



MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee
FROM: Eric Randall, TPB Transportation Engineer
SUBJECT: Intercity Travel Overview
DATE: May 26, 2023

This memorandum provides background material for the presentation on intercity bus and rail travel being given to the TPB Technical Committee at its June 2, 2023 meeting. The presentation provides an overview of current information on intercity bus and rail travel as collected through online research. This information builds on previous intercity bus travel study efforts by the TPB in 2016 and provides initial information for work planned for FY 2024.

2016 Study and Count of Intercity Bus Traffic

In the fall of 2016, the TPB conducted a count of intercity bus travel to and from the metropolitan Washington region. The impetus for the study was the May 2016 updated federal planning regulations which called for the inclusion of intercity bus facilities in the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process. The report on the study collected information on bus stations and stops in the region, bus providers, trips and ridership, and rider origins and destinations.

Final Report (January 2017)

[Intercity Bus Traffic and Patronage in the Metropolitan Washington Region](#)

Presentation to the April 2017 meeting of the TPB Technical Committee

[2016 Count of Intercity Bus Traffic](#)

Work Planned for FY 2024

With the advent of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020, discussion on conducting subsequent studies was deferred. With the official conclusion of the pandemic in May 2023, TPB staff has begun planning for further research on intercity travel, expanding the scope to include rail services as well.

The [FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program \(UPWP\)](#) has the following work item within Section 3.7 Regional Public Transportation Planning and Section 7.1 Transportation Research and Analysis.

“... conduct a regional survey gathering usage information on intercity buses, commuter buses, rail transit, and commuter rail, updating the survey last completed in 2016, to advise regional planning and coordination.” (pp. 50, 64)

Later this calendar year, planning will advance for the conduct of this work, including schedule, methodology, scope, and other aspects. The TPB Technical Committee and the TPB Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee will be involved as this work progresses.