

ITEM 9 - Action
January 17, 2007

Approval of the Establishment of the Regional Bus Subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee and of an Amendment to the FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to Fund a New Regional Bus Planning Work Activity

Staff

Recommendation: Approve Resolution R13-2007 to establish the Regional Bus Subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee, and to amend the FY2007 UPWP to fund a new regional bus planning work activity.

Issues: None

Background: At the December TPB meeting, the Board was briefed on the development of the mission, goals, and membership of a proposed Regional Bus Subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee.

TPB R13-2007
January 17, 2007

**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002**

**APPROVAL OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL BUS SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2007
UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) TO FUND A NEW REGIONAL BUS
PLANNING WORK ACTIVITY**

WHEREAS, the Joint Planning Regulations issued by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) require a Unified Planning Work Program for Transportation Planning (UPWP); and

WHEREAS, the UPWP is required as a basis and condition for all funding assistance for transportation planning to state, local, and regional agencies by the FHWA and FTA; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2007 UPWP for the Washington Metropolitan Area was adopted by the TPB on March 15, 2006; and

WHEREAS, on November 3 and December 1, 2006 and on January 5, 2007, the TPB Technical Committee was briefed on the attached mission, goals, and membership of a proposed Regional Bus Subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2006, the TPB was briefed on the development of the mission, goals, and membership of a proposed Regional Bus Subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee; and

WHEREAS, on January 5, 2007, the TPB Technical Committee recommended that the TPB establish the Regional Bus Subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee and amend the FY 2007 UPWP to include a new work activity I.M. Regional Bus Planning, as described in the attached material; and

WHEREAS, the budget of \$2,011,460 for work activity IV. C. Household Travel Survey will be reduced by \$50,000 to fund the new work activity I.M. Regional Bus Planning;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board establishes the Regional Bus Subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee with the attached mission, goals, and membership, and amends the FY 2007 UPWP to include a new work activity I.M. Regional Bus Planning with a budget of \$50,000 and reduce the budget for work activity IV. C. Household Travel Survey by \$50,000, as described in the attached narrative for the FY 2007 UPWP.

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Regional Bus Subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee**

Mission

The mission of the Regional Bus Committee is to provide a permanent process for the coordination of bus planning throughout the Washington region, and for incorporating regional bus plans into the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). High quality bus 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 a 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 transit in the transportation market place and generate increased ridership. Considerable cooperation among the agencies responsible for bus service and transportation in the region is required to implement these high quality bus services, owing to the complex nature of transit service provision and transportation facility ownership in this multi-state region.

Goals

1. Continued review and refinement and update of the recommendations of the Regional Bus Study completed in 2002, and development of a priority list of near term service implementation strategies for inclusion in annual operations budgets.
2. Coordination and evaluation of CLRP and TIP proposals and amendments with regard to bus transit service plan implementation.
3. Coordination and input definition for the TPB regional travel forecasting model.
4. Technical advice and input regarding regional transportation and land use coordination, including the development of transit assumptions for TPB planning studies.
5. Facilitation of technology transfer and information sharing, as it relates to regional, state and local bus transit services.
6. Coordination with other regional committees regarding bus transit participation in planning and training activities, including but not limited to the Regional Emergency Support Function (RESF) #1 at COG, and the associated regional transit operators group.
7. Coordination with the TPB Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Task Force regarding integrated planning for bus services and street operations.
8. Coordination with Commuter Connections regarding ridesharing facilities and

joint promotional messages.

9. Coordination with the TPB Private Operators Group to strengthen the alliance between public and private interests.
10. Coordination with the TPB Access for All Committee to enhance regional mobility for all populations.

Participation

Participation will be encouraged by all members of TPB to support the described planning processes and activities for public transportation activities in the National Capital Region. Participating subcommittee members will ideally be principal transit planners for local, state, and regional agencies.

The subcommittee will coordinate with and engage the following transit services in the Regional Transit Network:

Metrobus	Fairfax Connector
Montgomery County Ride On	Loudoun Commuter Transit
Prince George's County The Bus	PRTC Omni Ride
DC Circulator	MTA Commuter Bus
Alexandria Dash	Metrorail
Arlington Transit (ART)	Virginia Railway Express
Falls Church George	Maryland Commuter Rail
City of Fairfax CUE	DC Streetcar

The subcommittee may recommend the establishment under its jurisdiction of special task forces to address particular topics in greater depth, such as transit marketing or priority lanes.

Governance

Governance of this committee will follow standard TPB protocols. The subcommittee will be established by the TPB as a subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee, with a regular meeting schedule and members appointed by the TPB membership. A chair will be selected by the subcommittee members, and a member of the TPB staff will be designated as the lead staff person for the subcommittee. A work activity and budget will be developed for inclusion by the TPB in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

New work activity for FY 2007 UPWP:

I. M. REGIONAL BUS PLANNING

Under this work task, TPB will provide opportunities for consideration, coordination, and collaborative enhancement of planning for bus transit services in the region. In January 2007, the TPB established the Regional Bus Subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee.

The mission of the Regional Bus Subcommittee is to provide a permanent process for the coordination of bus planning throughout the Washington region, and for incorporating regional bus plans into the CLRP and TIP. High quality bus 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 a 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 transit in the transportation market place and generate increased ridership. Considerable cooperation among the agencies responsible for bus service and transportation in the region is required to implement these high quality bus services, owing to the complex nature of transit service provision and transportation facility ownership in this multi-state region.

Tasks to be addressed include the following goals of the Subcommittee:

1. Review and refinement and update of the recommendations of the Regional Bus Study completed in 2002, and development of a priority list of near term service implementation strategies for inclusion in annual operations budgets.
2. Coordination and evaluation of CLRP and TIP proposals and amendments with regard to bus transit service plan implementation.
3. Coordination and input definition for the TPB regional travel forecasting model.
4. Provide technical advice and input for a regional transit network to be integrated into the variably-priced lanes scenario for TPB planning studies, including the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Scenario Study.
5. Facilitation of technology transfer and information sharing, as it relates to regional, state and local bus transit services.
6. Coordination with other regional committees regarding bus transit participation in planning and training activities, including but not limited to the Regional Emergency Support Function (RESF) #1 at COG, and the associated regional transit operators group.
7. Coordination with the TPB Management, Operations, and Intelligent

Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy Task Force and MOITS Technical Subcommittee regarding integrated planning for bus services and street operations.

8. Coordination with Commuter Connections regarding ridesharing facilities and joint promotional messages.
9. Coordination with the TPB Private Providers Task Force to sponsor the Eighteenth Annual Public Transit Forum in May 2007.
10. Coordination with the TPB Access for All Committee to enhance regional mobility for all populations.

In addition, in response to the recommendation in the federal TPB Transportation Planning Certification report of March 16, 2006, the subcommittee will review existing documentation on how transit planning is being carried out in the region and identify the current agreements on the roles and responsibilities for transit planning. It will develop recommendations for clarifying the roles and responsibilities for transit planning. Based upon these recommendations, the TPB, the state DOTs, WMATA, and other transit operators in the region will be able to develop written agreements specifying their roles and responsibilities for transit planning in the region.

Oversight: TPB Regional Bus Subcommittee

Cost Estimate: \$50,000

Products: Data compilation and outreach materials as needed;
white paper(s) on technical issues as needed;
structured interviews and summarized results

Schedule: Monthly