

ITEM 14 - Information

December 20, 2006

Briefing on a Proposed Regional Bus Subcommittee of the TPB
Technical Committee

Staff

Recommendation: Receive briefing on the development of the mission, activities, and membership of a proposed subcommittee. The Board will be asked to approve the establishment of the Regional Bus Subcommittee at its January 17, 2007 meeting.

Issues: None

Background: At the July TPB meeting, Vice-Chair Michelle Pourciau suggested that the TPB establish a Regional Bus Subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee.

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)
Regional Bus Subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee
DRAFT (December 13, 2006)**

Mission

The mission of the Regional Bus Subcommittee is to provide a permanent process for the coordination of bus planning throughout the Washington region, and for incorporating regional bus plans into the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). High quality bus service in the region depends upon successfully linking vehicles, services, stops and stations, running ways, operating facilities, maintenance shops, storage yards, and passenger and operating support systems to produce a service that is easy to use, provides rider information where and when needed, and facilitates intra- and inter-agency service transfers. Increased customer satisfaction can broaden the appeal of transit in the transportation market place and generate increased ridership. Considerable cooperation among the agencies responsible for bus service and transportation in the region is required to implement these high quality bus services, owing to the complex nature of transit service provision and transportation facility ownership in this multi-state region.

Goals

1. Continued review and refinement of the recommendations of the Regional Bus Study completed in 2002, and development of a priority list of near term service implementation strategies for inclusion in annual operations budgets.
2. Coordination and evaluation of CLRP and TIP proposals and amendments with regard to bus transit service plan implementation.
3. Coordination and input definition for the TPB regional travel forecasting model.
4. Technical advice and input regarding regional transportation and land use coordination, including the development of transit assumptions for TPB planning studies.
5. Facilitation of technology transfer and information sharing, as it relates to regional, state and local bus transit services.
6. Coordination with other regional committees regarding bus transit participation in planning and training activities, including the Regional Emergency Support Function (RESF) #1 at COG, and the associated regional transit operators group.
7. Coordination with the TPB Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Task Force regarding integrated planning for bus services and street operations.

8. Coordination with Commuter Connections regarding ridesharing facilities and joint promotional messages.
9. Coordination with the TPB Private Providers Task Force to strengthen the alliance between public and private interests.
10. Coordination with the TPB Access for All Advisory Committee to enhance regional mobility for all populations.

Participation

Participation will be encouraged by all members of TPB to support the described planning processes and activities for public transportation activities in the National Capital Region. Participating subcommittee members will ideally be principal transit planners for local, state, and regional agencies.

The subcommittee will coordinate with and engage the following transit services in the Regional Transit Network:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Metrobus | Fairfax Connector |
| Montgomery County Ride On | Loudoun Commuter Transit |
| Prince George’s County The Bus | PRTC Omni Ride |
| DC Circulator | MTA Commuter Bus |
| Alexandria Dash | Metrorail |
| Arlington Transit (ART) | Virginia Railway Express |
| Falls Church George | Maryland Commuter Rail |
| City of Fairfax CUE | DC Streetcar |

The subcommittee may recommend the establishment under its jurisdiction of special task forces to address particular topics in greater depth, such as transit marketing or priority lanes.

Governance

Governance of this subcommittee will follow standard TPB protocols. The subcommittee will be established by the TPB as a subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee, with a regular meeting schedule and members appointed by the TPB membership. A chair will be selected by the subcommittee members, and a member of the TPB staff will be designated as the lead staff person for the subcommittee. A work activity and budget will be developed for inclusion by the TPB in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Next Steps

It is recommended that the establishment of the Regional Bus Subcommittee be presented for approval by the TPB at its January 17, 2007 meeting, along with an amendment to the FY2007 UPWP that will provide a work scope and budget of \$50K to support the subcommittee for the remainder of FY2007. A work scope and budget for the subcommittee will also be included in the draft FY2008 UPWP scheduled for review and approval by the TPB in February and March of 2007.