

ITEM 9 – Information
November 15, 2023

Visualize 2050 Update

Background: The board will be briefed on the development of Visualize 2050, including a review of the plan development schedule, status of the zero-based budgeting financial plan and technical input process, and the stakeholder collaboration to date.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Cristina Finch, TPB Transportation Planning Manager
SUBJECT: Visualize 2050 Update
DATE: November 9, 2023

The development of the next National Capital Region Transportation Plan, Visualize 2050, is well underway. TPB member agency staff have been hard at work preparing to enter project inputs following the guidance approved in the TPB's Technical Inputs Solicitation for Visualize 2050. Staff will provide an update on the progress to date.

BACKGROUND

As part of its ongoing transportation planning and programming process, TPB staff are currently developing two key products: Visualize 2050, the next iteration of the National Capital Region Transportation Plan, and the accompanying 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. Key steps in this process include plan adoption, implementation of the plan's investments and priority strategies, identification of technical inputs for the next plan, and assessing the current and planned system performance,

Plan development initiated following the approval of the 2022 Update of Visualize 2045 on June 15, 2022. Originally, the Board had asked for the next plan to be complete by 2024. In April 2023, the Board approved a six-month schedule extension to allow more time for regional stakeholders to address key issues related to Metro funding and the Maryland Op Lanes. The Visualize 2050 plan is being developed in consideration of multiple build scenarios using the concept of zero-based budgeting where all projects not currently programmed for funding are being reviewed by sponsor agencies for consistency with TPB's vision, principles, goals and priority strategies outlined in the TPB Synthesized Policy Framework.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

TPB staff's goal for plan development is to communicate current efforts and subsequent priorities to provide stakeholders with a common foundation for advancing transportation. To achieve this goal, staff outlined several objectives. Technical work and public engagement activities are continuing. The first comment period is coming to an end this month with inputs on projects undergoing review for resubmission for consideration in the 2050 plan. Stakeholders have been involved in several ways including participating in listening sessions back in spring 2023, participating in biweekly project input Q&A sessions, and through ongoing coordination on financial projections. Both of the TPB's Advisory Committees – the Community Advisory Committee and the Access for All Advisory Committee – have seen the same listening session presentations given by each state on their prioritization processes.

Multiple technical input deadlines are in place as agencies identify key investments for inclusion in the plan. Agencies will communicate project and financial details to TPB staff for projects currently programmed or identified for future programming given reasonably anticipated funding.

NEXT STEPS

Member agencies are working diligently on the first batch of technical inputs, and TPB staff is already preparing for the March 2024 comment period on these regionally significant (for air quality) projects, the air quality conformity scope of work, and the COG land use inputs on population and employment. Following the TPB's approval of these key plan inputs in May 2024, TPB staff will conduct analysis on air quality conformity, future transportation system performance, Greenhouse Gas emissions, and equity/environmental justice. TPB approval of Visualize 2050 is expected in June 2025.