



MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee
FROM: Kanti Srikanth, TPB Staff Director
SUBJECT: Potential actions from TPB RE: Recommendations to advance Aspirational Initiatives
DATE: December 7, 2018

During a special work session and during its monthly meeting in November 2019, the TPB received a set of recommended project, program and policy actions that its members can individually or collectively take to realize the improvements the aspirational initiatives could provide, if implemented, to the performance of the transportation system in the future. Chairman Allen asked the Board members to reflect on which of these recommendations appealed to them so that the TPB can reach consensus on a set of these recommendations and codify its call for action.

This memo proposes potential actions around a set of recommendations that appear to have broad acceptance for the Board's consideration. These proposals reflect staff and the Technical Committee's input to the Board. Members of the Technical Committee are being asked to review these and provide their feedback to staff no later than close of business December 11, 2018.

EXPAND BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) AND TRANSITWAYS

1. **Density standards for BRT service:** The region should identify a set of preferred density measures related to transit service, ridership, and land use in the region as a standard for BRT systems.

[Action: Call on state transportation agencies to collaborate to fund an effort to develop regional BRT typology document.](#)

MOVE MORE PEOPLE ON METRORAIL

2. **Eliminate the transfer cost:** between Metrorail and the region's bus services.
3. **Cap total fares charged for transit trips per day.** This recommendation would be adopted by every jurisdiction that operates bus service, as well as by WMATA.

[Action: Call on all TPB member jurisdictions who provide bus service and/or fund WMATA service to earnestly consider this proposal.](#)

PROVIDE MORE TELECOMMUTING AND OTHER OPTIONS FOR COMMUTING

4. **Leverage technology to enhance TDM programs.** Enhancing existing rideshare apps and programs with gamification and rewards.

[Action: Calls on state transportation agencies to consider how the Commuter Connections program can integrate the gamification and rewards aspects into its offerings.](#)

5. **Collaborate with WMATA to promote SmartBenefits.** The region should implement a campaign to enroll more employers in the program by providing incentives, including limited and tiered financial support designed to offset SmartBenefits' start-up costs; offering training and outreach efforts to help reduce perceived administrative burden.

Action: Calls on WMATA and TPB's Commuter Connections program to jointly undertake a targeted outreach to employers to increase participation in WMATA's SmartBenefits program,

6. **Flextime & telework resources for mid-size employers.** The region should develop policy templates for small and mid-size employers to adopt and implement these trip reduction strategies at their work places.

Action: Calls on TPB's Commuter Connections program to develop the document as part of the employer outreach program for use by local jurisdictions.

7. **Develop a regional framework for parking cashout policy.** The region should pilot test this program with customized cash-out policies to fit the various needs of diverse worksites in the region. The result of the pilot program can be used to inform the development and implementation of the program regionwide.

Action: Calls on members of TPB's Commuter Connections to identify a suitable pilot program for Commuter Connections TPB staff to help implement, monitor and evaluate the pilot program.

8. **Regional commuter tax benefits.** Standardizing the types of alternative commute programs eligible for tax benefits for employers and making them consistent throughout the region.

9. **Price parking appropriately.** Advocate for codification of "fair-value commuting" within local codes, which would mean higher parking costs at activity centers and especially those that are served by transit and/or HOV lanes.

IMPROVE WALK AND BIKE ACCESS TO TRANSIT

10. **Identify specific stations that are priority locations for access improvements:** Develop a limited list of transit station areas that are regionally prioritized for pedestrian/ bicycle investments.

Action: Authorize TPB staff to undertake this work activity as part of its annual work activities starting in FY 2019 UPWP.

11. **Prioritize the efficiency of stations for all modes:** Prioritize physical and operational improvements at high capacity transit stations to reduce delays and improve safety for all modes while accessing / egressing from the stations.

Action: Call on local and state transportation agencies to develop and fund such projects as part of their capital program. Advise staff to periodically survey member agencies for implementation of such projects.

12. Expanding the TPB's Transportation Land Use Connections (TLC) Program.

Action: Call on the state transportation agencies and other funding entities to consider supplementing TPB's funding to the TLC program.

COMPLETE THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TRAIL

13. Integrate the missing segments of the National Capital Trail into other highway, transit and other infrastructure projects so that the trail can be completed.

Action: Call on local and state transportation agencies to develop and fund such projects as part of their capital program. Advise staff to periodically survey member agencies for implementation of such projects.

14. Expand the National Capital Trail (NCT) to provide connectivity to other major trails in TPB members jurisdictions not fully represented in the NCT; thus creating a network of regional trails

Action: Authorize TPB staff to undertake this work activity as part of its annual work activities starting in FY 2019 UPWP.

BRING JOBS AND HOUSING CLOSER TOGETHER

In response to this direction, the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee (PDTAC), in conjunction with the Housing Directors Committee, is developing a workplan to address the region's housing needs. This workplan will include activities such as:

- Synthesizing local housing and land use plans and housing targets;
- Determining how much housing is already approved but not built in the region;
- Reviewing local comprehensive plans and zoning to evaluate whether sufficient development capacity exists;
- Quantifying additional growth likely to occur in Activity Centers and High Capacity Transit areas; and
- Considering whether any revisions to the Cooperative Forecasts are merited.

These activities will be carried out over several months and the TPB will be briefed throughout 2019.

EXPAND EXPRESS HIGHWAY NETWORK

While Visualize 2045 has many express lane projects, opportunities remain for the region to develop projects and policies to more fully realize this aspirational initiative – especially components such as making the lanes free to carpoolers and transit vehicles, and implementation of new express bus services on the express lanes.