



COG ANNOUNCES KANTI SRIKANTH AS NEW TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIRECTOR

On June 27, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments announced Kanti Srikanth as its new director of transportation planning. Srikanth will succeed Ron Kirby, who served as director from 1987 until his sudden unexpected death in November 2013.

Srikanth is currently the director of transportation planning for the Northern Virginia district office of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). He has more than 25 years of experience in transportation planning in



Srikanth will start as Transportation Planning Director on August 6.

the Washington region, much of that time involved in planning activities at COG and the TPB.

TPB Chair Patrick Wojahn lauded Srikanth's regional experience. "Kanti Srikanth is a transportation leader who deeply understands the transportation planning process in our complex region," Wojahn said. "I am confident that he will help us build a stronger region by effectively coordinating planning activities among our numerous local, state, and federal partners, regional authorities, stakeholders, and community groups."

(Continued on page 3)

TPB BRIEFED ON UPDATE TO COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

At its June 18 meeting, the TPB was briefed on proposed changes to the region's Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan, a federally required plan to identify and prioritize the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities and older adults.

The TPB is updating the plan in response to the creation under MAP-21 of a new federal program, Enhanced

Mobility, aimed at serving people who need specialized transportation. The TPB is responsible for awarding matching grants of approximately \$5 million in Federal funds under the new program over the next two years.

The plan update provides an opportunity to reassess the unmet transportation needs of people with disabilities and older adults in the region and to focus attention

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming meetings and items of interest:

TPB Meeting: July 16, 2014

- Approval of Regional Car Free Day 2014 Proclamation
- Approval of Fauquier County, Virginia to Become a Member of the TPB

Inside this issue of TPBnews:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 2 | TIGER-Funded Bus Priority Projects Continue | 4 | TPB Briefed on Draft Federal Regulations |
| 3 | Despite Heavy Rains, Thousands Participate in Bike to Work Day | 5 | Other June Agenda Item |

TIGER-FUNDED BUS PRIORITY PROJECTS CONTINUE

Dedicated travel lanes, priority signals, and priority signals to allow buses to bypass auto traffic and move more quickly through intersections. real-time arrival information displays, and new and upgraded stops and stations are

among the 16 bus priority projects currently underway in the Washington region thanks to federal TIGER grant funding awarded in 2010.

The projects aim to improve the reliability and convenience of the region's bus system, especially along key transportation corridors connecting major residential, commercial, and employment centers.

At its June 18 meeting, the TPB was briefed on the status of the projects.

According to the briefing, a handful of projects are complete or nearing completion. One is the purchase of new commuter buses to operate

on express routes between Prince William County and job centers in Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia. Another is the region's first bus rapid transit line in Arlington and Alexandria, due to open later this year, a small portion of which is being paid for with funding under the grant. Installation of real-time passenger information displays has begun on several routes, including 16th Street NW in the District, University Boulevard in Maryland, and Leesburg Pike in Virginia.

Other projects are taking longer to complete, especially dedicated bus-only lanes

Priority Bus Network



Priority signal systems are planned at 77 intersections along seven key bus corridors. Procuring the technology and testing it to ensure compatibility across jurisdictional boundaries has caused the greatest delay in deploying the technology. Construction of queue-jump lanes at intersections and other dedicated bus-only lanes has been slowed by more extensive design work and greater levels of inter-agency coordination than was originally anticipated.

In the briefing, staff noted that the deadline for completing all 16 bus priority projects is

(Continued on page 5)

DESPITE HEAVY RAINS, THOUSANDS PARTICIPATE IN BIKE TO WORK DAY

At its June 18 meeting, the TPB was briefed on turnout for this year's Bike to Work Day event. Despite heavy rain, thousands of cyclists from the Washington area participated in the annual event organized by the TPB's Commuter Connections program and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association.

In all, 16,800 people registered to participate, setting a new record. Organizers estimate that a third or more of registered participants took part despite the rain.

The event also featured a record number of pit stops—79 in all—where registered participants could meet other bicycle commuters and elected officials, enjoy refreshments, enter prize raffles, and receive an official event t-shirt. All 79 pit stops were set up as planned, using tents or relocating to indoor spaces to provide cyclists with some respite from the rain.

TPB Chair Patrick Wojahn was among the many government officials who participated in the event. Anthony Foxx, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation,

attended the Freedom Plaza pit stop in the District of Columbia to congratulate those who braved the rain.

A number of area television and radio stations broadcast stories about Bike to Work Day, and mentions of the event on social media increased by 110 percent from last year.

Cathy Hudgins, who represents Fairfax County on the TPB, was impressed by the level of participation in her jurisdiction, even during the heavy rain.

Shyam Kannan, the TPB representative from WMATA, said his agency participated in Bike to Work Day by setting up pit

stops at Metro stations for people who commute by both bicycle and transit.

Bike to Work Day aims to promote bicycling as a viable commuting option in the region. A survey following last year's event found that close to a third of participants started biking to work on a regular basis or more often following the event. ♦



SRIKANTH NEW DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

(Continued from page 1)

Cathy Hudgins, who represents Fairfax County on the TPB, said, “Kanti is a collaborative, diplomatic leader who can bring people together and help develop consensus among a wide range of perspectives, including those of urban, suburban, and rural communities, supporters of different transportation modes, and advocates for under-represented groups.”

COG Executive Director Chuck Bean said he looks forward to what Srikanth can do to help COG better integrate transportation, land-use, and environmental planning. “Kanti is driven by his pursuit of the big picture

without losing sight of the details,” Bean said. “This will serve COG and the TPB well as we build on recent initiatives like our Region Forward vision and the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan.”

Srikanth will officially join COG on August 6. ♦

Get more news and information about TPB research, analysis, outreach, and planning in the Washington region in *TPB Weekly Report*:
mwcog.org/tpbweeklyreport

COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

(Continued from page 1)

on the most important strategies for meeting those needs. The update is intended to help guide the selection process for projects under Enhanced Mobility.

Among the key unmet needs identified in the proposed plan update are greater coordination of transportation services and programs within and across jurisdictions, more customer-focused services and more training for transportation providers, and improved information and marketing for existing specialized transportation services.

“These are just the big ones,” explained Wendy Klancher, who briefed the Board. “This is what we heard from consumers in a facilitated discussion with the TPB’s Access for All Advisory Committee and the Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force,” she said.

Klancher manages the TPB’s ongoing efforts to improve transportation services for the region’s transportation-disadvantaged populations. Prior to Enhanced Mobility, Klancher oversaw the grant application and implementation process for two previous federal programs: Job Access and Reverse Commute, aimed at supporting efforts to improve access to job sites and job-related activities for people with limited incomes, and New Freedom, aimed at expanding transportation options for people with disabilities.

Since 2007, the TPB has awarded more than \$22 million in federal and match funding to 59 projects under the two programs. The projects have provided a wide range of mobility services, programs, and training.

At the June 18 meeting, TPB Vice-Chair Timothy Lovain, who represents the City of Alexandria on the Board and serves as Chair of the Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force, told Board members, “These projects make a real difference in the everyday lives of people with disabilities and older adults in our region.”

Shyam Kannan, who represents WMATA on the Board, stressed the importance of such projects in providing essential services and alleviating demand for expensive paratransit services offered by his agency and others. “I just want to highlight the magnitude of what’s in front of us,” Kannan said. “With an aging population, we simply can’t afford, as a region, not to make these kinds of investments today in improving the way we deliver specialized transportation services.”

The TPB will vote at its July meeting on final changes to the Coordinated Plan. The solicitation for projects under Enhanced Mobility is expected to take place later this summer or in early fall. ♦

TPB BRIEFED ON DRAFT FEDERAL REGULATIONS

On June 18, the TPB was briefed on draft regulations published recently by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) pertaining to MAP-21, the latest federal surface transportation reauthorization signed into law in July 2012.

The proposed regulations provide guidance on performance-based planning and greater transit agency representation on MPO boards like the TPB. At its July meeting, the TPB will be briefed further on the implications of the regulations. ♦

TIGER-FUNDED BUS PRIORITY PROJECTS CONTINUE

(Continued from page 2)

2016, at which time any unused funding must be returned to the federal government. “We’re 60 percent of the way through the period of the grant, but have only spent about 30 percent of the grant funds,” explained Eric Randall, who led the Board briefing.

At the TPB meeting, Board members were primarily interested in the details of the transit signal priority projects, asking whether such systems interfere with existing traffic signal optimization efforts and whether other metropolitan areas have successfully deployed such technology.

Randall explained that the systems are set up to temporarily alter the normal optimization schedule to allow buses to pass through and then return to normal operations within two or three full signal cycles. He said many other metropolitan areas are using the technology, including Boston, Los Angeles, and Portland, Oregon.

Shyam Kannan, who represents WMATA on the Board,

stressed the importance of completing the projects that provide dedicated right-of-way for buses so that they can avoid traffic and provide better on-time performance. “Let us not spend all this money to have very smart buses on very bad roads,” he said.

Three Board members—Conrad Herling from the City of Greenbelt, and Gary Erenrich and Marc Elrich from Montgomery County—urged staff to consider measuring the greenhouse gas-reduction benefits of the 16 projects being funded under the grant. “The whole point of getting these buses through quicker is the hope that we provide a viable transit alternative. ... Better performance leads to better ridership, and better ridership bends the CO2 curve,” Elrich said. ♦

For more on the TPB’s TIGER grant, visit:
mwcog.org/transportation/TIGER

UPCOMING JULY AGENDA ITEMS

The July 16 TPB meeting is expected to include the following items:

- Approval of Regional Car Free Day 2014 proclamation
- Approval of technical assistance recipients under the FY 2015 Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program
- Approval of an update of the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan for the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program
- Approval of Fauquier County, Virginia to become a member of the TPB
- Briefing on an update of the TPB Participation Plan
- Update on implications for the TPB of the MAP-21 guidance on the representation by transit agencies on the MPO board and the proposed rule on statewide and MPO planning ♦

OTHER JUNE AGENDA ITEM

The TPB’s June 18 meeting also included the following item:

- Approval of an amendment to the FY 2013-2018 TIP that is exempt from the air quality conformity requirement to update projects and funding in the District of Columbia section of the FY 2013-2018 TIP ♦

Public Information Session Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

**Thursday, July 10, 2014
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Training Center (Ground Floor)
777 North Capital Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
mwcog.org/tipforum

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 North Capitol St., NE (Enter from First St., NE).

July 2014

- 9 Car Free Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 10 Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 15 Employer Outreach Committee (10 am)
- 15 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 15 Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 16 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 18 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 22 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 24 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 24 Access for All Advisory Committee (noon)
- 29 Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Technical Subcommittee (12:30 pm)

August 2014

- 7 Freight Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 25 Transportation Safety Subcommittee (noon)

September 2014

- 5 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 5 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 10 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 10 Car Free Day Steering Committee (11:30 am)
- 11 Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (12:30 pm)
- 11 Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 16 Regional TDM Marketing Group (10 am)
- 16 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 16 Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 16 Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee (2 pm)
- 17 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 19 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 22 Car Free Day
- 23 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 24 Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force (1 pm)
- 25 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)

October 2014

- 3 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 3 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 9 Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 15 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 21 Employer Outreach Committee (10 am)
- 23 Access for All Advisory Committee (noon)
- 28 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)

Dates and times subject to change.

Please visit our website at

www.mwcog.org

for up-to-date information.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Bryan Hayes at (202) 962-3273 or bhayes@mwcog.org, or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Please allow seven working days for preparation of material.

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