
TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

December 2, 2022

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 NOVEMBER 4 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

There were no questions or comments regarding the November Technical Committee meeting. The summary was approved.

ITEMS FOR THE BOARD AGENDA

3. PBPP: TARGETS FOR TRANSIT SAFETY AND HIGHWAY SAFETY

Eric Randall opened the agenda item and reminded the committee of the previous month's briefing on the draft regional targets for transit safety performance measures in accordance with federal requirements. The TPB was briefed at its November meeting as well. He then showed the committee the table with the draft 2022 transit safety targets and noted that no comments have been received, so the targets were unchanged since the November briefing. The board will be asked to approve the regional transit safety targets at its December meeting.

Janie Nham then took up the agenda item and, similar to Mr. Randal, reminded the committee of the draft highway safety targets briefed last month to the committee and the board. After displaying the five-year rolling average targets, identical to those presented last month, she closed with a review of the timeline of briefings and re-iterated that the board will be asked to approve the regional highway safety targets at its December meeting.

Andrew Meese then reported that at the November board meeting discussion took place on developing a letter noting the board's dissatisfaction with the highway safety outcomes and lack of improvement to be sent to the state departments of transportation to urge further action to improve safety in the region. Staff is working on a draft letter. There was also consideration of writing an op-ed for newspapers to contextualize and bridge the gap from data-driven targets to the aspirations of the board's members.

There were no questions.

4. FY 2023 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET ASIDE PROGRAM FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Referring to the material that was posted that morning, John Swanson briefed the committee on the TA Set-Aside Program for D.C. He explained that this is a federal grant program. He said a portion of funds are suballocated to MPOs for project selection in larger metropolitan areas. He said the project selection process is handled separately by the TPB's three state DOTs. He said that \$2.3 million was available to the TPB for D.C. for the two-year period of FY 2023-2024. He described DDOT's solicitation

for projects and the application review process that the TPB's selection panel undergoes. He said the TPB's selection panel was recommending six projects for funding. He individually described the projects that were recommended. He said the TPB would be asked to approve the projects on December 21.

Bob Brown asked if TPB staff could include more information about total project costs in the material they provide for review.

John Swanson said that staff would look into what additional information could be provided. He noted that detailed information about project completion is often not available.

Nick Ruiz asked for clarification on whether fatalities could be recorded if they take place outside a vehicle. Eric Randall responded that yes, the transit fatalities would include such "external" fatalities if a transit vehicle is involved. Only suicides are excluded from the fatality performance measure.

5. 2024 LONG-RANGE PLAN UPDATE: DRAFT SOLICITATION

During Agenda item 5, Stacy Cook briefly reviewed the major activities associated with the 2024 plan update. She provided a status update on the activities to prepare zero-based budgeting approach for the 2024 plan's Technical Inputs Solicitation, including the development and review of data with technical agencies, provision of and incorporation of comments received on the draft synthesized policy framework, and provision of the draft Summary of TPB Scenario Study findings. Following Ms. Cook's presentation, comments and questions were received as noted below. Next, Director Srikanth reviewed considerations related to the schedule for the plan update, including some possible interest from Maryland in a slight delay to the finalization of the technical inputs, based on the election leading to a new administration, and a new Maryland law that enable the Maryland legislative body to be able to change the Consolidated Transportation Program. Even with some changes to the schedule, the intention would be to accommodate the needs of the members while still completing the plan by the end of 2024. And, if the delay means the plan inputs better reflect the TPB priorities, it behooves the agency to accommodate the delay. He concluded that staff are trying to balance all interests.

Comments and Questions:

Questions on Ms. Cook's presentation:

- Bob Brown, representing Loudoun County, VA, asked about putting information into InfoTrak, and whether Loudoun County or VDOT will input the data. Ms. Cook noted that in coordination with VDOT, TPB staff would follow up on this question. Director Kanti Srikanth noted that it is up to the members as to who puts to projects in the Infotrak, but whoever is putting in information needs to ensure all of the information necessary is provided. Mr. Brown also asked, regarding outcomes that can be expected of scenarios, is TPB looking at individual projects or the whole set of regional projects. Ms. Cook clarified that she was referencing the TPB Summary of Scenario Findings that was posted for the TPB's November meeting. This summarized various scenarios – some that examined all projects together, others that examined subsets of projects, such as only transit or only highway projects, or sets of projects, such as express lanes or BRT and transitways projects. She noted was not suggesting individual analysis of new projects.
- Gary Erenrich, representing Montgomery County, MD, noted that the term "exempt" is already used in reference to air quality analysis, and suggested that a different be used for those projects that are exempt from the zero-based budgeting process. He also noted that having public input would be important, and inquired how the TPB staff were going to seek comments on projects, how to explain this process to the public, and what information should be provided to the public on projects. Director Srikanth noted that he generally agreed on the concerns over the use of the term exempt. He also noted that every single project in the current approved long-range transportation plan is tabulated in a spreadsheet and is provided to the staff at the member agencies. Those projects can be considered for

re-evaluation and if the member agencies would choose to resubmit the projects to the plan. Those under construction and funded will not have to go through the deliberative examination but the agencies can still remove or change those projects as they choose. The TPB already has a lot of information on the projects and will accept additional information on the projects. Director Srikanth continued his response, noting that every single project in the current approved plan, has gone through a public comment period, the board considered the comments and approved the list. The TPB will make it possible for the public to offer comments during the reexamination process and recommends directing comments to the jurisdictions and agencies themselves, as that will be most effective. If sent to the TPB, the TPB will thank the public for the comment and direct them to the agency responsible for those comments. The TPB will still hold its regular comment periods on the project inputs for the use in the air quality conformity analysis, and on the draft conformity findings of the projects in the plan and the Transportation Improvement Program.

- Bob Brown, representing Loudoun County, VA, noted that Director Srikanth’s comments provided clarity on this topic, and asked if it was possible to have a status report on each project, such as that the project is in design, has gone through planning, or any other status. Each jurisdiction, he noted, is constantly monitoring projects, every project is reviewed for the capital program. For example, funding is updated every year. This type of information could be useful to that public. Director Srikanth noted that one of the challenges is that the TPB does not have this information, it does not receive regular updates on the project status. Where a project is in its life-cycle, Srikanth notes, is not something that the TPB has, but what the TPB has is funding information, and that is what the TPB has pulled together. He noted that the type of information that Mr. Brown noted would need to be collected and that staff would think about what would be required to collect and provide this information and if that can be undertaken for this activity.

Questions on Kanti’s comments on schedule:

- Maria Sinner, representing the Virginia Department of Transportation, asked if the delay is extended beyond a couple months, at what point would it be possible to do an out of cycle amendment. Director Srikanth noted that he does not anticipate the staff capacity to do an out of cycle amendment. One of the critical path items is having updated motor vehicle emissions budgets, which might not be in place until the end of 2023.

Chat log (including items not repeated verbally):

Bob Brown, representing Loudoun County, VA, asked in the chat: “will Virginia's governor be making policy or programming changes in the next SYIP, as well? This is the first Budget (I believe) he has direct input on.”

- Maria Sinner, representing the Virginia Department of Transportation, responded verbally to the chat comment noting that projects funded through SMART SCALE are codified. She noted it is not yet known what the Governor might propose in the new budget.

Gary Erenrich, represent Montgomery County, MD noted in the chat: “Montgomery County proposed CIP is released by County Executive on January 15th. Council approves CIP plan in April/May.”

INFORMATION ITEMS

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION EVALUATION

Rachel Beyerle introduced Lori Zeller and Charlie Echard from Foursquare ITP who presented the results of the TPB Participation Plan Implementation Evaluation. The final evaluation report with observations and recommendations, as well as the presentation, are available on the TPB website.

Gary Erenrich asked about TPB visualization tools and how the long-range transportation plan materials

have been shared visually. Mr. Erenrich commented that he thinks that the most effective data is GIS, map-based information. He asked if the public finds TPB data visualization valuable and easy to use. He also stated that he thinks performance measures are an important factor and asked how TPB performance measures are explained and how they change over time. In summation, he stated that the TPB should consider what information to share, what to request comments on, and how residents access information and comment on factors that affect their mobility.

Lori Zeller said that Foursquare ITP did not ask the public about performance measures or mapping or interactive data. Zeller commented that story maps, for example, are helpful tools for those who do not have a GIS background.

Stacy Cook commented via chat that after the TPB staff presented on the Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) updates in July 2022, the EEAs interactive map was updated and shared on the TPB website.

Kanti Srikanth commented that all long-range transportation plan projects are displayed in a GIS interface that is available on the TPB website. Mr. Srikanth said that TPB staff continually evaluates the use of tools such as story maps to convey LRTP information. He said that performance analysis and presentation of performance measures have changed over time with TPB staff in recent years presenting information in terms of an answer to a question.

Tim Canan stated that the TPB is always interested in improving and enhancing visualizations, including the Project InfoTrak (PIT) database.

Lyn Erickson said that the TPB has multiple tools and visualizations, and the TPB should continue a conversation with the member jurisdictions on what tools they are using and how information on those tools can best be conveyed.

Chair Arcieri agreed about discussing how jurisdictions in the region are using visualization tools and noted that the City of Manassas uses TPB's Equity Emphasis Area maps.

John Swanson said the participation plan evaluation is practical, and there are interesting themes on feedback, evaluation, and setting expectations on what the TPB can do. He said that some recommendations may require policy change, and the TPB is in a position for a fresh start with Marcela Moreno as a new TPB planner who will use the recommendations, including coordination with the Access for All Advisory Committee and Community Advisory Committee. He stated that the evaluation is also timely for the early 2023 federal certification review and with the upcoming LRTP update.

Robert Brown commented in the chat that it would be useful for the TPB to provide more links to local jurisdictions' webpages related to project development and member jurisdictions' comment processes. He recommended that TPB coordinate with local and state public information officers so that content on county or state websites matches TPB information.

Dan Malouff said that it would be useful to have a single portal with links for all TPB maps, dashboards, and GIS tools.

7. REGIONAL CLIMATE GOALS UPDATE

Maia Davis provided an overview of the regional trends and progress towards the goals of the Metropolitan Washington Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP). This includes GHG emissions trends from 2005 through 2020 and progress on key performance indicators such as electric vehicles (EV), EV charging stations, vehicle miles traveled and more. The COG Board sets the goals and its CEEPC's role to support the region in efforts to meet the goals. The region met the first goal to reduce emissions 10 percent below business as usual (BAU) projections, essentially bringing emissions back down to 2005 levels. The region has also surpassed the goal to reduce emissions 20 percent by 2020. The next goal is to reduce emissions 50 percent by 2030. Meeting this goal will

take continued collaboration, innovation, and dedication across all sectors.

The region reduced GHG emissions by 24 percent below 2005 levels as of 2020. In 2020, forests and trees offset more than 3 million metric tons of CO2 emissions or 6 percent of total emissions. Per capita emissions have reduced 37 percent between 2005 and 2020. The energy used in the buildings and transportation sector account for 90 percent of GHG emissions in the region. On-road transportation GHG emissions account for 31% of total GHG emissions. The pandemic increased the anticipated emissions reduction in the building and transportation sectors.

8. REGIONAL TWELVE-YEAR BOTTLENECK ANALYSIS

Mr. Meese presented, referring to a PowerPoint presentation.

In June and July, the committee had reviewed and accepted as final the 2022 Congestion Management Process (CMP) Technical Report. During those discussions, the committee had questions about the top ten bottleneck analysis contained in that report (for calendar year 2021). In response to the discussion, staff proposed to undertake a multi-year bottlenecks analysis now that needed data sets were available. This presentation summarized the results of this new analysis.

The presentation looked at the bottleneck tool methodology used (available within the University of Maryland's Probe Data Analytics (PDA) Suite); how options within the tool cause variations in results; and results from analyzing the twelve years of data available in the PDA database (2010 through 2021). Staff explained its rationale for recommending certain analysis options within the tool (choosing different tool options will change ranking results). Results of staff's analyses showed a complex set of occurrences, but with one persistent top-ranked bottleneck for all twelve years analyzed, I-95 South at VA-123, Exit 160.

Mr. Meese described the tool as handy and useful but noted that the bottlenecks analysis was just one aspect of the CMP analysis; he recommended looking at overall 2022 CMP Technical Report for numerous other aspects of congestion analysis.

There were no questions or comments from the committee.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- **Community Advisory Committee 2023 Recruitment (John Swanson)**

The deadline for the Community Advisory Committee application is Monday December 5th . We received several applications this week. If you know of anyone that may be interested in being a part of the Committee, have them fill out the application form.

- **TLC advanced notice (John Swanson)**

We are planning to launch the TLC application on December 16th. The application period will go for a couple of months, and it'll end at the end of February. We are looking to increase the amount of funding that's available for all projects to \$80,000.

- **Regional Roadway Safety Program kickoff (Janie Nham)**

Janie Nham reminded the Committee about the Regional Roadway Safety Program. The new fiscal year for the program will be launching in January. We will be accepting applications beginning January 17th through March 13th. If you have any good suggestions for projects, please feel free to submit them to her.

- **Street Smart (Andy Meese)**

The fall Street Smart campaign is underway and winding down. The campaign goes through early November through early December. We had a successful kickoff event hosted by DDOT in the District of Columbia on November 17th at a school in Southeast. The event was joined by Mayor Bowser. Thank you to our partner agencies and our funding agencies for their support.

- **TPB Meeting Updates (Lyn Erickson)**

Lyn updated the Committee on the 2023 meetings:

2023 TPB, TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND TPB STEERING COMMITTEE DATES				
	TPB Technical Committee	TPB Steering Committee	Transportation Planning Board	TPB Meeting Format
	1st Friday at 9 AM	1st Friday at 12:15 PM	3rd Wednesday at 12 Noon	
January	6	6	18	IN PERSON*
February	3	3	15	VIRTUAL**
March	3	3	15	IN PERSON
April	7	7	19	IN PERSON
May	5	5	17	IN PERSON
June	2	2	21	IN PERSON
July	7	7	19	IN PERSON
August	No meetings	No meetings	No Meetings	No Meetings
September	8 (2 nd Friday due to holiday)	8 (2 nd Friday due to holiday)	20	VIRTUAL
October	6	6	18	IN PERSON
November	3	3	15	VIRTUAL
December	1	1	20	IN PERSON

* **IN PERSON** – Meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format, with members coming to the COG building and including an option to participate virtually with notification per the TPB Bylaws (notify by the Monday before the TPB meeting).

** **VIRTUAL** – Meeting will be conducted in an all-virtual manner, with no members coming to the COG building.

- **2023 Technical Committee Chair**

DDOT’s Mark Rollins will be returning as our TPB Tech Chair for 2023.

- **Staff Update (staff)**

Lyn and Stacy welcomed Marcela who is joining the Plan Development and Coordination Program team under Lyn Erickson as a Transportation Planner III. Marcela will take the lead in coordinating TPB’s public participation and engagement activities and will support general planning activities across DTP.

Stacy introduced Katherine Rainone. Katherine is joining the Plan Development and Coordination Program team under Lyn Erickson as a Transportation Planner IV, launching TPB’s new “resiliency planning” program.

10. ADJOURN

The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 6, 2023. No other business was brought before the committee.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT	
Mark Rawlings – DDOT Rebecca Schwartzman- DC Office of Planning Eric Graye – M-NCPPC Tyson Byrne – MD- DOT Mark Mishler – Fredrick Co Eric Graye – MNCPPC Montgomery County Gary Erenrich and Andrew Bossi – Montgomery County Shannon Tokumaru - Alexandria Dan Malouff – Arlington Co	Malcolm Watson – Fairfax County Bob Brown and Corinna Sigsbury– Loudoun County Matthew Arcieri – City of Manassas Brian Leckie - Manassas Sree Nampoothiri – NVTA Megan Landis – Prince William Co Amir Shahpar and Maria Sinner – VDOT Amy Garbarini – VA DRPT Nick Ruiz - VRE Regina Moore – VDOT Mark Phillis - MWATA Laurel Hammig - NPS
OTHERS / MWCOG STAFF PRESENT	
Kanti Srikanth Lyn Erickson Kim Sutton Dusan Vuksan Sergio Ritacco Eric Randall Jane Posey Paul DeJardin Marcela Moreno Charlene Howard Maia Davis Lori Zeller –Foursquare	Janie Nham Leo Pineda Tim Canan Mark Moran Rachel Beyerle William Bacon Stacy Cook John Swanson Katherine Rainone Andrew Messe Eric Morrow