



## BOARD HEARS, REVIEWS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROJECTS SLATED FOR 2016 CLRP AMENDMENT

At the TPB's March 16 meeting several members of the public weighed in on the new projects under consideration for the 2016 amendment to the region's Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP). Board members also reviewed a number of written comments received during a 30-day public comment period that ended March 12.

Many of the comments the board heard focused on tolling proposals for I-66 and I-395 in Northern Virginia.

Bob Chase of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, Michael Forehand of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and Tom Calcangi of AAA Mid-Atlantic all spoke in favor of the major highway projects, citing their importance in supporting

the region's economic health. The three also noted the importance of transit and other multimodal investments alongside the major road improvements.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) also weighed in on the tolling proposals. In a formal resolution, NVTC urged the TPB to seek a commitment from VDOT that a "reasonable, guaranteed" amount of annual revenue from the I-395 toll project be dedicated to transit and other multimodal improvements in the corridor. (See article on Page 2 for more information about VDOT's response to the NVTC request.)

The other main focus of the comments at the March 16 meeting focused on the District's proposal to expand

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## COG RELEASES NEW POPULATION AND JOB GROWTH FORECASTS

The region could see 1.5 million more people and 1.1 million more jobs by 2045, according to the latest regional growth forecasts from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). In the coming months, the TPB will use the forecasts to predict future travel patterns and air quality under recently proposed changes to the region's Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP).

COG's Paul DesJardin was on hand at the TPB's March 16 meeting to brief the board. He said that the forecasts amount to a 36-percent increase in employment, a 28-percent increase in population, and a 32-percent increase in the number of households in the region. He said that the employment prediction is lower than in previous forecasts, largely a reflection of broader national economic trends, but still ahead of the national average.

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### Upcoming meetings and items of interest:

#### TPB Meeting: April 20, 2016

- Approval of projects recommended for funding under the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Set Aside Program (formerly known as the Transportation Alternatives Program) for FY 2017 in Virginia
- Briefing on current regional travel trends

### Inside this issue of TPBnews:

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# MAJOR PROJECTS ONE STEP CLOSER TO INCLUSION IN 2016 CLRP AMENDMENT

On March 16 the TPB gave preliminary approval to several major new projects or changes to existing projects slated for inclusion in the 2016 amendment to the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP).

By far the biggest projects are in Northern Virginia, where the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is advancing proposals to create new express toll lanes on I-395 and I-66, and where Virginia Railway Express (VRE) is working to extend its Manassas Line 11 miles to Haymarket. Fairfax County is proposing to widen Route 28 near Dulles Airport and Arlington County is working to extend the Crystal City Transitway one mile north to the Pentagon City Metro station.

The TPB also approved a few new projects or changes to existing projects in the District of Columbia. The new projects include dedicated bus-only lanes on 16th Street NW and a package of road-lane reductions to make way for approximately 4 miles of new dedicated bike lanes. The board also approved one major change to the District's plan to extend the DC Streetcar from Union Station to Georgetown, a project that has been in the CLRP since 2014.

In the change, the District Department of Transportation identified specific road segments that it says will need a reduction in the total number of lanes for vehicle traffic in order to create dedicated right of way for the new transit line.

One important development at the March 16 meeting, in addition to the approval of

the projects, concerned the I-66 and I-395 projects and how toll revenue from them would be spent.

Board member Jay Fisette, representing Arlington County, highlighted a resolution from the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) calling on the TPB to make its approval of the I-395 tolling project

## 2016 CLRP Amendment: Major Projects

### District of Columbia

- **16th Street Bus Priority**
- **Dedicated Bicycle Lane Network**
- **Streetcar: Union Station to Georgetown**

### Virginia

- **VRE Haymarket Extension**
- **Crystal City Transitway: Northern Extension**
- **I-395 Express Lanes**
- **I-66 Multimodal Improvements**
- **I-66 Corridor Improvements**
- **VA 28 HOV and Widening**

contingent on an official commitment from VDOT to dedicate a sufficient portion of toll revenues to the transit and other improvements it had promised as part of the project. Fisette noted that when the project was first proposed back in 2008, a similar promise from VDOT for transit and multimodal improvements in the broader I-95/I-395 corridor had not ultimately

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## GROWTH FORECASTS WILL BE USED IN ANALYSIS OF 2016 CLRP AMENDMENT

*(Continued from page 1)*

DesJardin explained that COG updates its forecasts every year or two to reflect the latest economic trends at the national and regional levels, as well as the latest projections by area counties and cities. The so-called “Cooperative Forecasts” are used by local, state, and regional planners to see how much growth to expect and where that growth is expected to take place. This year marks the 40th anniversary of COG’s Cooperative Forecasts.

In the coming months, the TPB will use the latest forecasts, known as Round 9.0, to analyze travel patterns and air quality under proposed changes to the region’s Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP). Among the projects slated to be added to the plan are new express toll lanes on I-395 in Virginia, an extension of the Virginia Railway Express commuter rail line to Haymarket, and dedicated bicycle lanes in the District of Columbia. (See article on Page 1 for more information.)

In its analysis of travel patterns, the TPB will use the growth forecasts from COG together with all the projects in the CLRP to predict where, when, and how people will travel around the region in coming decades. Then, using the anticipated changes in travel patterns, the TPB will forecast future vehicle-related emissions of four key air pollutants regulated by the federal government. Under federal law, the region must show that emissions of these pollutants will remain below regional limits known as “emissions budgets.”

The results of both the Performance Analysis and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis will be available before the TPB considers the 2016 CLRP Amendment for final approval this fall. The recent update to the Cooperative Forecasts will be formally approved by the COG Board of Directors concurrent with approval of the CLRP.

## 2016 CLRP PROJECTS GRANTED PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

*(Continued from page 2)*

become reality. “Bottom line is we were all led to believe, over time, that there would be, along with the [toll lanes], quite a bit of money to help build the multimodal structures through the corridor,” Fisette said. “But by the time that was penned and finished there was zero money for transit.”

VDOT representative Rene’e Hamilton pointed out that the earlier project Fisette referenced had actually been cancelled and removed from the CLRP altogether.

Hamilton also noted that some transit improvements were still ultimately made in the I-95 corridor. “Even though the transit funding did not come from the [private operator of the toll facility], the state has made significant transit investments in the corridor,” she said. “It wasn’t like the state walked away from transit commitment. There were park-and-ride lots that were done, there were still other things that the state took on and actually implemented

during that time,” she said.

In its resolution approving the I-395 and other projects to be included in the air quality analysis, the TPB noted that VDOT would by October 1 provide more detailed information about anticipated toll revenues and how much of that revenue could be committed to the transit and other multimodal improvements.

In addition to board member comments, the TPB also heard and reviewed comments from the public. Many of the comments related to the I-66 and I-395 tolling proposals in Virginia. Some said the projects were necessary to support the region’s economy while others expressed concerns about noise, ancillary traffic, water run-off, and the taking of both private homes and public school property to make room for the improvements.

Other comments focused on the District’s bike-lane

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# PUBLIC COMMENTS ON 2016 CLRP PROJECTS

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its network of dedicated bicycle lanes by removing travel lanes for automobiles.

Greg Billing, executive director of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), expressed his organization's enthusiastic support for the proposal, noting especially that the District's ongoing public engagement process has led to alternatives that provide dedicated bike lanes with a negligible impact to traffic and parking.

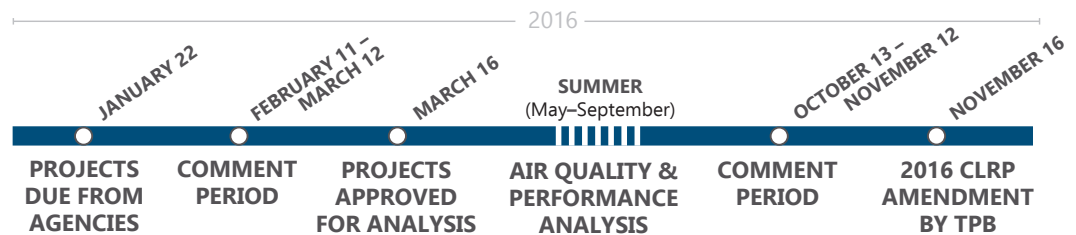
Two other commenters expressed deep concerns about the projects, though, and asked the TPB not to approve them. Apostle Green from the United House of Prayer said that one of the proposed lanes, in the 1200 block of 6th Street NW, would take away much-needed parking for attendees of his church. He reminded the TPB of its obligation to consider the needs of low-income and minority communities when approving changes to the CLRP.

Green's comments were echoed at the meeting by Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Frank Wiggins and by several written comments the board received during the comment period.

After hearing and reviewing the public comments the TPB approved including the projects in the federally required Air Quality Conformity Analysis. Under federal law, the analysis must demonstrate that future vehicle-related emissions under the CLRP will remain below approved regional limits. The TPB will receive the results of the air quality analysis in the fall when it considers the projects for final approval and inclusion in the plan. Another 30-day public comment period is currently scheduled to take place October 13-November 12, just ahead of the board's final vote.

Learn more about the 2016 CLRP Amendment at [www.mwcog.org/CLRP2016](http://www.mwcog.org/CLRP2016). ♦

## 2016 CLRP Schedule



### DEADLINES FOR AGENCIES

To submit new projects or changes to existing projects, designated agency representatives must complete project description forms and provide inputs for the Air Quality Conformity Analysis.

**DEADLINE 1: JANUARY 22, 2016** Complete online project description forms and Air Quality Conformity Input information for projects deemed regionally significant for air quality purposes.

**DEADLINE 2: MAY 6, 2016** Provide all other required project information, including Congestion Management Documentation, for regionally significant projects and funding for the FY 2017-2022 TIP.

### COMMENT PERIODS

The 2016 CLRP amendment will include two 30-day comment periods during which the public and any TPB member or stakeholder can submit comments on the plan amendment.

**FEBRUARY 11 – MARCH 12, 2016** Comment on the projects submitted for inclusion in the 2016 CLRP update. The comment period takes place before the projects are included in the federally required Air Quality Conformity Analysis.

**OCTOBER 13 – NOVEMBER 12, 2016** Comment on the draft 2016 CLRP amendment, the results of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and any of the associated analyses of the 2016 CLRP amendment prior to adoption by the TPB.

## 2016 CLRP PROJECTS APPROVED

(Continued from page 3)

proposal, specifically a segment proposed on 6th Street NW. Some commenters voiced concerns about losing parking for nearby churches while others talked about the need for a more protected bike lanes to facilitate safer east-west travel in the city. (See article on Page 1 for more information about public comments.)

Now that the TPB has approved the nine major new additions and changes they will be included in the federally required Air Quality Conformity Analysis. The

TPB will also conduct a performance analysis to predict future travel patterns and how well the projects in the plan support future travel needs. The results of both the Performance Analysis and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis will be available before the TPB considers the 2016 CLRP Amendment for final approval in the fall.

Learn more about the projects slated for inclusion in the 2016 CLRP Amendment at [www.mwcog.org/CLRP2016](http://www.mwcog.org/CLRP2016). ♦

### UPCOMING APRIL AGENDA ITEMS

The April 20 TPB meeting is expected to include the following items:

- Approval of Regional Bike to Work Day 2016 Proclamation
- Approval of projects recommended for funding under the federal Transportation Alternatives Program for FY 2017 in Virginia
- Amendment of the CLRP and the FY 2015-2020 TIP to update the project cost and include funding for the Purple Line
- Briefing on current regional travel trends
- Briefing on proposal to restructure the TPB's Access for All Advisory (AFA) Committee
- Briefing on the Forum for the Future of Metro hosted by COG and the Greater Washington Board of Trade on March 30

Prior to the TPB meeting there will be a meeting of the TPB Long-Range Plan Task Force . ♦

### TPB News to Relaunch as Online-Only Publication

We will soon be re-launching TPB News as an online-only publication, to be distributed via email twice each month. This new email newsletter will continue to include reporting on the TPB's monthly meetings as well as provide access to the calendar of upcoming TPB meetings and events. The new publication will also incorporate in-depth articles that had previously been distributed on a weekly basis as TPB Weekly Report.

**The new publication is expected to begin April 12.** We invite you to continue receiving news and information from the TPB by subscribing now to our new email newsletter.

[www.mwcog.org/subscribe](http://www.mwcog.org/subscribe)

We look forward to serving you in this new way!

*Please note: If you are unable to receive communications via email, please contact our office at (202) 962-3275. We want to work with you to make sure you continue receiving important TPB-related news and information.*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All meetings are at COG unless otherwise indicated. If you are in need of special assistance to participate in meetings, please call (202) 962-3315 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Bicycle racks are located in the parking garage at 777 North Capitol St., NE (Enter from First St., NE).

## April 2016

- 1 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 1 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 14 Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 19 Employer Outreach Committee (10 am)
- 20 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 26 Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee (noon)

## May 2016

- 6 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 6 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 11 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 11 Car Free Day Steering Committee (11:30 am)
- 12 Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 17 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 17 Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 18 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 20 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 26 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)

## June 2016

- 3 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 3 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 9 Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 15 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 21 Ridematching Committee (10 am)
- 21 Regional TDM Marketing Group (noon)
- 28 Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee (noon)

### TPB NEWS TO RELAUNCH AS ONLINE-ONLY PUBLICATION

The new publication is expected to begin in April.

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### MEETING AUDIO

Stream live audio of TPB meetings and listen to recorded audio from past meetings at:  
[www.mwcog.org/TPBmtgLIVE](http://www.mwcog.org/TPBmtgLIVE)

This document is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Bryan Hayes at (202) 962-3273 or [bhayes@mwcog.org](mailto:bhayes@mwcog.org), or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Please allow seven working days for preparation of material.

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