

HOUSING INITIATIVE AND THE TPB VISUALIZE 2045 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

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Background

- The region's long-range transportation plan did not show satisfactory performance compared to current conditions nor did it bring us close enough to reaching our goals.
- Federal law/regulations required that regional long-range transportation plans could only included those projects for which funding was reasonably expected to be available—financially constrained – CLRPP
- We had to expand our thinking to identify projects, programs, and policies that, even though they were not readily funded at this time, could address our region's transportation challenges and “move the needle” on the plan's performance.
- TPB established the Long-Range Plan Task Force (LRPTF) to identify a set of projects, programs, and/or policies that were not currently in the CLRPP that could be evaluated to determine if they could potentially address our challenges.



Long-Range Plan Task Force

- Conducted sketch planning-level analysis of 10 potential initiatives
- TPB selected these 10 initiatives for testing from among more than 80 different projects, programs, and policy ideas not in the CLRP that have the potential to address regional transportation challenges.
- LRPTF recommended that 5 of the 10 initiatives be endorsed by the TPB as initiatives that have the **most potential to address the region's transportation challenges.**



TPB-Endorsed Initiatives (1)

At its December 20, 2017 meeting, the TPB adopted R8-2018, endorsing the initiatives recommended by the LRPTF. These initiatives included:

1. **Optimize and Balance Land Use Throughout the Region**
2. Operate Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Light Rail, and Streetcars Throughout the Region
3. Enhance Metrorail Capacity in the Region's Core
4. Implement Enhanced Travel Demand Management (TDM) Strategies Consistently Throughout the Region
5. Provide a Regional Network of Express Lanes with Express Bus Services that Exempt High-Occupancy Vehicles from Tolls



TPB-Endorsed Initiatives (2)

- In the resolution, TPB called *“on its member its member jurisdictions and agencies to commit to fully explore the initiatives to identify specific implementation actions that could be taken, individually and collectively, to make them part of TPB’s future fiscally-constrained long-range plans.”*
- At that meeting, TPB Chairman, Charles Allen of the District of Columbia, called on its Committees, Subcommittees, and staff to identify ways to advance these initiatives.
- For the Optimized and Balance Land Use initiative, this would necessarily entail engaging with COG’s Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee (PDTAC), whose members were responsible for comprehensive land use planning throughout the region.



Optimized and Balance Land Use initiative

This initiative specifically aspires to improve the transportation system's performance by:

1. Identifying ways to develop more housing in the region to provide regional workers to meet demand for future job growth
2. Locating future growth in jobs and households within a jurisdiction in Regional Activity Centers and/or areas with High-Capacity Transit
3. Achieving a better balanced distribution of future growth in jobs and housing between the eastern and western portions of the region



Engaging the Planning Directors (1)

In January and February of last year, DTP Director, Kanti Srikanth, briefed the PDTAC and requested its assistance in identifying how this initiative could be advanced. Actions could include:

- Advising the TPB
- Identifying specific actions jurisdictions could take to advance these ideas
- Identifying resources needed to advance these ideas
- Identifying actions the region could collectively take
- Identifying impediments to realizing the full potential of this initiative



Engaging the Planning Directors (2)

- During the following months, PDTAC discussed this issue and learned about planning initiatives under way in various jurisdictions that addressed this initiatives
- Last summer, then PDTAC Chairman, Eric Shaw, presented on the interim progress of these discussions to the TPB and indicated he would go back to the TPB as further progress would be made.



Meanwhile . . .



COG Board of Directors Initiative

- On September 12, 2018, the COG Board of Directors adopted Resolution R33-2018 directing *“the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee (PDTAC), and the Housing Directors Advisory Committee (HDAC), to assess the region’s ability to accommodate the estimated need for slightly more than 100,000 housing units beyond those currently anticipated in the Cooperative Forecasts with a focus on affordable and workforce housing regionally.”*
- Reaffirmed work under way within PDTAC to address TPB’s *Optimize and Balance Land Use Throughout the Region* Initiative
- **TPB recognizes that the COG Board direction encompasses the TPB request of the PDTAC.**
- TPB Staff shared the PDTAC/Housing Directors work plan with the TPB and explained that periodic briefings will be made to the TPB at key milestones.



Advancing the Aspirational Element (1)

TPB adopted *Visualize 2045*, the region's long-range transportation plan, on October 17, 2018 (Resolution R5-2019)

- For the first time in nearly 25 years, the region's long-range transportation plan includes more than just the federally-required financially-constrained projects.
- Includes an Aspirational Element (not required)
- The aspirational element contains 7 “*aspirational*” initiatives, including the 5 TPB-endorsed initiatives from the LRPTF:
 1. **Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together**
 2. Expand Bus Rapid Transit Regionwide
 3. Move More People on Metrorail
 4. Provide More Telecommuting and Other Options for Commuting
 5. Expand Express Highway Network
 6. Improve Walk and Bike Access to Transit
 7. Complete the National Capital Trail



Advancing the Aspirational Element (2)

At its December 19, 2019 meeting, the TPB adopted Resolution R10-2019 to take action on recommended project, program, and policy ideas that would implement TPB's aspirational initiatives contained in the Aspirational Element of Visualize 2045.

- Resolution focused on **transportation-specific** initiatives and called on TPB Staff and TPB Commuter Connection staff, as well as the region's transportation agencies to collaborate in leading these efforts.
- Land use decisions are outside the authority of the TPB, which recognizes that this authority rests with local planning agencies and is coordinated at the regional level through PDTAC under the oversight of the COG Board of Directors.
- TPB is pleased that that PDTAC and the Housing Directors are working together to respond to the COG Board's direction, which will help advance the Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together aspirational initiative in Visualize 2045.



Future Actions Applicable to TPB

- Joint PDTAC/Housing Directors briefings to the TPB at key milestones in work plan, such as:
 - Amount
 - Accessibility
 - Affordability
 - Findings/Recommendations
- If this process results in revised Cooperative Forecasts (Round 9.2?), TPB will incorporate them into its long-range planning and regional travel demand forecasting activities.
- TPB staff will remain engaged and will be pleased to provide assistance, reviews, and consultation, as needed.



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