



# Are We Achieving Our Regional Transportation Goals?

Draft Report

Listening Sessions

with the Staff of the COG/TPB Member Jurisdictions  
on the RTPP and Place + Opportunity

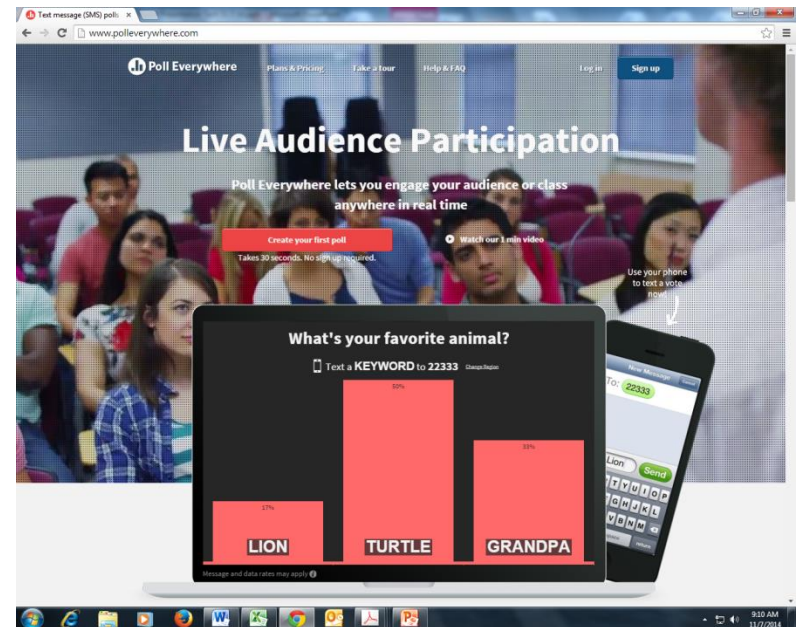
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# Overview

- 10 Sessions, June-October, 2014
- More than 90 participants –
  - Professional staff from a variety of local departments, perspectives
- Purpose:
  - Gather info on whether/how the staff of our members believe we are achieving regional goals
  - Expand awareness of the RTPP and Place + Opportunity

# Methodology

- Two-hour focus groups
- Short presentations:
  - RTPP
  - Place + Opportunity
  - CLRP baseline info
- Polling software used to launch discussion:
  - 10 questions answered with cell phones
    - Polleverywhere.com







# Goal 1: Options

Having more options to choose from makes it easier for people to find the travel mode that works best for them



# Sufficient Transit Options

## ***Discussion question:***

*In 25 years, there will be sufficient transit options in our region.*

*[Agree? Disagree?]*

## ***Discussion themes:***

- New projects are generating optimism and excitement.
- Local bus systems are effectively meeting local needs
- Lots of good plans, but doubts about implementation.
- Concerns about lack of funding and leadership.
- Some major regional gaps, particularly in the suburbs.
- Good land-use designs are essential for making non-road options viable
- Concern that transit systems will not be sufficiently connected across jurisdictions.

# Sufficient Options for Drivers

## ***Discussion question:***

*In 25 years, there will be sufficient options in our region for drivers. [Agree? Disagree?]*

## ***Discussion themes:***

- General acknowledgement that we won't be adding a lot of new roads in the next 25 years.
- But some key road connections are still needed.
- Significantly reducing congestion is not likely.
- Tricky to find the right balance between providing supply and reducing demand.
- There's little appetite for tolling.

# Sufficient Options for Pedestrians & Bicyclists

## **Discussion question:**

*In 25 years, there will be sufficient options in our region for pedestrians and bicyclists. [Agree? Disagree?]*

## **Discussion themes:**

- “Just look at the progress we’ve made” – big changes in the last decade.
- In many cases we’ve taken care of the low-hanging fruit.
- Significant differences between inner and outer jurisdictions.

# Maximizing Use of the Existing Transit System

## ***Discussion question:***

*The region is making adequate progress in maximizing use of the existing transit system. [Agree? Disagree?]*

## ***Discussion themes:***

- Small fixes can go a long way -- e.g., improving bus stops.
- There is still underutilized capacity to tap -- e.g., reverse commute, lines on the eastern side of the region.
- Transit capacity in the core is deficient.
- Lack of enthusiasm for WMATA's Metro 2025 package (Momentum).



# Accessibility for Disadvantaged Populations

## **Discussion question:**

*The region is making adequate progress in ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities, low incomes and limited English proficiency.*

*[Agree? Disagree?]*

## **Discussion themes:**

- Steady progress for people with disabilities.
- But full accessibility for people with disabilities is expensive and takes a long time
- Affordable housing is the top concern regarding low-income access.
- But the cost and limited coverage of transit is also a problem.



## Goal 2: Activity Centers

Concentrate housing and job development in Activity Centers, connect Activity Centers with high-capacity transportation options, and enhance local circulation



# Concentration In Activity Centers

## ***Discussion question:***

*In 25 years, the Activity Centers in my jurisdiction will be high-quality places in which to live and work. [Agree? Disagree?]*

## ***Discussion themes:***

- Broad acceptance of the concept of concentrated, mixed-use centers.
- But true mixed-use development is still challenging to implement.
- Activity Centers are increasingly unaffordable.

# Circulation Within Activity Centers

## **Discussion question:**

*In 25 years, it will be possible to conveniently travel within the Activity Centers in my jurisdiction without a car. [Agree? Disagree?]*

## **Discussion themes:**

- Big attitude change in recent years.
- Lack of good design is a continuing challenge.

# Connections Between Activity Centers

## ***Discussion question:***

*In 25 years, the Activity Centers in my jurisdiction will be sufficiently connected to the rest of the region with a variety of transportation modes.  
[Agree? Disagree?]*

## ***Discussion themes:***

- New and existing transit is making good use of Activity Centers.
- Attracting jobs is key.
- Last-mile connections continue to be a challenge.
- More regional systems planning is needed.



# Goal 3: Maintenance & Safety

Keeping the region's roads, bridges, and transit systems in a state of good repair in order to ensure reliability and safety



# Maintenance of Roads & Transit

## **Discussion questions:**

- *Rate how you think the region is doing in maintaining our roads. [5-1: Excellent to Poor]*
- *Rate how you think the region is doing in maintaining our transit systems. [5-1: Excellent to Poor]*

## **Discussion themes:**

- Compared to other places, we're actually doing pretty well in this region.
- Perception that roads are better maintained than transit.
- New state money helping to get systems to a state of good repair.
- Even with new state money, funding for local roads is squeezed.
- General concern that funding will continue to be unreliable.

# Goals 4-6

## **Goal 4: Maximize Operation Effective and Safety of the Transportation System**

- Self-optimizing systems will offer big opportunities.
- Data coordination is vital

## **Goal 5: Enhance Environmental Quality, and Protect natural and Cultural Resources**

- Emphasize public health.
- Evaluate transportation and land-use options for climate change impacts.

## **Goal 6: Support Inter-Regional and International Travel and Commerce**

- Airports are economic engines for the region.
- Airport access is a continuing challenge.

# What Can/Should the TPB and COG Do in the Future?

Some suggested ideas:

## ***Regional Planning***

- Scenario analysis.
- Regional inventory of planned unfunded projects
- Define, clarify and focus upon true regional challenges

## ***Technical Assistance***

- Support and expand high-payoff, low-cost technical assistance.
- Provide information and analysis for decision-making related to Activity Centers.



# QUESTIONS?

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