



TPB REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting Summary: October 27, 2020

ATTENDEES

Charley Dingboom, WMATA (Chair)	David Koch, DDOT	Andrew Meese, TPB
Faye Dastgheib, DDOT	Clinton Edwards, DRPT	Eric Randall, TPB
Mark Philips, WMATA	Kari Snyder, MDOT	Nicole McCall, TPB
Ria Kulkarni, NVTA	Jamie McKay, MTA	Stacy Cook, TPB
Deanna Archey, MCDOT	Malcolm Watson, Fairfax Co	James Li, TPB
Gary Erenrich, MCDOT	Anthony Foster, Pr Geo Co	Sarah Bond, TPB
Jim Maslanka, Alexandria	Stacey King, Pr Geo Co	Tim Canan, TPB
Betsy Massie, PRTC	Kyle Nembhard, MTA	Jane Posey, TPB
Dan Goldfarb, NVTC	Jamaal Schoby, FITP	Tim Canan, TPB
Melissa Kim, WMATA		John Swanson, TPB

AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS, Charley Dingboom, Chair**
 - The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM and a roll of online attendees was called.
- 2. UPDATE ON REGIONAL INFORMATION GATHERING REGARDING TRANSIT OPERATIONS AND COVID-19, Andrew Meese, TPB Systems Performance Planning Director**
 - Andrew noted the September report on regional information for the pandemic published by the Greater Washington Partnership, in coordination with WMATA, COG, and the MATOC Transit Task Force. A new survey of transit agencies will be conducted towards the end of November to collect a second round of information.
 - Andrew reports that COG is examining conducting a multi-sectoral review of the impacts of the pandemic, including economic, environmental and transportation factors. Among the latter would be average daily ridership and service levels. He acknowledged that every agency is different, but the concept is to provide a composite regional picture.
- 3. MARYLAND STATEWIDE TRANSIT PLAN, Jamie McKay, MTA**
 - Jamie reviewed the scope of work and progress of the statewide transit plan, using a presentation. Of note, the public opinion survey just closed the preceding Saturday, so results from that will be synthesized in the coming month. Wish there has been more responses; public engagement in the middle of a pandemic is challenging.

Discussion:

- Is there any funding for this plan? No.
- Is the MTA looking across state lines, specifically across the Legion Bridge? The MTA is looking both inter- and intra-state. Focus is on DC region and Western Maryland.
- What about synthesizing the County and other municipal long range plans for transit? Will look into this.

- Will there be a smart phone app? MTA is looking at the role of technology but does not plan to implement a specific technology.
- Will there be a high-capacity transit and/or bus rapid transit policy? Not sure yet.
- Please contact MTA if there are any more questions.

4. UPDATE ON TPB'S TLC PROGRAM AND THE TRANSIT ACCESS FOCUS AREAS, *John Swanson, TPB*

- John gave a presentation on the TPB's Transportation Land Use Connections (TLC) program and recent changes made to the process for selecting projects. He reviewed some of the recent transit projects.
- John then provided an overview of the Transit Access Focus Areas (TAFAs) study. He reviewed the methodology and the finding of the study. He noted that TAFAs will get points towards future TLC selections.

5. REGIONAL TRANSIT UPWP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UPDATE, *Mark Phillips, WMATA, and Nicole McCall, TPB*

- Nicole provided an overview of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) provisions for providing technical assistance planning support for transit. This is an opportunity for RPTS members to express their interest in possible planning activities.
- Mark then offered two proposals. The first proposal is to support planning for bike and pedestrian access to transit stations. These projects often have challenges getting attention and competing for funds. Technical assistance funding may provide a catalyst in moving some of these projects forward, which should lead to increased transit use. A second proposal is to support work on a regional transit map for all systems. It would be a schematic design rather than geographic. It would be digital-friendly. And it would emphasize high-capacity transit lines: rail and bus. There would be public engagement through either a poll or focus groups.

Discussion:

- It was asked if there is any way the NVTC Commuter Choice programs could get involved.

6. DETAILED TRANSIT ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE VISUALIZE 2045 – 2022 UPDATE, *Jane Posey, TPB*

- Jane reviewed a memo provided to the TPB Technical Committee earlier in the month. TPB staff are preparing to work on a new long range plan and air quality conformity determination, which requires running the travel demand model. Any updates to the transit network and assumptions for the model are needed, including new or changed transit routes, frequencies, and stops. Inputs are requested by March 5, 2021.

7. SHOWCASING TRANSIT IN THE VISUALIZE 2045 – 2022 UPDATE, *Stacy Cook, TPB*

- Stacy reviewed the schedule for the next long range plan. There are two tracks that have already begun: a technical track and a public engagement track. The public engagement will include ten focus groups. There is also an opinion survey that is out there now.
- She then spoke to how transit will be included in the plan, including the Aspirational Initiatives. She noted the site visits that were conducted in the previous year with jurisdictions and how the findings from these are being used to shape the plan.
- In particular, she asked the subcommittee about using an infographic to tout the benefits of transit/BRT/Transitways/other benefits? And then how can the plan communicate recent transit accomplishments. She noted that there will also be an appendix summarizing the region's Transit Development Plans/Transit Strategic Plans.



Discussion:

- It was noted there were transit graphics in TransAction that could be used.
- Transit needs flexibility. Need to be dynamic such as installing bus lanes.
- Need to explain why buses should get a lane, other aspects such as offboard fare-payment.
- There is a disconnect between the people who benefit from transit and general public opinion.
- Each transit system has its own characteristics; can't lose sight of these. Don't do things just because they are nice.
- WMATA is the region's major transit agency and must be involved and coordinate with others. The recent bus guidelines document was an opportunity for this.
- Think "benefits of transit" handouts and other public docs are a great idea, especially if it highlights economic/workforce and equity benefits.
- What about accomplishments? Some of these are included in the annual State of Public Transportation report? Covid will affect these though.
- A transit element to the plan should include discussion of what if there was not transit.
- Funding is key, and how it relates to service.
- It would be useful to have a graphic that brings all the benefits of transit together. Needs to reflect different standards. Need standardized public data that everyone can access and use. There should be a seamless transition between transit services.

8. PBPP UPDATE: REGIONAL TRANSIT SAFETY TARGETS, *Eric Randall, TPB Engineer*

- Eric reviewed the final draft regional transit safety targets that are going to the Transportation Planning Board for approval in November. He asked for any comments to be submitted as soon as possible.

9. OTHER ITEMS/ADJOURN

- Charley Dingboom adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM.
- The next meeting is scheduled for November 24, 2020

All meeting materials are available for download from the subcommittee's website:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2020/10/27/tpb-regional-public-transportation-subcommittee/>

