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**TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

December 4, 2020

**1. WELCOME, VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES, AND MEMBER ROLL CALL PROTOCOL**

Staff described the procedures and protocols for the virtual meeting and conducted a roll call. Meeting participants are documented in the attached attendance list.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2020 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

There were no questions or comments regarding the November Technical Committee meeting. The minutes were approved.

**ITEMS FOR THE BOARD AGENDA**

**3. PERFORMANCE-BASED PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING – STAFF RECOMMENDED 2017-2021 HIGHWAY SAFETY TARGETS**

Mr. Schermann briefed the committee on the staff recommended 2017-2021 safety targets. These targets are scheduled to be adopted by the board in December.

Mr. Schermann quickly reviewed the federal requirements for MPOs to establish roadway safety targets and the methodology used to develop them. He also reviewed the recommended targets as well as key language to be included in the resolution itself. Details on the specific targets can be found in the memo for this item. Key language for the “whereas” clauses in the resolution include an emphasis on the requirement that the targets are required to be data-driven and not aspirational as well as references to the work the board has done in the past year to address roadway safety, such as the establishment and funding of the Regional Roadway Safety Program.

Mr. Phillips asked about the proposed resolution text.

Mr. Schermann clarified that the targets are data-driven and therefore *do not* reflect the TPB’s Vision Zero and Towards Zero Deaths goals.

Mr. Srikanth also noted that instead of characterizing the pre-cap targets as “higher” than they would be without the cap, it would be better to use the phrase “less stringent”.

Mr. Pugh suggested that the language in the resolution and presentation should be shifted as much as possible from the term “highway safety” to the term “roadway safety”.

Mr. Schermann agreed.

**4. VISUALIZE 2045: TECHNICAL INPUTS SOLICITATION**

Ms. Cook briefed the committee on the Technical Inputs Solicitation Guide and Appendix for Visualize 2045. The document will be presented to the Board at the December 2020 Board meeting, with request for approval. The updated Technical Inputs Solicitation guide, appendix, and input form was provided for review in the mailout documentation. Staff summarized comments received on the Technical Inputs Solicitation since the previous Committee meeting and reviewed the revisions that were made in response to the comments. Staff highlighted the updates to pages 13-15 of the Guide, including a new question about reducing non-auto travel, as relates to the Regional Transportation

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Priorities Plan goals. Staff provided the opportunity for feedback on the document and the recent revisions.

Mr. Phillips urged TPB to develop VMT targets as a way to support strategies that address the climate goals; Kristin Calkins of DCOP supported this recommendation.

Staff noted that targets could not be included in the Technical Inputs Solicitation as analysis needs to be undertaken to consider what those targets might need to be in a variety of scenarios. TPB staff noted that as part of ongoing climate change mitigation work, and in response to the 2030 COG Climate Action Plan targets that were endorsed by the TPB in October 2020, TPB staff had begun a new study activity to conduct analysis relating to reducing greenhouse gasses and other transportation emissions, including assessing VMT levels required to achieve future emissions targets. TPB Technical Committee members asked about the timing of the analysis. Staff responded that the workplan for the analysis will include two primary elements: a Literature review that is expected to be completed by early 2021; and a scenario study is expected to be completed by the end of 2021 (but hopefully within 6 to 9 months).

Mr. Phillips thanked the staff for moving forward with the climate change mitigation/resiliency analysis and Kristin Calkins of DCOP thanks staff for the considerations of VMT in ongoing TPB work, noting that this is a good approach to keep us moving towards our regional goals in addressing climate change.

Mr. Pugh of the Coalition for Smart Growth commented that it was great to hear about the in-depth VMT analysis and noted that he looked forward to seeing more details on the proposed scope of the consultant analysis and hoped that stakeholders and public will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the scope before it goes out.

## **5. VISUALIZE 2045: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE TECHNICAL INPUTS SOLICITATION AND AMBASSADOR KITS**

Mr. Ritacco briefed the committee on resources available to respond to the Technical Inputs Solicitation document and in support of the LRTP development. Mr. Ritacco reviewed a memorandum on technical analysis staff conducted to support member agency response to the questions in the solicitation that pertain to the equity emphasis areas: Question 33.a. and 34.d. Staff prepared a standard methodology to use to assist members when answering these questions. This recommended method does not have to be used; however, staff performed the analysis on the existing projects in the database. The process outlined provides regional-level findings on how well the projects in Visualize 2045 may serve low-income and minority populations in the region. More than sixty percent of project records in Visualize 2045 are within or intersect TPB's Equity Emphasis Areas and more than fifty percent also intersect with COG's Activity Centers.

Mr. Nembhard commented and appreciated staff noting the general and summary nature of the analysis and questions, further, project- and system-level equity analyses may provide more detail on localized impacts.

Mr. Phillips inquired on considering qualitative factors for project-level inputs.

Ms. Cook explained staff work to evaluate and consider additional equity measures as part of the LRTP performance analysis.

Ms. Zenner reviewed the instructions for the Visualize 2045 ambassador kits and asked Technical Committee members to help spread the word about the plan.

## **6. TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Mr. Canan gave a presentation to the Committee on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region from a multisectoral perspective. As part of this, Mr. Canan advised the Committee that staff from several COG departments are collaborating on compiling statistics and information on the impacts of the pandemic from four primary sectors: transportation, economy, environment, and health, and that

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this presentation represents the first of what will be multiple presentations that will be made as staff continues to collect more data and take a deeper dive into the analysis.

Following the presentation, discussion focused on the impact to transit ridership that has occurred and how it is important to properly interpret decreased ridership during this period.

Mr. Nembhard, Mr. Phillips, and Ms. Hoeffner all remarked and agreed that decreased ridership is a reflection of both decreased demand as well as reduced service levels and capacity.

Mr. Phillips additionally suggested that it may be helpful to show the job-loss data by metropolitan area in both absolute terms as well as percent decreases, to provide a more uniform comparison regardless of region size.

Mr. Meese invited Committee members to provide staff with their ideas of what other types of information that they would like to see as staff continues to dig deeper into these analyses.

Mr. Canan indicated that he would be presenting this material to the TPB in December and invited additional suggestions as well.

## **7. REGIONAL CURBSIDE MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Perez informed the Technical Committee on actions that DDOT is taking to address the regional aspects of curbside management. He provided a brief history of curbside issues, discussed regional implications of curbside management actions, and reviewed current and possible future issues.

Mr. Phillips asked about synergies or conflicts between transit prioritization treatments and curbside management.

Mr. Perez noted that the mayor and transportation director have endorsed the priority of movement of people over vehicle storage since 2016. He stated the importance of coordinating policy and implementation across the region for curbside management and the regional transit network.

Mr. Phillips followed up with inquiring about pick-up/drop-off zones.

Mr. Perez deferred to speak with David Lipscomb (DDOT) and noted that DDOT wishes to be complementary to other curb priorities.

Mr. Schermann asked if Mr. Perez could speak on the Regional Curbside Roundtable.

Mr. Perez said that the group is made up of curbside management professionals from several localities to speak regionally about practices and plans, innovations, challenges, opportunities, and research needs.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **8. THE COMPREHENSIVE WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE REGIONAL AIR SYSTEM PLAN**

Ms. Koudounas briefed the Technical Committee on key findings from the Comprehensive Washington-Baltimore Regional Air System Plan (RASP). Ms. Koudounas informed committee members that as local jurisdictions add projects and consider inputs for Visualize 2045, this presentation will highlight needs identified to improve access to the region's three major commercial airports: Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), and Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD).

Mr. Nembhard indicated that he noticed the Howard County Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to BWI project listed as one of the recommended transit projects, yet from his observations, Howard County's endeavors into BRT so far seem to be focused on the 29 Corridor. He asked if that recommendation was from TPB's research or from direct outreach to the stakeholders.

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Ms. Koudounas confirmed that all projects included in the RASP were comments from the airport partners, not from the jurisdictions.

Mr. Srikanth added that business and business travel is key to the region's economy, so TPB wants to make sure that airport needs can be shared with the Tech Committee and TPB to prioritize continued funding and/or new funding to meet these needs.

Mr. Nembhard shared that it is a good time to get in touch with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) to see what within the RASP recommendations are or are not on BMC's radar.

## **9. OVERVIEW OF BUS PRIORITY SYNTHESIS REPORT**

Mr. Randall briefed the committee on the Bus Priority Best Practices Synthesis: a resource for the National Capital Region (NCR) to provide local examples of bus priority projects as well as a comprehensive list of resources for planners and policymakers. Speaking to an excerpt presentation, Eric reviewed the contents of the synthesis, which include a report and a lengthy slide deck for use by TPB members. These materials can be downloaded from today's meeting webpage. The synthesis highlights the results of previous and existing bus priority efforts in the NCR, including the TPB's Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Bus Priority Projects, the Bus Transformation Project, and other bus priority projects in the region. He emphasized the Metroway bus rapid transit (BRT) system, the recently launched Montgomery County US-29 Flash BRT, and the current DDOT projects. The synthesis also draws on existing literature to highlight the benefits and costs of bus priority projects as well as examples from other cities. The synthesis concludes with an overview of ongoing and future projects in the NCR.

Mr. Erenrich reported that initial ridership on the 29 Flash seems good. The pandemic impact on transit ridership and the upcoming WMATA budget and other fiscal constraints is not what anyone envisioned or wanted for transit. He did note that Montgomery County is in conversation with Howard County about extending the 29 into the latter.

Mr. Weissberg noted that Prince George's County currently has a BRT corridors study that is underway. This would build on a 2012 study, in part funded by the TPB, and the goal is to define 4-5 corridors for deploying bus priority measures.

Mr. Edmondson reported that the City of Frederick is in the final planning phase for a US 40 bus-only lane, that would 100% design a route along the state highway.

Mr. Malouff noted that there are enhanced stops and skip-stop spacing along Columbia Pike but these are not big projects. There is likely a lot of that around the region, not captured in the synthesis.

Mr. Philips asked if there was any feedback or general reception to results from the TIGER projects; are the outcomes persuasive? Or if these are the results then why do this? Eric responded that there has not been much discussion in the region, so he could not comment.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **CAC Recruitment Update**

Staff thanked the committee for their assistance with CAC recruitment and said they received applications from jurisdictions that have not had representation in the past. He also asked members to share the applications with residents who may be interested.

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### **TLC Solicitation Announcement**

Staff announced that the next round of TLC solicitations will begin in the first week of January running until the first week of March. There is also an opportunity to submit abstracts to TPB staff by the end of January. Extra points will be given to projects that make improvements to the National Capital Trail network or the transit access focus areas.

### **Regional Safety Program Solicitation Announcement**

Staff announced that applications for the Regional Safety Program will begin in January or February. The application form and webpage are currently being developed and will be similar to the TLC application forms and webpage. Abstract submissions will also be accepted. He asked that if there are any questions to refer to the attached memo or to reach out to him.

### **Tech Membership Contact Info Update**

Staff asked the Technical Committee to make sure they are receiving COG TPB e-mails and to send any new or updated staff e-mail addresses to Abigail Zenner or any COG staff.

### **Regional Travel Survey Files Release**

Staff announced that the public Regional Travel Survey file is estimated to be available in early January. He noted that it will protect the confidentiality of survey participants and will include detailed technical documentation that will provide an overview of the household, person, vehicle, and trip files. This information will be shared at the next RTS briefing to the board in January.

### **Staff updates**

The committee was informed that Abdul-Mohammed will be retiring this upcoming January after serving the COG TPB for 32 years.

Staff introduced a new staff member, Tony Castaneda.

### **2021 TPB Technical Committee Chair Announcement**

Staff announced that Mr. Groth from Charles County will be the 2021 Technical Committee Chair.

## **11. ADJOURN**

No other business was brought before the committee.

## ATTENDANCE

DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Rawlings (DDOT)</li> <li>• Kristin Calkins (DCOP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benito Perez (DDOT)</li> </ul>
MD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kari Snyder (MDOT)</li> <li>• Gary Erenrich (Montgomery County)</li> <li>• Andrew Bossi (Montgomery County)</li> <li>• Winstina Hughes (SHA)</li> <li>• Kyle Nembhard (MDOT)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jason Groth (Charles County)</li> <li>• Alex Waltz (Charles County)</li> <li>• Vic Weissberg (Prince George's County)</li> <li>• Jamee Ernst (Takoma Park)</li> </ul>
VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jim Maslanka (Alexandria)</li> <li>• Dan Malouff (Arlington County)</li> <li>• Malcom Watson (Fairfax County)</li> <li>• Robert Brown (Loudoun County)</li> <li>• Chloe Delhomme (City of Manassas)</li> <li>• Sree Nampoothiri (NVTA)</li> <li>• Dan Goldfarb (NVTC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meagan Landis, (Prince William County)</li> <li>• Regina Moore (VDOT)</li> <li>• Harun Rashid (VDOT)</li> <li>• Norman Whitaker (VDOT)</li> <li>• Xavier Harmony (VRDPT)</li> <li>• Christine Hoeffner (VRE)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Philips (WMATA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laurel Hamming (NPS)</li> </ul>
TPB/COG Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kanti Srikanth</li> <li>• Lyn Erickson</li> <li>• Sergio Ritacco</li> <li>• Stacy Cook</li> <li>• Andrew Meese</li> <li>• Tim Canan</li> <li>• Mark Moran</li> <li>• Abigail Zenner</li> <li>• Leo Pineda</li> <li>• John Swanson</li> <li>• Bryan Hayes</li> <li>• Karen Armendariz</li> <li>• Sarah Bond</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jinchul Park</li> <li>• Charlene Howard</li> <li>• Nicole McCall</li> <li>• Eric Randall</li> <li>• Tony Castaneda</li> <li>• Nanzeen</li> <li>• Paul Desjardin</li> <li>• Jessica Mirr</li> <li>• Jane Posey</li> <li>• Dusan Vuksan</li> <li>• Feng</li> <li>• Bill Bacon</li> <li>• Abdul</li> <li>• Yu Gao</li> <li>• Arianna Koudounas</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill Pugh (WTOP)</li> </ul>	