

**ITEM 9 – Action**  
April 19, 2023

Visualize 2050: Updated Schedule Approval

**Action:** Approve the Visualize 2050 plan development schedule.

**Background:** The TPB approved the Technical Inputs Solicitation document in February which included a detailed schedule to complete the plan update. Since the approval, outstanding circumstances have caused staff to re-examine the original schedule and add more time for completion.

**Attachments:**

- **New Visualize 2050 Schedule for TPB Approval**
- **Listening Session Materials Shared**



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Transportation Planning Board  
**FROM:** Lyn Erickson, Plan Development and Coordination Program Director  
**SUBJECT:** New Visualize 2050 Plan and TIP Update Schedule for April TPB Approval  
**DATE:** April 13, 2023

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In February, the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved the Technical Inputs Solicitation which kicked off the development of the Visualize 2050 long-range transportation plan and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and set the schedule for their approval. At the March meeting, TPB staff suggested that the recently approved schedule for the Visualize 2050 plan and TIP update be revisited due to uncertainties with a few of the major projects in our region – the express lanes system in Maryland and the WMATA transit system. After consulting with many of TPB members, it seems that allowing six months extra time will enable these agencies to work through immediate issues yet will keep the spirit of the TPB’s intent to complete the update in a timely manner.

Attached, please find the updated schedule which includes a six-month extension and anticipated new approval date of June 2025. All plan and TIP update activities remain the same. The only changes to the schedule are to the dates and to the TIP years – the new TIP will cover the period from FY 2026-2029. The TPB will be asked to approve the attached schedule on April 19.

## BACKGROUND

The intent of the next plan update, Visualize 2050, is to have all TPB member agencies re-examine the mix of projects in the current plan and resubmit an updated mix of projects supported by updated revenue and expenditure estimates for operations, maintenance, and capital projects, as well as transit service and fare inputs over the next 25 years. The expectation is that this updated project mix will better advance many of the region’s goals including equity, safety, reliability, reduced congestion, increased transit ridership, and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The currently approved schedule for this work has two important milestones: the first is to receive the updated inputs from each member agency by end of June 2023, which the TPB would approve for use in conformity analysis; the second milestone is TPB adopting the updated plan in December 2024 as directed in Resolution R19-2021, after staff has completed the regional air quality and performance analyses.

TPB staff has been working closely with your transportation agency staff over the past few months on both the financial plan and the project lists. Since the schedule was first developed, there is now more information available about two of the biggest projects in our plan—the WMATA system and the Maryland Opportunity lanes. **Staff believes more time will be needed to work through short-term and long-term substantive issues with both that are outstanding.** These issues are related to plan input details that involve funding, project scope, service levels, and fare assumptions. Based on what staff

has learned in working with the agencies, it is unlikely that the level of detail needed for the plan inputs will be available by the end of June. Given that the TPB's interest in approving the plan by the end of 2024 is not federally mandated and given the importance of having these large projects reflect the best regionally agreed upon assumptions, staff suggests adding six months to the schedule to work through these issues.

Adding six months to the schedule would mean the TPB would adopt Visualize 2050 in June 2025 instead of December 2024. The plan would still reflect the zero-based budgeting approach, would still fully revise the revenue and project costs, and should still produce a mix of projects that could advance more of the region's goals and priorities. The work that agencies have begun will continue. This extra time will help us come up with the best information and best assumptions for these two major projects and others if needed.

Staff recognizes that projects progress on their own timelines and this schedule extension may necessitate the need for an out-of-cycle plan amendment and air quality conformity analysis if this adjustment negatively impacts a project approval or funding. Should a member transportation agency determine that a plan amendment request is necessary, the agency can request an amendment. All amendment requests should clearly demonstrate the urgent need to amend the plan, and each project must be submitted according to the new Visualize 2050 Technical Input Solicitation guidelines. Staff can accommodate a select few project changes and/or additions in a plan amendment in a narrow window of time while maintaining the workload for the Visualize 2050 update schedule. However, the preference is for agencies to submit projects under the Visualize 2050 update schedule.

# Visualize 2050 Schedule

Timeframe		Activity
CY 2023	January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TPB staff present to TPB and its Technical Committee the complete draft Technical Inputs Solicitation document for review</li> <li>TPB staff publish new LRTP 2024 update (Visualize 2050) and Technical Inputs Solicitation webpage with resources to support the update</li> </ul>
	February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff present to the TPB and its Technical Committee the complete final and Technical Inputs Solicitation document for review and approval.</li> <li>The TPB releases the Technical Inputs Solicitation document to initiate the Call for Projects.</li> <li>The list of exempt and non-exempt projects will be published for board and public review, the TPB will receive public comments from March-November on the non-exempt projects and will provide the comments to the members of the board and their technical agencies.</li> <li>Coordination begins with members of the board and technical staff to schedule policy priority discussions and non-exempt projects.</li> <li>InfoTrak training will be provided for technical staff of the sponsor agencies.</li> </ul>
	March - April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TPB member agencies will begin re-examination of project inputs and consider the TPB priorities (synthesized policy framework) and scenario findings in developing Visualize 2050 inputs.</li> <li>TPB staff will facilitate meetings with board members and their technical agency staff to discuss potential inputs during applied ZBB approach (3 meetings, one for each DC, MD, VA).</li> <li>TPB member agency technical staff will begin to input technical information into Project InfoTrak (fresh start- re-entry of data) for the proposed projects (including those exempt from re-examination as per ZBB Approach).</li> <li>TPB staff continue working with TPB member agencies on updates to financial analysis: high-level revenue and expenditure (operations, maintenance and capital) forecast</li> </ul>
	May - December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TPB member agency technical staff continue and complete re-examination of current projects and propose new projects, informed by TPB policy framework and scenarios studies, that advance TPB priorities and goals, for inclusion in Visualize 2050.</li> <li>TPB staff will continue to assist TPB members and member agency staff, including facilitated meetings with board members and their technical agency staff, as necessary, to discuss potential inputs to Visualize 2050.</li> <li>TPB member agency staff will continue to input technical information into Project InfoTrak (fresh start- re-entry of data) for the proposed projects (including those exempt from re-examination as per ZBB).</li> <li>TPB staff continue accepting and sharing public comments on Visualize 2050 project inputs with TPB members and their transportation agencies.</li> </ul>

## Visualize 2050 Schedule

CY 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TPB staff continues financial analysis, to be completed by December 29, 2023, in tandem with InfoTrak database updates.</li> </ul>
	January – February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Preliminary inputs due December 29 for the LRTP and Air Quality Conformity (AQC) analysis for staff review and coordination.</b></li> <li><b>Staff will review and compile the conformity table showing changes. Staff to send draft table with changes to agencies for review on February 1. Agencies to provide corrections by February 15.</b></li> <li><b>TPB member agencies submit technical corrections to preliminary inputs and updates based on TPB/interagency consultation to produce final inputs for comment period.</b></li> <li><b>Final project inputs for the LRTP and AQC analysis due to TPB staff for inclusion in comment period documentation on February 15.</b></li> <li>TPB staff will reconcile draft financial analysis results and produce preliminary financial plan to reflect project submissions.</li> </ul>
	March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>March 1 - The TPB Technical Committee will review the draft financial plan; projects proposed for inclusion in the conformity analysis, and the draft AQC scope of work. Public comment period starts March 1 on projects and AQC scope of work.</b></li> <li><b>The TPB will receive a briefing on the draft inputs to the plan/AQC analysis and the draft AQC scope of work and the draft financial plan.</b></li> <li>Public comment period runs March 1 through March 30 on inputs to the plan/AQC analysis and AQC scope of work. MWAQC TAC will review this information during its March meeting.</li> </ul>
	April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The TPB will receive a summary of the public comments on the draft inputs to the plan and AQC analysis; agencies sponsoring the projects will have the opportunity to discuss and advise staff on responses.</b></li> <li>The TPB will review responses to comments and updates to inputs to the plan and scope of work for the AQC analysis.</li> </ul>
	Early 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA anticipated to find new Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEBs) in the updated 2008 ozone maintenance plan adequate for use in air quality conformity analyses.</li> </ul>
	May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The TPB will be asked to accept the comments and approve the inputs and scope, authorizing staff to begin analysis.</b></li> <li>Continue financial analysis: (May 2024-March 2025) final revisions, report production</li> </ul>
	May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TPB staff commence Air Quality Conformity technical analysis after TPB approval</li> </ul>
Winter 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) inputs due for the FY 2026-2029 TIP January 26, 2025.</b></li> <li><b>TPB staff complete financial plan: final revisions, report production.</b></li> <li><b>TPB staff complete Air Quality Conformity technical analysis and draft report.</b></li> <li>TPB staff draft performance analysis for the plan and TIP.</li> </ul>	

# Visualize 2050 Schedule

April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Public comment period on the plan, TIP and the results of AQC analysis for the updated plan and FY 2026-2029 TIP from April 1 – April 30</b></li><li>• <b>The TPB Technical Committee and MWAQC and MWAQC TAC will review the draft results of AQC analysis for the updated plan and FY 2026-2029 TIP during their meetings.</b></li><li>• The TPB will receive a briefing on the draft results of the AQC analysis for the plan and TIP.</li></ul>
May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The TPB will receive a summary of the comments received on the analysis, plan and TIP; the agencies sponsoring the projects will have the opportunity to advise staff on responses to comments.</li></ul>
June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The TPB will be asked to approve the results of the AQC analysis and adopt the updated plan and the FY 2026-2029 TIP.</li></ul>