



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

Item #5

MEMORANDUM

May 15, 2014

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Gerald K. Miller
Acting Co-Director, Department of
Transportation Planning

RE: Letters Sent/Received Since the April 16 TPB Meeting

The attached letters were sent/received since the April 16th TPB meeting. The letters will be reviewed under Agenda #5 of the May 21 TPB agenda.

Attachments



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: John Swanson, Principal Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: Listening Sessions to Discuss Implementation of the *Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP)*

DATE: May 15, 2014

This memo provides a brief update on upcoming outreach activities related to the *Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP)*.

Overview

TPB and COG staff are planning to conduct a series of listening sessions in June and July to discuss implementation activities related to the RTPP. Participants will include the staff of the TPB's member jurisdictions and key stakeholder groups.

These sessions will be conducted, in part, as follow-up to the CLRP/RTPP Initial Comparative Assessment, which staff presented to the TPB in April. That document provided an overview of how staff understands the CLRP supports the priorities identified in the RTPP. As COG/TPB staff seek to better understand activities and opportunities to implement the RTPP, we believe the next step is to seek out the opinions of our core constituencies regarding the degree to which the region is making progress in meeting our goals.

Purpose

The listening sessions will be designed to: 1) gather information on whether and how key stakeholders and jurisdiction staff believe we are achieving regional goals, and 2) solicit support and buy-in from our member governments and key constituencies for the RTPP.

These meetings will seek to illuminate the connections between the RTPP's policy framework and the planning and decision-making activities conducted by the TPB's members. The sessions will include discussion about the importance of regional Activity Centers, which were highlighted in both the RTPP and the recently approved *Place + Opportunity* report. COG staff developed the *Place + Opportunity* report as a resource to strengthen and enhance Activity Centers throughout metropolitan Washington.

The comments received at these events will inform the final RTPP/CLRP Comparative Assessment, which will be presented to the TPB in September, and will help frame future long-range planning activities, including the 2015 CLRP Call for Projects.

Details on the Proposed Listening Sessions

COG/TPB staff will conduct approximately 15 listening sessions before the end of July. We will meet with two types of groups: 1) staff of our member jurisdictions (9-10 meetings) and 2) stakeholders and regional leaders representative of various constituencies and interests (5-6 meetings). The groups will reflect a mix of participants, including people who do not typically participate in TPB activities and may not be familiar with the RTPP.

The sessions will be conducted as two-hour facilitated focus groups. Each meeting will individually address the six goals that underlie the RTPP:

- Provide a Comprehensive Range of Transportation Options
- Promote a Strong Regional Economy, Including a Healthy Regional Core and Dynamic Activity Centers
- Ensure Adequate System Maintenance, Preservation, and Safety
- Maximize Operational Effectiveness and Safety of the Transportation System
- Enhance Environmental Quality, and Protect Natural and Cultural Resources
- Support Inter-Regional and International Travel and Commerce

For each goal, staff will provide a short briefing on “what we know” related to the goal, including information on projects in the CLRP and TIP, and forecasts from the 2013 CLRP performance analysis.

Most of the time at the sessions will be devoted to discussion. Polling questions will be used to identify topics in which participants believe the region is succeeding and where we are falling short of our regional goals. Related to perceived successes, participants will discuss why they think the region is on track. They will also talk about important work that is occurring at local and/or state levels that may fall “beneath the regional radar,” and therefore is not typically measurable by the CLRP/TIP.

Participants will also discuss perceived gaps, identifying ways in which they believe the region is not meeting goals and strategies laid out in the Priorities Plan.

Follow-up

This round of discussions will be concluded by the end of July. In August, staff will use the input gathered at the sessions to inform the final CLRP/RTPP Comparative Assessment, which will be presented to the TPB in September in conjunction with the release for public comment of the 2014 CLRP and FY2015-2020 TIP. The input from the listening sessions will also inform the draft 2015 CLRP Call for Projects, which will be released in October. TPB staff may conduct additional outreach later this year.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Office of the Administrator
April 23, 2014

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Federal Transit
Administration**

In Reply Refer To:
HEPP-1
TPE-1

Attention: Executive Directors of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

With the renewed focus on transportation planning brought about by the MAP-21, Transportation Secretary Foxx, and the pending issuance of proposed transportation planning regulations, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Offices of Planning are jointly issuing Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs). The PEAs are planning topical areas that we want to place emphasis on as the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and the State DOTs develop their respective planning work programs. We are asking our FHWA and FTA field offices to meet with their MPO and State DOT counterparts to discuss these emphasis areas and encourage the MPOs and the States to develop and identify work tasks associated with the planning emphasis areas for inclusion in their upcoming unified planning work programs and statewide planning and research work programs for Federal FY-2015. The planning emphasis areas for Federal FY-2015 include:

MAP-21 Implementation

- *Transition to Performance Based Planning and Programming.* The development and implementation of a performance management approach to transportation planning and programming that supports the achievement of transportation system performance outcomes.

Models of Regional Planning Cooperation

- *Promote cooperation and coordination across MPO boundaries and across State boundaries where appropriate to ensure a regional approach to transportation planning.* This is particularly important where more than one MPO or State serves an urbanized area or adjacent urbanized areas. This cooperation could occur through the metropolitan planning agreements that identify how the planning process and planning products will be coordinated, through the development of joint planning products, and/or by other locally determined means. Coordination across MPO and across State boundaries includes the coordination of transportation plans and programs, corridor studies, and projects across adjacent MPO and State boundaries. It also includes collaboration among State DOT(s), MPOs, and operators of public transportation on activities such as: data collection, data storage and analysis, analytical tools, and performance based planning.

Ladders of Opportunity

- *Access to essential services - as part of the transportation planning process, identify transportation connectivity gaps in access to essential services. Essential services include housing, employment, health care, schools/education, and recreation. This emphasis area could include MPO and State identification of performance measures and analytical methods to measure the transportation system's connectivity to essential services and the use of this information to identify gaps in transportation system connectivity that preclude access of the public, including traditionally underserved populations, to essential services. It could also involve the identification of solutions to address those gaps.*



Gregory G. Nadeau
Deputy Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Sincerely yours,



Therese W. McMillan
Deputy Administrator
Federal Transit Administration



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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May 5, 2014

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Mayor
The John A. Wilson Building; Room 316
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mayor Gray:

The League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia (LWVDC) supports regional cooperation in planning transportation projects. In addition to our league's position, those of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County and the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area also support such cooperation.

Our letter is in relation to long-term planning for DC streetcars, one line in particular. In the "DC's Transit Future System Plan" (April 2010) there is discussion of a streetcar line likely to go north of Petworth on Georgia Avenue, the "north-south streetcar." In November 2011 members of the Montgomery County Council expressed interest in the streetcar's terminus being in Silver Spring rather than Takoma Park, per their letter jointly to you and Montgomery County Executive Leggett. They proposed coordination among relevant metropolitan transportation authorities in a related "sketch-planning" exercise.

LWVDC supports improving transit connectivity between the District and Montgomery County. We encourage your administration to consider favorably the Silver Spring option for the terminus of the north-south streetcar and to pursue requisite coordination with appropriate authorities. Such coordination would likely be of interest to authorities of the Metropolitan Council of Governments' meeting in July.

Sincerely,

Barbara T. Yeomans
President

CC:

Mr. Terry Bellamy, Director, District Department of Transportation

✓ Mr. Philip Mendelson, Chairman, Metropolitan COG

Ms. Linna Barnes, President, LWVMC

Ms. Virginia Long, President, LWVNCA

