
TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

May 3, 2024

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 MEETING RECAP FROM THE April 5 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

There were no questions or comments regarding the April Technical Committee meeting. The summary was accepted as final.

ITEMS FOR THE BOARD AGENDA

3. REGIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY PROGRAM PROJECT APPROVALS

Ms. Nham and Mr. Derryberry briefed the Committee on the projects recommended by the Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP)'s Technical Selection Committee to receive technical assistance in fiscal year 2025. The RRSP was established and funded by the TPB in 2020. The program promotes the TPB's roadway safety priorities. This year, eighteen applications requesting a total of \$1,540,000 were received. A selection panel consisting of safety officials and staff from DDOT, MDOT, VDOT, and the TPB convened in April to recommend that the TPB approve the following six projects at its May 15 meeting:

- City of Frederick, Jefferson Street Engineering (\$100,000)
- Montgomery County, Randolph Road Safety Improvement Project (\$100,000)
- Prince George's County, Study of Proactive Approaches to Transportation Safety: Exploring near-miss data and innovation technologies (\$40,000)
- City of Alexandria, Seminary Road Safety Improvements (\$80,000)
- Arlington County, Regionwide, S. George Mason Drive and S. Four Mile Run Drive Intersection Alternatives Analysis (\$80,000)
- City of Falls Church, Wilson Boulevard Safety Improvements (\$80,000)
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The consultant selection process for these projects is expected to begin in June 2024, and the projects are expected to begin in Fall 2024.

4. TRANSPORTATION RESILIENCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TRIP) UPDATE

TPB Transportation Resilience Planner, Katherine Rainone, presented an update on the Transportation Resilience Planning Program, specifically an update on progress to date on the Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan (TRIP) project prior to the item being brought to the TPB Board for notice on May 15, 2024 and approval on June 20, 2024. The presentation included a review of TRIP objectives and financial benefits, stakeholder engagement and collaboration, and the major components of the plan. Ms. Rainone also included a high-level review of key results from the finalized risk-based vulnerability assessment that was completed over the summer, wrapping up with a summary of the various types of priority resilience improvement projects that were submitted for inclusion in the plan. There were no questions.

5. NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLAN: VISUALIZE 2050 DEVELOPMENT

Cristina Finch presented the two items the Board will be asked to approve at the May 15 meeting which are the air quality conformity analysis scope of work and project inputs table. Ms. Finch then reviewed the status of the financial plan development highlighting the breakdown of funding for highway and transit expansion projects. The presentation concluded with a call to action for member agencies to continue submitting the non-regionally significant projects in the PIT.

Ms. Regina Moore confirmed VDOT has only received the four questions from PG County as provided in the April TPB meeting chat. Mr. Gary Erenrich questioned the inclusion of a segment of the MD express lanes through Rockville and the availability of funding. He also expressed confusion about the financial expectations for a project to be included in the plan, noting that there are BRT projects in Montgomery County that have funding for implementation but are listed as studies in the table. Ms. Kari Snyder explained how the financial forecasts are developed and noted that the Rockville section of the MD express lanes project is not a priority right now, though it is still included in the plan per the Record of Decision, and the completion date has been pushed further into the future. Ms. Maria Sinner requested in presentations to the Board that staff distinguish between the percent of investment going towards only the capacity-related projects vs. other programs and that at this stage with only capacity-related projects identified, when speaking of them, being clear that the distribution between highway and transit is only that portion of funding for expansion, not of all funding.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS FOR ON-ROAD TRANSPORTATION GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) REDUCTION STRATEGIES UPDATE

Mr. Grant presented an overview of the draft report on Implementation Considerations for On-Road Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Strategies, which was included in the meeting mailout. This work is a follow-up from the resolution passed by the TPB in June 2022 that adopted greenhouse gas reduction goals and strategies. In addition to the seven strategies that the TPB designated for further exploration, this study is examining nine strategies that were reviewed by this committee in March. Mr. Grant noted that this study is a qualitative assessment of the strategies that relied on existing literature, legislation, case studies, and previous modeling and scenario analysis. No new modeling or scenario analysis was conducted for this study. The committee is requested to submit feedback on the draft report by May 16. The final report is expected to be presented to this committee and the TPB in July.

Mr. Srikanth noted that the strategies from the TPB's June 2022 resolution came mostly from the TPB's Climate Change Mitigation Study, which, by design, did not consider how easy or difficult it may be to implement the strategies. The current study is designed to identify implementation considerations, but not yet specify how to address them or provide a roadmap for implementation. This study is intended for policy-level discussions at the local, state, and regional level, particularly regarding equity impacts and the TPB's goals. Once the report is submitted to the TPB, Mr. Srikanth hopes that committee members will take the report to their jurisdictions to explore their thoughts on implementation considerations or readiness to pursue any of the strategies.

7. TPB RESOURCES AND APPLICATIONS PAGE (TRAP) DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Charlene Howard shared the web page TPB Resources and Applications Page (TRAP) with the committee. Before giving a demonstration of the page, she briefed the committee on the reasoning behind developing this resource. She explained that the page provides a way for users to discover and view many of the geospatial and visualization projects TPB creates, as well as links to the various documents and reports that are produced as part of TPB's metropolitan transportation planning requirements. She also provided an overview of the organization of the page and the content contained therein. She then showed the committee a few examples of the type of content committee members can find on the TRAP. Some examples of the content shown include a dashboard application showing the metrics of performance-based planning and programming (PBPP) rules for highway assets (bridge and pavement), the FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) document, and the public version of the interactive map for the Project InfoTrak (PIT) database. She also talked about the types of datasets that are used to produce the data visualization products highlighted in the TRAP, mentioning that one the goals is to provide more content that is updated dynamically and/or on a regular basis instead of as stand-alone product for a particular program. Ms. Howard then mentioned that the TRAP is a work in progress and then addressed comments and questions. Chair Garbarini mentioned that DRPT just released their version of an open data portal. Ms. Hoeffner from VRE asked whether COG's Regional Activity Centers were available in the TRAP. Ms. Howard mentioned that the Activity Center data is being used in several products on the TRAP but is not currently available as a separate resource but can and will be available soon in the TRAP. Mr. Malouff commented that he would like to see the TRAP linked prominently on the TPB and/or COT homepage. Ms. Howard responded that she will work with the staff responsible for TPB/COG's website to get the TRAP to be discoverable on the site.

8. STRATEGIC HIGHWAY NETWORK (STRAHNET) OVERVIEW

Eric Randall provided the committee an overview briefing of the Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) and the U.S. military transportation system. STRAHNET/U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Coordination is one of the FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas for MPOs and State DOTs to consider in the transportation planning and project programming process. The STRAHNET includes the entire Interstate highway system as well as major arterial highways and connecting roads to military facilities. Maps of the STRAHNET in DC, Maryland, and Virginia were presented, which are currently being updated by the cognizant military agency. Mr. Randall then provided a quick briefing on the military agencies that over and provide transportation for the military. In closing, transportation planners should coordinate with military agencies when projects are planned that impact the STRAHNET or military facilities.

There were no questions from the audience.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Andy Meese mentioned the TPB Steering committee will soon review an update on Maryland's critical urban freight corridor designations, which was initially presented last month. The update is prompted by new legislation allowing for more mileage to be designated, and the committee is expected to take action on this item in their afternoon session.

Doug Franklin provided information about a meeting last fall organized by the Advanced Energy Group at WMATA brought together stakeholders from various sectors to brainstorm a fun initiative to encourage transit use and reduce auto emissions post-pandemic. The result was the "Ride for the Region" competition, which aimed to promote the use of the region's transit system among

employers. The three-week contest, facilitated by the Commuter Connections program through the Incentrip mobile app, featured eight employer teams competing in a bracket-style challenge. The American Public Transportation Association and George Washington University reached the finals, with the competition ultimately boasting 52 participants who took 310 trips, covering over 2,300 miles and saving 92 gallons of gasoline. The event was highlighted with a graphic under item 9 on the materials page.

Doug Franklin mentioned that in two weeks, the Community Connections program and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association will co-organize Bike to Work Day. Last month, the event chair presented to the TPB for regional proclamation signing. Invitations were sent to TPB members to participate at 109 local pit stops. A press release will announce participating elected officials the week of May 13. The event aims to attract first-time bike commuters, with an expected 18% new riders. Participants can enjoy free T-shirts, snacks, beverages, and raffle prizes at pit stops, along with comprehensive cycling guides and regional bike maps. Commuter convoys will also be available for group travel. A mass marketing campaign is promoting the event through radio and digital advertising.

Eric Randall and Kanti gave information on the memorandum for the recent meeting summarizing recent events, including exchanges between COG and Metro board chairs and the formation of advisory groups for the DMV moves regional transit vision initiative. This initiative, supported by TPB staff, aims to unify the region's transit vision, involving all local jurisdictions, states, and relevant legislative bodies. It seeks to establish a world-class transit system through coordinated investments, funding, and governance. Skepticism about the process has been noted, and there's a plan to integrate findings from other related studies, like the General Assembly mandated study of transit funding in Virginia. The initiative will build on existing work to create a comprehensive regional strategy. It was suggested that outreach to jurisdictions beyond COG boundaries, such as Spotsylvania and Fredericksburg, is critical for support and buy-in, especially for VRE. This feedback will be passed on to COG and WMATA leaders.

Mike Farrell talked about the Micromobility Practitioners Works. A regional Micromobility Practitioners Workshop is held periodically, bringing together representatives from jurisdictions with dockless e-scooter programs to share best practices and lessons learned. Previously held biannually, the frequency has been reduced to once a year due to COVID, with the next workshop scheduled for June 3.

Mike Farrell updated everyone on Street Smart. The spring campaign is currently underway, featuring three public outreach events. Two events have already taken place, on April 21st at Springfield Town Center and April 25th at Nationals Ballpark, featuring a virtual reality training car, headset, and a testimonial video wall. The campaign has received some press coverage. The final event is scheduled for May 11 at Safety Day in Rockville, Maryland.

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Mark Moran mentioned that Joe Davis, a staff member who has worked for 34 years in the network development group, is retiring on May 23. His contributions have been vital to the development of networks used by the traveling man forecasting model. We wish him great success in his retirement.

ATTENDANCE – Hybrid Meeting

(In person = I Virtual = V)

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT	
Mark Rawlings – DDOT – I Rebecca Schwartzman – DC Office of Planning – v Gary Erenrich – Montgomery County - v David Edmondson – City of Frederick - v Brian Fields – City of Gaithersburg - v Victor Weissberg – Prince George’s County – v Brandon Brown - Prince George’s County - v Kari Snyder – MDOT - v Silas Sullivan – Alexandria - v Dan Malouff – Arlington County - v Malcolm Watson – Fairfax County - v Ron Donaldson – Loudoun County - v Gladys Hurwitz– Loudoun County - v	Megan Landis – Prince William County - v Evandro Santos – Prince William County - v Brian Leckie– City of Manassas - i Doug Smith – City of Manassas - v Amir Shahpar – VDOT - i Regina Moore – VDOT – v Chris Berg – VDOT – v Carol Bondurant – VDOT - v Amy Garbarini – VDRPT - i Maria Sinner- VDOT - v Sophie Spilliotopoulos -NVTA - v Hannah Pajewski – NVTA - v Nick Ruiz – VRE - v Mark Phillips – WMATA - v
OTHERS / MWCOG STAFF PRESENT	
Kanti Srikanth – v Lyn Erickson - i Kim Sutton - i Eric Randall - i Andrew Austin - i Andrew Meese - i Cristina Finch -i Jinchul Park – i Feng Xie – v Katherine Rainone – i Jhoe Yong - i	Janie Nham - i Leo Pineda - i Tim Canan - i Mark Moran - i Rachel Beyerle - i John Swanson - i Dusan Vuksan - i Jamie Bufkin -i Charlene Howard - v Erin Morrow - v Ken Joh - i