

Item 10
VDOT Comments



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

CHARLES A. KILPATRICK, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

February 14, 2017

Mr. Kanathur Srikanth
Director of Transportation Planning
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002-4201

RE: Phase II Activities of the Long Range Transportation Plan Task Force

Dear Mr. Srikanth:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the mission and activities of the proposed Long Range Planning Task Force. VDOT supports long range multi-modal planning, creative application of technology and coordination of land use and transportation. We would want to be assured, however, that any regional planning process takes into consideration, and does not circumvent, transportation planning and programing processes already legally mandated by State governments.

Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority have already put in place long range multi-modal planning processes which form the policy basis for performance based evaluation, selection and funding of projects proposed by local and regional governments and transit providers. VDOT would be concerned if these projects were subject to exclusion from the CLRP based on a new set of regional metrics.

Regarding the 25% congestion reduction target, congestion mitigation is a major objective in the VDOT and NVTA planning/evaluation/funding processes, but it is only one of several important factors. Land use, job access, environmental quality, safety and other factors should not be downplayed due to a predominant focus on congestion mitigation. Also, quantified targets are good, but what is the basis of the 25% target? Given the forecast for growth in jobs and population through 2045, is such a target reasonable?

Thank you for your consideration of our comments, and we look forward to supporting TPB's efforts to develop the new long range plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Whitaker'.

Norman Whitaker, AICP
Transportation Planning Director
VDOT, Northern Virginia District

Cc:

Renée Hamilton, Deputy District Administrator, VDOT NoVA
Maria Sinner, Assistant District Administrator, VDOT NoVA

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