

TPB Approves New Planning Activities

As a result of last year's federal transportation legislation, the TPB on December 21 approved a 40 percent increase in its work program for fiscal year 2006. Approximately \$3 million was added to the budget through June 30, 2006.

Last year's federal surface transportation act has dramatically increased both the funding and the responsibilities of the agencies designated across the country as Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), including the TPB. The legislation, known as the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act:

Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), was signed into law last August.

The new funding will be used to conduct a number of activities at the TPB:

- **Begin to address SAFETEA-LU planning requirements.** Activities specified in SAFETEA-LU include improvements in long-range planning, development of a new public participation plan and human services coordination plan, and enhancements in emergency preparedness, land use/transportation coordination, and freight planning.
- **Enhance current work activities.** Current TPB activities that will receive a funding boost

See **New Activities** on page 2

Metro Funding Plans Move Ahead

During the December meeting, TPB members Michael Knapp, Chris Zimmerman and Chairman Phil Mendelson provided a progress report on local efforts to secure dedicated funding for the region's Metro system.

The D.C. Council introduced legislation to set aside 0.5 percent of the retail sales tax for maintaining and improving operations of the system according to Mendelson. The legislation is dependent on action by Maryland, Virginia, and the federal government.

Two regional transportation bodies in Virginia, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, recently agreed on a

See **Metro Funding** on page 3

Phil Mendelson Honored



D.C. Councilmember Phil Mendelson, right, was recognized at the December 21 TPB meeting for his service as 2005 TPB chair. The TPB elected Montgomery County Councilmember Michael Knapp as chair for 2006.

New Activities *continued from page 1*

include the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study, update and refinement of the activity centers/clusters maps, and the ongoing assessment and enhancement of the TPB's travel demand models.

- **Conduct PM2.5 analysis.** New Clean Air requirements require the TPB to ensure the long-range plan and TIP are in conformity with new standards for particulate matter – known as PM2.5.
- **Survey and monitor current travel patterns.** The TPB will conduct a new household travel survey, which is used to update the TPB's travel forecasting procedures and to inform decision makers and the public about travel patterns and preferences. The TPB will also collaborate with the state DOTs in developing information for the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS).
- **Continue to provide technical assistance to implementing agencies.** Funding has been increased for technical assistance to state DOTs and transit agencies. Work includes assistance with corridor or sub-regional studies, traffic counts and data requests.

More information on the amended TPB work program can be found at www.mwcog.org/transportation. ■

Other December Agenda Items

The TPB's December agenda included the following items:

- Election of **new TPB officers** for 2006. The board elected Montgomery County Councilmember Michael Knapp as chair, Fairfax County Supervisor Catherine Hudgins as first vice chair, and DDOT Deputy Director Michelle Pourciau as Second Vice Chair.
- Review of comments received, acceptance of recommended responses, and approval of the ***fine particles (PM2.5) air quality conformity assessment*** of the 2005 Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and the FY2006-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Appointment of four members for the 2006

2005 Committee Chairs Honored



TPB Chairman Phil Mendelson recognized the service of CAC Chairman Dennis Jaffe (top photo) and Technical Committee Chairman Faramarz Mokhtari (bottom photo) at the TPB meeting on December 21.

Citizens Advisory Committee. The four appointees are: Steve Caflisch (MD), Harold Foster (DC), Dan Malouff (VA), and Allen Muchnick (VA). Eleven final appointments will be made at the January meeting.

- Approval of the final ***Call for Projects*** document for the 2006 CLRP and FY2007-2012 TIP.
- Approval of ***amendments to FY2006 Unified Planning Work Program*** to address requirements in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).
- Status report on the regional transportation coordination program, provisionally known as ***CapCom***.
- Briefing on a proposal to develop a report on ***near-term transportation capital funding needs***. ■

Schedule for 2006 Plan Update

**2006 CLRP and
FY 2007-2012 TIP**

Dec 21	TPB Releases Final Call For Projects
Feb 9-Mar12	Public comment period for plan and TIP project submissions
Mar 15	TPB reviews public comments and is asked to approve project submissions for inclusion in the air quality conformity analysis
Sep 14-Oct 14	Public comment period for draft plan, TIP and air quality conformity analysis
Oct 18	TPB reviews public comments and responses to comments, and is scheduled to approve the plan, TIP and air quality conformity analysis

Metro Funding *continued from page 1*

joint recommendation to Virginia lawmakers to levy an additional sales tax of .25 percent in member jurisdictions of the Metro compact (Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax County, Fairfax and Falls Church).

“Northern Virginia is in agreement on an approach that has been presented to members of the General Assembly and that we will be requesting action on,” Zimmerman said.

According to Knapp, though details are not yet available, conversations are underway and progress is being made in Maryland.

In 2005, Virginia Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA) introduced legislation that would provide Metro with \$1.5 billion federal dollars dependent on a dedicated funding agreement by Maryland, Virginia and the District as well as organizational changes at WMATA. ■

January Agenda

The TPB’s January agenda will include:

- Approval of appointments to the TPB *Citizens Advisory Committee*.
- Approval of a letter to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) suggesting the designation of a point person for *pedestrian and bicycle access at transit stations*.
- Approval of a resolution on amendments to the FY 2005-2010 and FY2006-2011 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) to *add funding to the “Idea 66” study*. These amendments, requested by the Virginia Department of Transportation, affect an ongoing study of I-66. Because this is a study, the amendments are exempt from air quality conformity requirements.
- Update on activities to identify *dedicated funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority* (WMATA).
- Briefing on the Environmental Protection Agency’s final rule to implement the *8-hour ozone standard* and proposed rule to implement the *fine particles (PM2.5) standard*. The briefing will include a discussion of the implications of these new federal Clean Air regulations for the TPB’s work activities.
- Report on the regional pedestrian and bicycle safety education campaign, known as *“Street Smart.”*
- Review of results of five alternative *transportation and land use scenarios* that have been analyzed to date in the TPB’s Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study.
- Briefing on *public information improvements and proposed public involvement activities*.
- Review of outline and preliminary budget for the TPB’s *FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program*. ■

This newsletter is produced by John Swanson
MWCOG, 777 North Capitol St, NE, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239
202-962-3295; jswanson@mwkog.org
“TPB News” at www.mwkog.org/transportation

Calendar of Events

Dates and times subject to change. All meetings are at COG unless otherwise indicated. If you are in need of special assistance to participate in meetings, please call (202) 962-3315 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Bicycle racks are located in the parking garage at 777 N. Capitol St., NE (Enter from 1st Street).

January 2006

- 4 Telecommuting Ad-Hoc Group (10 am)
- 6 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 6 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 11 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 12 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 13 Joint Technical Working Group for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (noon)
- 17 Employer Outreach Ad-Hoc Group (10 am)
- 17 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 17 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 17 Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 18 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 20 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 26 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 26 TPB Access for All Advisory Committee (noon)

February 2006

- 3 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 3 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 7 Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Marketing Group (10 am)
- 9 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 10 Joint Technical Working Group for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (noon)
- 14 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 15 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**

March 2006

- 3 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 3 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 8 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 9 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 10 Joint Technical Working Group for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (noon)
- 14 Commuter Operation Center Subcommittee (10 am)
- 14 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 14 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 15 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 17 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 21 Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 23 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 23 TPB Access for All Advisory Committee (noon)
- 28 Travel Management Subcommittee (9 am)

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. Postage Paid
Washington, D.C.
Permit #9770

Printed on Recycled Paper