



**MEMORANDUM**

Item 3  
TPB Technical Committee  
12/4/15

**TO:** TPB Technical Committee  
**FROM:** Kanti Srikanth, TPB Staff Director  
**SUBJECT:** Proposal to form a working group to determine a process for evaluating new project submissions for the CLRP  
**DATE:** December 4, 2015

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The TPB has been discussing the projected system performance outcome of the 2015 CLRP in the past few monthly meetings. Some members of the Board have stated that the system-wide performance of the CLRP is less than satisfactory and suggested that the Board should consider enhancements to the process by which the CLRP is developed.

One of the outcomes of this general sentiment is the recently established Unfunded Capital Needs Work Group which is working to identify a limited set of regionally significant multi-modal projects that are currently unfunded but have the greatest potential to help improve the performance of the region's transportation system if funded and added to the CLRP.

A couple of members of the Board have suggested that the TPB establish a Task Force made of interested members of the Board to explore other enhancements to the TPB's CLRP development process and recommend enhancements that the TPB would consider adopting for future updates to the CLRP.

A work session of the Board is being proposed to be held in January (tentatively on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 from 10:30 to 11:45 at COG) to discuss the matter. The purpose of the TPB work session will be to identify a consensus-based charge for the Task Force including the specific issue the Task Force is to address and the framework for any recommendations it would make to the Board. Discussions from the work session will form the basis of a resolution for the TPB to adopt that would create a Task Force with a specific charge decided by the Board.

A couple of members of the Board have developed draft resolutions suggesting the charge for this Task Force and these are provided as attachments to this memo. Members of the Technical Committee are encouraged to review these within their agencies/jurisdictions and provide their comments on these OR propose an alternative charge for the Task Force. The various proposed charges for the Task Force will be discussed during the January 20, 2016 TPB Work Session with the intent of arriving at a consensus-based charge for the Task Force. Input from members of the Committee is sought by close of business January 5, 2016.



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*Distributed by Peter Schwartz - TPB BOARD MEMBER*  
November 18, 2015  
**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD**  
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

**RESOLUTION**

**TO CREATE AN "UNCONSTRAINED" WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE "OUTSIDE-THE-BOX" SOLUTIONS TO LONG RANGE REGIONAL CONGESTION AND ACCESSIBILITY CHALLENGES**

**WHEREAS**, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) was created in 1965 by the region's local and state governments to respond to federal highway legislation that required the establishment of a "continuing, comprehensive and coordinated" transportation planning process in every urbanized area in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the TPB's 50th anniversary this year provides an opportunity to look back at the Board's role, accomplishments and disappointments with respect to the region's transportation challenges and goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the TPB's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary also provides an opportunity for the Board to look ahead to the future of regional transportation in the National Capital Region, and to consider new and creative approaches to the region's transportation challenges, including "outside-the-box" approaches that have not heretofore been considered or even imagined; and

**WHEREAS**, despite massive investments in transportation infrastructure over the preceding 50-year period, traffic congestion throughout the region has increased dramatically to the dismay of our citizens, businesses, and local and state governments; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens, businesses, and local and state governments within the region also have expressed related concerns regarding accessibility to efficient transportation networks and infrastructure within the region, as well as the appropriate balance of prospective infrastructure investment on a regional basis; and

**WHEREAS**, projections prepared by TPB staff as part of its ongoing analysis of the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and the annual amendments thereto show that congestion will continue to increase substantially in the future despite the anticipated \$244 billion additional funding for regional transportation over the 25-year life of the CLRP as currently approved; and

**WHEREAS**, the TPB is concerned that a "business as usual" approach to future regional transportation planning and investment will not adequately address the identified congestion and accessibility challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the TPB has the ultimate responsibility under federal law, including the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act" (MAP-21), for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the entire metropolitan area;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD hereby creates a working group entitled the "Fresh Look for the Next Fifty Working

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Group” specifically tasked and empowered to imagine, create and develop potential “outside-the-box” solutions to the region’s transportation challenges; that such Working Group be comprised of individuals selected by the Chairman on or before December 15, 2015 based on voluntary expressions of interest in participating, and with a chair designated by the Working Group at its first meeting; that such Working Group shall be expected report on its progress and ideas at the June , 2016 meeting of the TPB, and that the TPB staff shall be expected to participate in the Working Group and assist the Working Group as needed with administrative and analytic assistance from time to time;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT** the TPB challenges the “Fresh Look for the Next Fifty Working Group” to put aside “business as usual” thinking, and to return to the Board with new and innovative approaches that are intended to dramatically reduce traffic congestion and enhance accessibility to transportation options throughout the National Capital Region.

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

**RESOLUTION TO CREATE A WORKING GROUP  
TO ADVANCE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE GOALS**

**WHEREAS**, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the National Capital Region (Region), has the responsibility under the provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) to carry out continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning for the Region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Region's Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) accomplishes federal requirements by tracking proposed transportation projects with a reasonable likelihood of funding, but does not track the impacts of individual component projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the TPB's Regional Transportation Priority Plan (RTPP), in association with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Region Forward plan, lays out a shared vision of the Region's future, and establishes Regional planning priorities that include, among others, environmental sustainability and clustering of future growth into transit-accessible activity centers; and

**WHEREAS**, the TPB, in association with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), has endorsed aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals, including an 80 percent reduction below 2005 levels by 2050, via COG resolutions R60-08 and R9-10, and TPB resolution R10-2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the COG Multi-Sector Working Group on Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MSWG) has identified implementable local, regional and state actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the hopes of achieving that 80 percent reduction goal; and

**WHEREAS**, failing to meet the Region's greenhouse gas reduction goals will have dire consequences to the Region's economic well-being and environmental quality; and

**WHEREAS**, other Regional entities such as the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) have existing project analysis processes, which support goals related to but distinct from those within RTPP and Region Forward, which involve significant costs and time to produce, and which TPB has no need to duplicate;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD:**

Establishes a working group composed of elected officials, TPB members, and technical staff, to begin meeting in January, 2016, to:

1. Develop by autumn 2016 an action plan for implementing the near-term and stretch transportation and land use recommendations described in the MSWG report, as well as recommendations for establishing legally-permissible and binding greenhouse gas reduction targets; and

## *PROPOSED DRAFT*

2. Develop a methodology to analyze major individual projects proposed during future CLRP updates, according to the goals embedded in the RTPP and Region Forward. Such methodology shall:
  - a. Result in a points-based score for major projects on an individual project-by-project basis; and
  - b. Be practical to implement as part of every CLRP update going forward, and therefore shall not require the use of comprehensive traffic modeling; and
  - c. Be for informational purposes only, and therefore shall not constitute a screen for determining inclusion of projects into the CLRP; and
  - d. Be finalized by summer 2016, in time to be implemented for major projects proposed within the 2016 update to the CLRP.

To the extent practical, such working group may coordinate with the COG greenhouse gas reduction working group created by COG resolution R59-2015.