



MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee
FROM: Timothy Canan, Planning Data and Research Program Director
SUBJECT: High-Capacity Transit Station Areas Web-map Update: Cooperative Forecast Summaries
DATE: September 25, 2020

At the January 8, 2020 COG Board of Directors meeting and the January 15, 2020 TPB meeting, staff briefed members of the boards on potential activities that could be undertaken by COG and TPB staff to further support member jurisdictions' efforts to enhance housing and transportation connectivity in areas served by transit. These activities are part of an effort to identify opportunities to help the region reach its housing targets, support the development of transit-oriented communities (TOCs), and advance the region's long-range transportation plan, Visualize 2045.

As part of this effort, TPB staff is conducting a series of analyses that examine the interaction of transportation and land use in areas served by High-Capacity Transit (HCT), which is defined as Metrorail; commuter rail (MARC and VRE); light rail (e.g., Purple line); and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)/Street Cars. For these analyses, TPB staff is developing an interactive HCT station areas web map that comprises three distinct phases, or milestones:

1. Identify and Classify High Capacity Transit (HCT) Station Areas
2. Summarize Population, Households, and Employment in HCT Station Areas
3. Examine Transportation Connectivity in HCT Station Areas – Alternative Modes

At the March 6, 2020 meeting of the TPB Technical Committee, staff demonstrated the first phase of the web map that identified and classified High Capacity Transit (HCT) station areas in the region. Since then, staff has added summaries of the Round 9.1a Cooperative Forecasts of Population, Households, and Employment to the planning tool, completing the second phase of this activity.

In a separate but related activity, TPB staff completed the Transit Access Focus Areas (TAFE) project, which culminated in presentations to the Technical Committee and the TPB in mid-2020. This effort entailed delineating "walksheds" around transit station areas to identify and prioritize station areas where investments could improve accessibility to transit. Phase 3 of developing the HCT station area web-map includes the examination of walksheds, micromobility sheds, and micro transit sheds around these stations. To commence phase 3, the walksheds that were developed as part of the TAFE project have been added to the HCT station area web map. Staff will continue to refine these walksheds through subsequent analysis using additional GIS data sources. As those walksheds are refined, those updates will be incorporated into the web map.

The Technical Committee will be briefed on the status of the HCT web map and will receive a demonstration of the web map's added functionality at its October 2, 2020 meeting. Specifically, this added functionality includes the addition the Cooperative Forecast summaries by station area and the addition of the walksheds developed as part of the TAFE activities. The map is accessible at the following location: mwcog.org/maps/map-listing/hct-map-tool/.