for demonstrating adequate representation or establishing a process to do so. He recommended seeing how other MPOs are responding to the new regulations. He said he saw two basic potential responses to the new rules: 1) keep WMATA as the sole transit representative on the Board but ask them to create a consultative mechanism so that they reflect the views of all transit systems; or 2) create an additional position and try to figure out how to rotate the seat and weight it appropriately.

Mr. Fisetle asked how MARC and VRE are currently represented on the Board.

Ms. Erickson said that MARC is part of the Maryland Transit Administration, which falls under the larger Maryland Department of Transportation, and that she therefore represents MARC on the Board.

Mr. Griffiths explained that VRE is different because it is a partnership of several jurisdictions through the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC). He said that VRE has a representative on the

TPB's Technical Committee and those Board members from Prince William County and other Northern Virginia jurisdictions often provide input on VRE-related matters that come before the Board. He said that staff is considering expanding the TPB's existing Regional Bus Subcommittee to include other regional transit providers like commuter rail and private providers.

13. Other Business

Mr. Griffiths reminded Board members about a formal ceremony on July 23 to dedicate the Ronald F. Kirby Training Center. He said that some of the signage for the newly named meeting space was already up and encouraged Board members to stop by after the meeting to look.

Chair Wojahn acknowledged the recent death of long-time transportation leader and Fairfax County resident Ed Tennyson.

Mr. Fisette spoke to Mr. Tennyson's valuable contributions to the transportation planning process in Northern Virginia and his passionate advocacy for rail transit.

Ms. Hudgins also spoke to Mr. Tennyson's transportation advocacy and said she and others in her district and in Fairfax County will miss him and the advice and opinions he regularly imparted.

Mr. Erenrich recalled knowing and working with Mr. Tennyson when Mr. Tennyson worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. He said he really enjoyed working with him and that he will miss him.

The Board observed a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Tennyson.

Following the moment of silence, Chair Wojahn reminded Board members that there would be no Board meeting in August.

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 pm.