

Public Forum

On the Washington Metropolitan Region's Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Ground Floor Training Center
Washington, DC 20002

Thursday, May 15, 2008
7:00 – 8:00 pm

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) will be hosting a public forum on the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on the evening of Thursday, May 15. The forum will be held as part of the regular meeting of the TPB's Citizens Advisory Committee.

What's the TIP?

Every year, the TPB develops and approves a list of transportation projects that are anticipated to be funded over the next six years. This list, known as the Transportation Improvement Program or TIP, reflects the priorities and budgets of Virginia, Maryland and D.C., plus the Metro system and local jurisdictions. In order to be eligible for federal funding, projects must be included in the TIP.

The TIP typically includes hundreds of listings – ranging from mega-construction projects to small studies. Many of the projects in the TIP are staged over several years. For example, a large project typically consists of a planning and engineering phase, right-of-way acquisition, and construction. The TIP only includes those phases that will take place over the next six years.

On June 12, 2008, the TPB is scheduled to publicly release this year's new draft TIP for public comment. The new TIP will cover fiscal years 2009-2014.

What's this forum about?

In anticipation of the June release of the new TIP, the public forum on May 15 will provide citizens with an understanding of how projects are selected for the TIP. How are projects selected and prioritized? How are funding decisions made?

The forum will also give attendees information about the regional transportation picture that is anticipated over the next six years. What levels of funding are expected for roads, transit and other modes? How are new or continuing challenges reflected in this year's TIP compared to last year's?

The forum will feature presentations from the departments of transportation (the DOTs) of Maryland, Virginia and D.C. who will answer questions about their programming processes, including opportunities for public involvement.

What about key projects?

The TIP Forum will feature a status report on a number of high-visibility projects, which may include the following:

District of Columbia

- Anacostia Streetcar
- 11th Street Bridge
- South Capitol Street/Bridge
- K Street Busway

Maryland

- The Intercounty Connector
- The Purple Line
- Corridor Cities Transitway
- I-270-US15 Corridor

Virginia

- Dulles Corridor Rapid Transit
- Beltway HOT Lanes
- I-95-395 HOT Lanes
- Columbia Pike Streetcar

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Because the TIP includes hundreds of listings, it is not possible for staff to provide information on the status of every project. But staff will take note of the questions and comments of attendees and if possible, staff will respond to inquiries in the future.

Will the draft TIP be available?

The draft FY2009-2014 TIP will not be released until June 12. The focus of this forum will be on the TIP development process and on the status of key projects.

The TPB approved the FY2008-2013 TIP on April 16, 2008. That document is considered the current "TIP of record." It is available at www.mwcog.org/clrp/projects/tip/.

The new TIP that will be released on June 12 is not expected to be significantly different than the FY2008-2013 TIP.

How do I get more information on the TIP?

Go to our website at www.mwcog.org/tipforum .

Or contact COG/TPB staff:

- Andrew Austin, 202-962-3353
- Gerald Miller, 202-962-3319