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## **TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

July 3, 2024

### **1. WELCOME, VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES, AND MEMBER ROLL CALL PROTOCOL**

Staff described the procedures and protocols for the virtual meeting and conducted a roll call. Meeting participants are documented in the attached attendance list.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MEETING RECAP FROM THE JUNE 7 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

There were no questions or comments regarding the June Technical Committee meeting. The summary was accepted as final.

## **ITEMS FOR THE BOARD AGENDA**

### **3. VISUALIZE 2050: RECAP OF MAY ACTION AND NON-REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT PROJECT SUBMISSIONS DUE**

Mr. Cristina Finch summarized the TPB's May 15 meeting action to approve the scope of work for the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and all but one of the technical inputs, requesting that the I-95/I-495 Southside Express Lanes project be brought back at the June 20 TPB meeting for action. Ms. Finch noted the TPB had received a copy of letter correspondence from WMATA to VDOT dated May 31 which would be shared with the TPB and Technical Committee members. The letter has since been posted on the Technical Committee's June 7 meeting webpage and will be shared with the TPB in their June 20 agenda packet. Mr. Kanti Srikanth provided additional details regarding the TPB's action items, after which Ms. Finch reminded members of the upcoming June 28 deadline to submit non-regionally significant project inputs into the Project InfoTrak database. There were no questions or discussion from members on this item.

### **4. TPB RESOURCES AND APPLICATIONS PAGE (TRAP) DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Charlene Howard shared the web page TPB Resources and Applications Page (TRAP) with the committee. She provided a brief overview of the page purpose, which is to provide way for users to discover and view many of the geospatial and visualization projects TPB creates, as well as links to the various documents and reports that are produced as part of TPB's metropolitan transportation planning requirements. She then described the changes to the TRAP since the last TPB Technical Committee meeting. Two of the page categories—Commuter Related Content and Additional Resources that had been present before as placeholders are now populated with content. Ms. Howard informed the committee that content related to COG's Regional Activity Centers has been added to the Additional Content category—this is in direct response to a request from the last TPB Technical Committee. The TRAP included both a web map of the Activity Centers as well as a PDF document. She also shared that the Commuter Connections Park and Ride map is included on the TRAP in addition to several resources that are also available on the Commuter Connections site in various places. Ms. Howard also pointed out that a link exists on the Additional Resources page for recommending content for inclusion in the TRAP. She encouraged committee members to consider submitting content and named some examples of partner content already included in the TRAP (Interact Trans and the NoVA District Bike and Pedestrian Counts). Ms. Howard concluded by inviting

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committee members to explore the TRAP page again. Gary Erenrich from Montgomery commented that he was impressed with the work on the TRAP and offered a suggestion for when the TRAP is presented to TPB. Mr. Erenrich suggested including a simple example on how to use the data and how data layers can work together. Ms. Howard agreed with his suggestion and remarked that she would also note the differences between the TRAP (a page that catalogs data products) and the Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse (RTDC) (a page that catalogs downloadable datasets).

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **5. 2023 WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE REGIONAL AIR PASSENGER SURVEY**

Dr. Joh presented this item to the TPB Technical Committee. This presentation focused on general findings from the 2023 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey (APS), which took place in October 2023. The general findings were based on weighted tabulations and longitudinal trends from previous regional air passenger surveys, including passenger characteristics, ground access, and preferences and behavior of surveyed air passengers at the region's three airports – BWI, DCA, and IAD. Dr. Joh noted that the next steps will be completing the general findings report and performing geographic analysis to produce the geographic findings report.

No questions were asked by the Committee.

### **6. PERFORMANCE-BASED PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING: UPDATE ON HIGHWAY ASSET AND HIGHWAY SYSTEMS PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGETS**

Eric Randall provided the committee a briefing on the latest data for the federally required performance measures in the areas of highway assets and highway system, focusing on recent performance compared to the adopted targets for the region for the period 2022-2025.

Newly available performance data for 2021 through 2023 was shown for the pavement condition and bridge condition, travel time reliability and truck travel reliability (freight), and finally the CMAQ Program Traffic Congestion: Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) measure, the Non-SOV (Mode Share) measure, and the CMAQ Emissions Reductions measures, graphing results compared to previously made forecasts and targets.

Eric Randall closed the presentation by noting that the Visualize 2050 long-range transportation plan requires the inclusion of a system performance report, which will review performance and how the region is doing. The 2026-2029 TIP must also include a discussion of the PBPP performance vs. targets and the projects included in the TIP. In addition, staff will need to complete the biennial MPO CMAQ Performance Plan with MPO progress towards targets and submit it to the three State DOTs by September 1.

Charlene Howard then displayed the updated and improved data visualization GIS webpage for pavement and bridge condition performance for the region. Users can zoom in on specific jurisdictions or areas of interest and examine the displayed data. Summary sheets of asset condition by jurisdiction are available in a link on the page. References and explanations of the data are also included on the webpage.

There were no questions from the audience.

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## 7. 2023 STATE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Mr. Gaunaud presented an update of the 2023 State of Public Transportation report, which is due to be published in July 2024. The draft report was created in collaboration with the members of the Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee (RPTS) and summarizes the previous year's activities and accomplishments of the region's transit agencies. Other data for the report comes from the 2022 National Transit Database and open-source materials. The 2023 version of the report features a section dedicated to climate resilience and sustainability as it relates to transit, focusing on agency and jurisdictional efforts to implement climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. Other report highlights include that bus transit continued to be the primary means of public transportation in the region during 2022, but that Metrorail was increasing its share of general ridership. Commuter bus and rail ridership continued to recover from the pandemic steadily, but still far below 2019 totals. In 2023, new maintenance investments, transit options, and realigned service networks were introduced across the region, leading to improved experiences for riders and/or more efficient operations. Mr. Gaunaud noted that a draft of the report will be presented to RPTS for final feedback.

No questions or comments were received from the committee.

## 8. VRE SYSTEM PLAN 2050 DRAFT

Nick Ruiz, Virginia Railway Express, briefed the committee will be briefed on VRE's recommended 2050 Service Vision, in development for the past two years. He opened by noting the impacts of the pandemic and the changes in work programs, even as the region grows, and the Transforming Rail in Virginia expansion plan moves forward. He reviewed VRE's vision, goals for the plan, the development schedule of the plan, and near-term projects for the recommended near-term 2030 Service Alternative when the new Long Bridge span over the Potomac should open for use.

Nick then looked at the long-term, recapping the major benefits of VRE rail service and then expanding upon the 2050 Scenario for VRE, which would include more frequent peak service, reverse service, more off-peak service, and weekend service, forming a regional backbone of transit connections for Northern Virginia. He showed the required capital projects, needed funding, and calculated ridership impacts of the 2050 scenario. The VRE operations board will meet later in June to approve the plan, after which the 2050 System Plan will be submitted to NVTC and PRTC, the two VRE parent commissions.

David Edmundson asked if VRE had plans for MARC run through service or for electrification or non-locomotive trains (e.g., Diesel Multiple Units). Nick responded firstly that through 2030 there are no plans for MARC run through service, which will be documented in a memo. There are infrastructure constraints for tracks and stations as well as incompatibility for operations, while the rider benefits are comparatively limited. By 2050 that could change, and some options are being kept open for MARC run-through service. As for electrification, the current locomotive fleet does need to be replaced in the next ten to fifteen years. A future study will look at options for the successor fleet. Christine Hoeffner clarified that VRE is not looking at a catenary system, but rather locomotive propulsion systems and arrangements that would meet needed operational requirements and interoperability with the freight rail system.

Mark Philips asked about the costs shown, whether in Visualize 2050, and what the unfunded needs are. Nick agreed that there are elements unfunded, as identified in the plan. Christine added that non-regional significant projects would be added to Visualize 2050.

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## 9. ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT STRATEGIC PLAN (ATSP) UPDATE

Martin Barna, Alexandria DASH, and Silas Sullivan, City of Alexandria, briefed the committee on the status of the ATSP as well as the ongoing progress towards the 2030 Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) Plan. The ATV was adopted by the Alexandria Transit Company Board in 2019; it included a Bus Network Redesign for the City of Alexandria and DASH, focusing on improved frequency over coverage and all-day service over peak-only. The first phase ("New DASH Network") was launched in 2021 with free fares. Martin showed the new map and various ridership results over the past few years.

The latest Alexandria Transit Strategic Plan (ATSP) has been developed for the period FY 2025 through FY 2034. Martin briefed the components of the ATSP, including relevant elements of the ATV, the standards established by the ATSP, and then discussed various service modifications proposed for FY 2025. He discussed the outreach for the ATSP and the public feedback received, and then closed with the elements of the adopted budget for FY 2025, including minor service adjustments and another year of free fares. Longer-term, DASH will be studying more service in the Arlandria community, advancing plans to go 100 percent electric by 2037, and a facility expansion to support more electric buses.

There were no questions from the audience.

## 10. OTHER BUSINESS

The TPB will meet on Thursday, June 20 which is a different day of the week than usual. Initially planned as a virtual meeting, the Steering Committee will decide if it will stay virtual or be in person.

The July technical committee meeting will be on Wednesday, July 3rd, due to the July 4 holiday. It will be held in person in the boardroom.

The final stages of the Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan (TRIP) were presented to TPB May. TPB is expected to vote on the TRIP on June 20.

A Curbside Management forum is planned for this summer, similar to the first one held in 2020. The forum will discuss needs and the management practices that have evolved. The event is scheduled for the end of June or July and will be in person, with a possible hybrid option. More details will be shared once finalized.

"Bike to Work Day" was held on May 17. There were 13,972 registrants and 190 student participants. Cyclists stopped for snacks, swag bags, and free T-shirts. The event included an employer challenge, which was won by the Drug Administration. They will receive a catered lunch. Planning took nine months, involving a 150-member Steering Committee. Dan Sheehan thanked the COG team, pit stop managers, and regional sponsors like DDOT, MDOT, Capital Bike Share, GoAlex, Bike Arlington, and Prince George's County.

A new website was released to support the DMVMoves effort. The initiative aims to create a unified vision for world-class transit, including services, policies, operational parameters, and funding models. Two advisory groups, one with government partners and the other with community partners, will hold monthly work sessions. More information and periodic reports will be available on the website.

EPA updated its MOVE submissions estimation tool to MOVES3. The TPB and MWAC collaborated to update the region's motor vehicle emissions budgets (MEBs), which were submitted to the EPA last fall. This week, the EPA proposed approving these updates in the Federal Register, with a comment period open until July 3. This approval is crucial for using the updated MEBs in the air quality conformity analysis for Visualize 2050.

The Travel Forecasting and Emissions Analysis team has two job openings listed on the COG job page. The positions are for a Transportation Engineer, who will focus on Air Quality and Climate Change planning in the surface transportation sector, and a Transportation Engineer who will focus on model and network development. Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply.

**ATTENDANCE – Virtual**

<b>MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT</b>	
Mark Rawlings – DDOT Rebecca Schwartzman - DC Office of Planning Gary Erenrich – Montgomery County David Edmondson – City of Frederick Douglas Smith - Gaithersburg Victor Weissberg Kari Snyder – MDOT Dan Malouff - Arlington County Malcolm Watson – Fairfax County Silas Sullivan – Alexandria Gladys Hurwitz – Loudoun Co. Evandro Santos – Prince William Co.  Chris Bratton – DDOT Martin Barna - DASH	Chole Delhomme – Loudoun County Amir Shahpar – VDOT Regina Moore – VDOT Maria Sinner- VDOT Sree Nampoothiri - NVTA Ann McGrane - NVTC Christina Hoffner – VRE Nick Ruiz – VRE Mark Phillips – WMATA Amy Garbarini – VDRPT Laurel Hammig - NPS
<b>OTHERS / MWCOCG STAFF PRESENT</b>	
Kanti Srikanth - I Lyn Erickson - I Kim Sutton - I Sergio Ritacco - I Eric Randall - I Cristina Finch - V Ken Joh -V Jany Posey – V Jamie Bufkin – I Anant Chaudhary - I	Janie Nham - I Leo Pineda - I Tim Canan - I Mark Moran - V Rachel Beyerle - I John Swanson - I Katherine Rainone - I Andrew Messe - V Dusan Vuksan - I Erin Morrow - V