



# **R**egional **T**ransportation **P**riorities **P**lan

For the National Capital Region

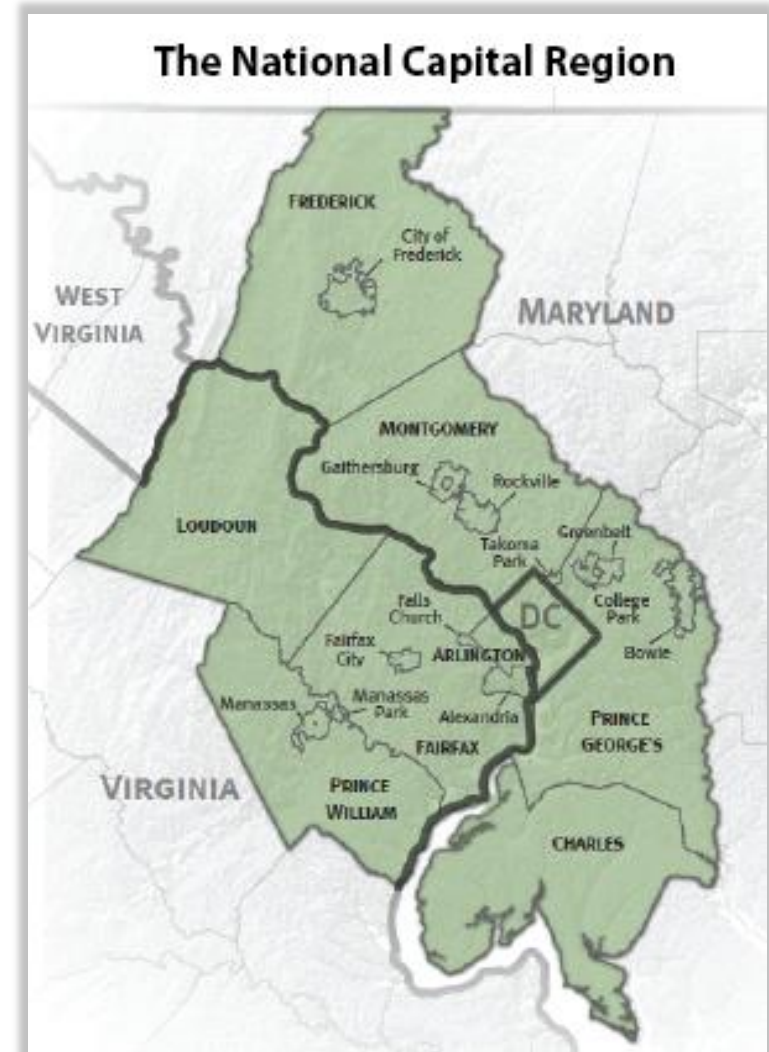
## **Update on the Development of the RTPP**

Presentation to the TPB Technical Committee  
**May 3, 2013**

# Regional Transportation Priorities Plan

## Process and Objective

- Scope and Process approved by TPB on July 20, 2011
- Will identify near-term, ongoing, and long-term regional strategies that offer the **greatest potential for addressing regional challenges** and **that the public can support**



# Regional Transportation Priorities Plan

## Activities Since January 18, 2012

- **January/February 2012:** Listening Sessions with Regional Stakeholders and Citizens Groups
- **June 2, 2012:** Citizen Forum
- **July 2012:** Interim Report 2, incorporating feedback received
- Spring 2013: Outreach to broader public on challenges and strategies (*originally scheduled for Fall 2012*)
  - Web-based survey of a representative sample of 600 people

# Citizens Forum: June 2, 2012

## Key Takeaways

- **Communication:**

- **Be specific, but be concise.** Some challenges and strategies were not universally understood; more specificity and examples would have helped, but needs to be concise.
- **Use pictures and graphs.** Participants said that pictures and graphs helped a lot in understanding the challenges and strategies.

- **Content:**

- **Funding:** Participants weren't comfortable making decisions about strategies without knowing how they would be paid for.
- **Government trust:** Participants repeatedly expressed a distrust of government that led them to doubt the benefits of proposed strategies.
- **Comprehensive solutions:** Participants recognized that no one solution will solve our problems; we must think comprehensively.

# Web-based, Interactive Survey



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# Survey Approach

## Random Survey of General Public

- **Purpose:** to learn 1) which challenges are most important to people; and 2) which strategies people think would best address the region's challenges
- **Sample size:** 600+ individuals
- **Survey period:** April 2013 to June 2013
- **Random sampling method:**
  - Solicit potential respondents via postal mail using list of randomly-selected addresses distributed throughout region
  - Provide \$25 incentive per individual; higher amounts where needed to reach under-represented groups

# Survey Approach

## Web-Based Survey Tool

- Contracted with **MetroQuest** in September 2012
- **Numerous other MPOs and public agencies** have used MetroQuest products to solicit public input
- **Communicates** a large amount of information in an attractive, engaging web-based interface
- **Solicits** a variety of feedback, including rating/ranking of challenges and strategies, and adding comments
- Automatically **collects and summarizes** responses

✓ **Welcome** Fill the progress bar, then collect your reward!

WELCOME



# Regional Transportation Priorities Plan

For the National Capital Region

## Welcome!

Our region is home to more than 5 million people living in hundreds of communities spread throughout Northern Virginia, suburban Maryland, and the District of Columbia - and we're growing!

The region's transportation system is under strain and we want your help in figuring out how to make our transportation future better.

## The National Capital Region



[Begin](#)

[Reopen User Code](#)

2

GOALS & CHALLENGES

3

STRATEGIES

4

A FEW ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

5

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF



help





## 2 Goals & Challenges Please rate the challenges

WELCOME

GOALS &amp; CHALLENGES

Introduction

Options ▾

Options (Continued) ▾

Activity Centers ▾

Maintenance ▾

Effectiveness ▾

Environment ▾

Inter-regional ▾



help

Let's start by reviewing the region's transportation goals, and the challenges we face in achieving them. The six goals are:



Goal 1: Provide a comprehensive range of transportation **options**



Goal 2: Promote a strong regional economy including a healthy regional core and dynamic **activity centers**.



Goal 3: Ensure adequate system **maintenance**, preservation, and safety




Goal 4: Maximize operational **effectiveness** and safety of the transportation system



Goal 5: Enhance **environmental quality**, and protect natural and cultural resources



Goal 6: Support **inter-regional and international** travel and commerce

 Where do the goals come from?

In the tabs to the left, the goals are explained along with challenges that stand in the way of achieving each. **Please rate how important each challenge is and suggest others.**

[Next](#)

3

STRATEGIES

4

A FEW ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

5

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF



# Goals and Challenges:



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# Goals and Challenges

## What is presented and what is asked

- Each Goal is presented on a separate screen
- Challenges that are keeping us from reaching the goal are presented below the goal description

### For each challenge we ask:

In order to reach the goal, how significant is each challenge?

Rate from 1 star (not significant) ★★★★★ to 5 stars (very significant)

- Participants can submit comments on each challenge
- Additional challenges can be suggested under each goal

For each Challenge, we ask:

In order to reach the goal above, how significant are the challenges below? (Rate 1- 5 stars)



Regional Transportation Priorities Plan for the National Capital Region

Progress:



Collect your reward

## 2 Goals & Challenges Please rate the challenges

WELCOME

GOALS & CHALLENGES

Introduction

Options B

Options (Continued)

Activity Cent

Maintenance

Effectiveness

Environment

Inter-regional

help



### Goal 1: Provide a comprehensive range of transportation options

Having more transportation options to choose from makes it easier for people to find the travel mode that works best for them in meeting their daily needs.

Read more

### Challenges:

In order to reach the goal above, how significant are the challenges below?

Rate each from 1 star (not significant) ★★★★★ to 5 stars (highly significant)

#### Roadway Congestion:

The region's roadways are among the most congested in the nation, making it harder for people and goods to get where they need to go.



comment

#### Transit Crowding:

The Metrorail system currently experiences crowding during peak hours and lacks the capacity to support future population and employment growth.



comment

Suggest another Challenge

Next

3 STRATEGIES

4 A FEW ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

5 TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

Each Goal is explained

Comments can be made on each Challenge

Each Challenge is explained

Additional Challenges can be suggested.



**Goal 1 - Options:** Provide a comprehensive range of transportation options for everyone

## Challenges to Achieving Goal 1:

- **Roadway Congestion:**  
The region's roadways are among the most congested in the nation, making it harder for people and goods to get where they need to go.
- **Transit Crowding:**  
The Metrorail system currently experiences crowding during peak hours and lacks the capacity to support future population and employment growth.
- **Inadequate Bus Service:**  
Existing bus service is too limited in its coverage, frequency, and reliability, making transit a less viable option, especially for people with disabilities and limited incomes.
- **Unsafe Walking and Biking Facilities:**  
Too few people have access to safe walking and bicycling facilities or live in areas where walking and bicycling are practical options for reaching nearby destinations.



**Goal 2 - Activity Centers:** Promote a strong regional economy including a healthy regional core and dynamic activity centers

## Challenges to Achieving Goal 2 :

- **Development Around Metrorail:**

Too many Metrorail stations, especially on the eastern side of the region, are surrounded by undeveloped or underdeveloped land, limiting the number of people who can live or work close to transit.

- **Housing and Job Location:**

Most housing, especially affordable housing, and many of the region's jobs are located in areas outside of activity centers where transit, bicycling, and walking are not safe and viable options.



**Goal 3 - Maintenance:** Ensure adequate system maintenance , preservation, and safety

## Challenges to Achieving Goal 3:

- **Metrorail Repair Needs:**

Deferred Metrorail maintenance over the years has led to unreliability, delays, and safety concerns today, as well as higher maintenance costs.

- **Roadway Repair Needs:**

Older bridges and roads are deteriorating and in need of major rehabilitation to ensure safe, reliable, and comfortable travel for cars, trucks, and buses.





**Goal 4 - Effectiveness:** Maximize operational effectiveness and safety of the transportation system

## Challenges to Achieving Goal 4:

- **Incidents:**

Major accidents and weather disruptions on roadways and transit systems cause severe delays and inconvenience.

- **Pedestrian & Bicyclist Safety:**

The number of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities each year is holding steady even as the number of vehicle fatalities has declined steadily.



**Goal 5 - Environment:** Enhance environmental quality, and protect natural and cultural resources

## Challenges to Achieving Goal 5:

- **Environmental Quality:**

Increasing amounts of vehicle travel resulting from population and job growth could threaten the quality of our region's air and water.

- **Open Space Development:**

Wildlife habitat, farmland, and other open spaces are threatened by construction of new transportation facilities and land development.



## **Goal 6 - Inter-regional:** Support inter-regional and international travel and commerce

### **Challenges to Achieving Goal 6:**

- **Bottlenecks:**

Bottlenecks on the highway and rail systems cause delays in inter-regional travel for both freight and passengers, hurting the region's economic competitiveness.

- **Travel Time Reliability :**

Travel times to and from the region's airports are becoming less reliable for people and goods movement.



# Strategies

**Near-Term:** Can be implemented in 1-5 years

**On-Going:** Continuing attention over time

**Long-Term:** Can be implemented in 10-30 years



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# Strategies

## What is presented and what is asked

- Three categories: **Near term**, **On-going**, and **Long term**
- Each strategy is presented with a picture, description, and information on “**what we get**” and “**what it costs us**”

For each strategy we ask:

Do you support this strategy?



&

How would you pay for it?

- Additional dedicated Funding
- Compete for existing funds
- Don't support/fund

- Participants can submit comments on each strategy
- Additional strategies can be suggested under each goal

Strategies are organized by near term, on-going, and long term tabs

Each strategy has illustrations and a description

Additional strategies can be suggested

Each strategy includes "what we get" and "what it costs"

Comments can be made on each strategy

For each Strategy, we ask:  
1. Do you support this strategy? & 2. How would you pay for it?

## Near-Term Strategies

### 1 Improve Access Around Bus Stops and Rail Stations



**Make it easier and safer to get to Metro stations and bus stops.**

- Install protective shelters, curb ramps, and better lighting
- Build sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks and/or overpasses
- Provide ample bicycle parking and connect bicycle paths to transit

### 2 Alleviate Bottlenecks



**Make roadway improvements in key locations that will help alleviate bottlenecks and reduce congestion, such as:**

- Adding extra turn lanes
- Lengthening highway on- and off-ramps
- Widening roads or highways
- Upgrading traffic signals where needed



## Near-Term Strategies

### 3 Alternative Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure



**Make alternative fuel vehicles more convenient and encourage more consumers to purchase such vehicles.**

- Invest in a system of refueling and recharging stations for vehicles that run on electricity, natural gas, or bio-fuels instead of petroleum-based fuels

### 4 Commute Alternatives



**Increase the use of travel modes that allow people to commute more efficiently at peak hours.**

- Provide more incentives for commuters to use transit, carpool, vanpool, telework, bicycle, or walk to work
- Market alternative commute modes through public information campaigns
- Help employers establish commute alternatives programs

## Near-Term Strategies

### 5 Pedestrian Amenities



**Make walking a safer and easier transportation choice.**

- Add new sidewalks and improve existing ones
- Make crosswalks more visible to all road users
- Install crossing signals at more crosswalks

### 6 Bicycle Amenities



**Make bicycling a safer and more viable option for more people.**

- Invest in more bike lanes and bike paths
- Expand bike-sharing systems like Capital Bikeshare
- Provide more bicycle parking

## On Going Strategies

### 1 Metro Maintenance



**Keep the Metrorail and Metrobus system safe and in working order.**

- Address the backlog of deferred maintenance
- Meet future maintenance needs as they arise
- Ensure that an ongoing and dependable source of revenue is available to pay for Metro maintenance and rehabilitation

### 2 Highway Maintenance



**Ensure that roadway and bridge conditions provide safe, reliable, and comfortable travel.**

- Ensure that needed road and bridge maintenance projects are completed as a first priority for use of highway funding

## On Going Strategies

### 3 Bus Priority



**Make bus service more convenient, reliable, and efficient.**

- Create bus-only lanes and queue jumps that allow buses to proceed with little or no traffic delay
- Install pre-boarding payment systems to allow passengers to board buses faster, helping buses keep to their schedules

### 4 Roadway Efficiency



**Smooth traffic flow and minimize delays on existing road network.**

- Coordinate traffic signals and construction schedules
- Provide travelers with more real-time information
- Expand “open-road” electronic toll payment systems

## On Going Strategies

### 5 Accessible Transportation



**Improve access to the existing transit system and other transportation services for people with disabilities.**

- Make existing rail stations and bus stops more accessible for persons with disabilities
- Improve MetroAccess and other paratransit services
- Provide more wheelchair-accessible taxis region-wide

### 6 Update Traffic Laws



**Make the transportation system safer, and reduce the number of traffic-related injuries and fatalities.**

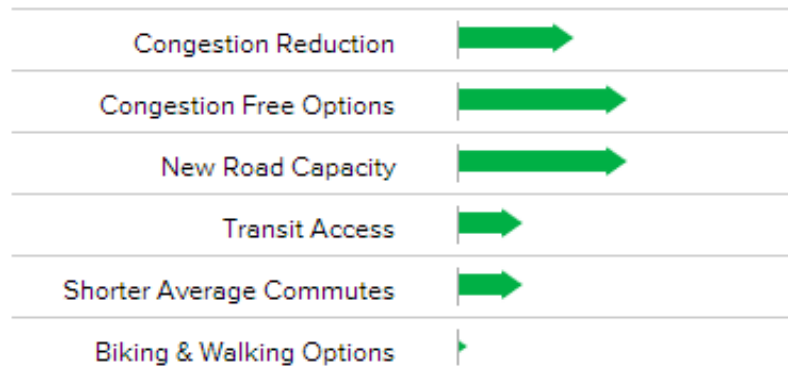
- Update existing traffic laws to accommodate all road-users (including bicyclists and pedestrians)
- Improve enforcement of traffic laws
- Increase public information and outreach regarding traffic laws

## Long-Term Strategies

### A Express Tolls Lanes with Rapid Bus Transit

- Express toll lanes on most major highways
- Rapid bus transit on express toll lanes

Express toll lanes will give drivers throughout the region the option to avoid highway congestion. New rapid bus service on the toll lanes will provide high-capacity, congestion-free travel and bring transit service to new areas. Tolls collected on the express toll lanes will cover much of the cost of the new lanes and bus service.

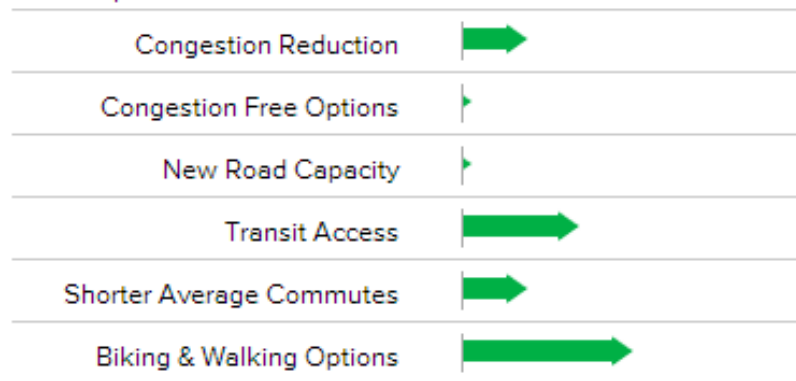


## Long-Term Strategies

### B Concentrated Growth with More Transit Capacity

- **More development in housing and job centers**
- **Increased capacity on rail and bus lines**
- **Expanded pedestrian and bicycle amenities**

More housing and jobs located near transit means more people can use the transit system, and will have more opportunities to walk or bicycle to nearby destinations. Increased transit capacity, including 8-car trains and station enhancements on Metrorail will accommodate increased ridership demand.

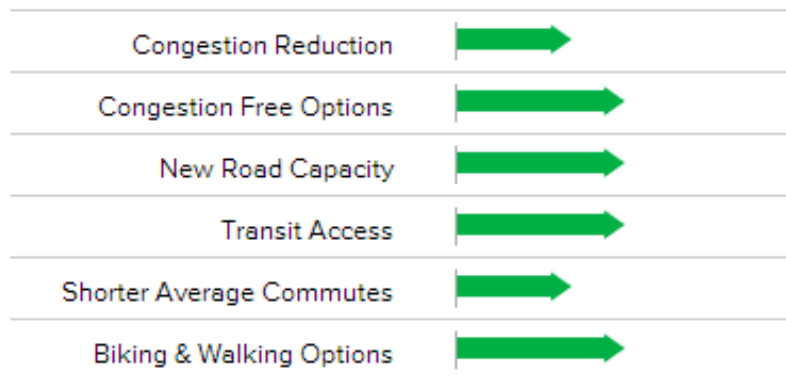


## Long-Term Strategies

### A+B Combine Strategies A+B

- Express toll lanes on most major highways
- Rapid bus transit on express toll lanes
- More development in housing and job centers
- Increased capacity on rail and bus lines
- Expanded pedestrian and bicycle amenities

Combining the elements above will give more people in the region greater access to a wider variety of travel options. This would provide greater overall benefit, but at a significantly higher cost.





# Next Steps: Summer 2013



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**June/ July 2013**

### **June 2013: Draft Outline of Priorities Plan**

- RTPP Origins
- Formulation of Challenges and Strategies
- Gathering input from the public
- Priorities/ Recommendations

### **July 2013: Draft Priorities Plan**

- Presented to the TPB July 17, 2013

## July - September 2013

### **TPB Work Session:**

Held prior to July 17 TPB meeting to review survey findings and additional feedback received

### **Public Comment Period:**

Draft available for public comment from July 17 to August 16

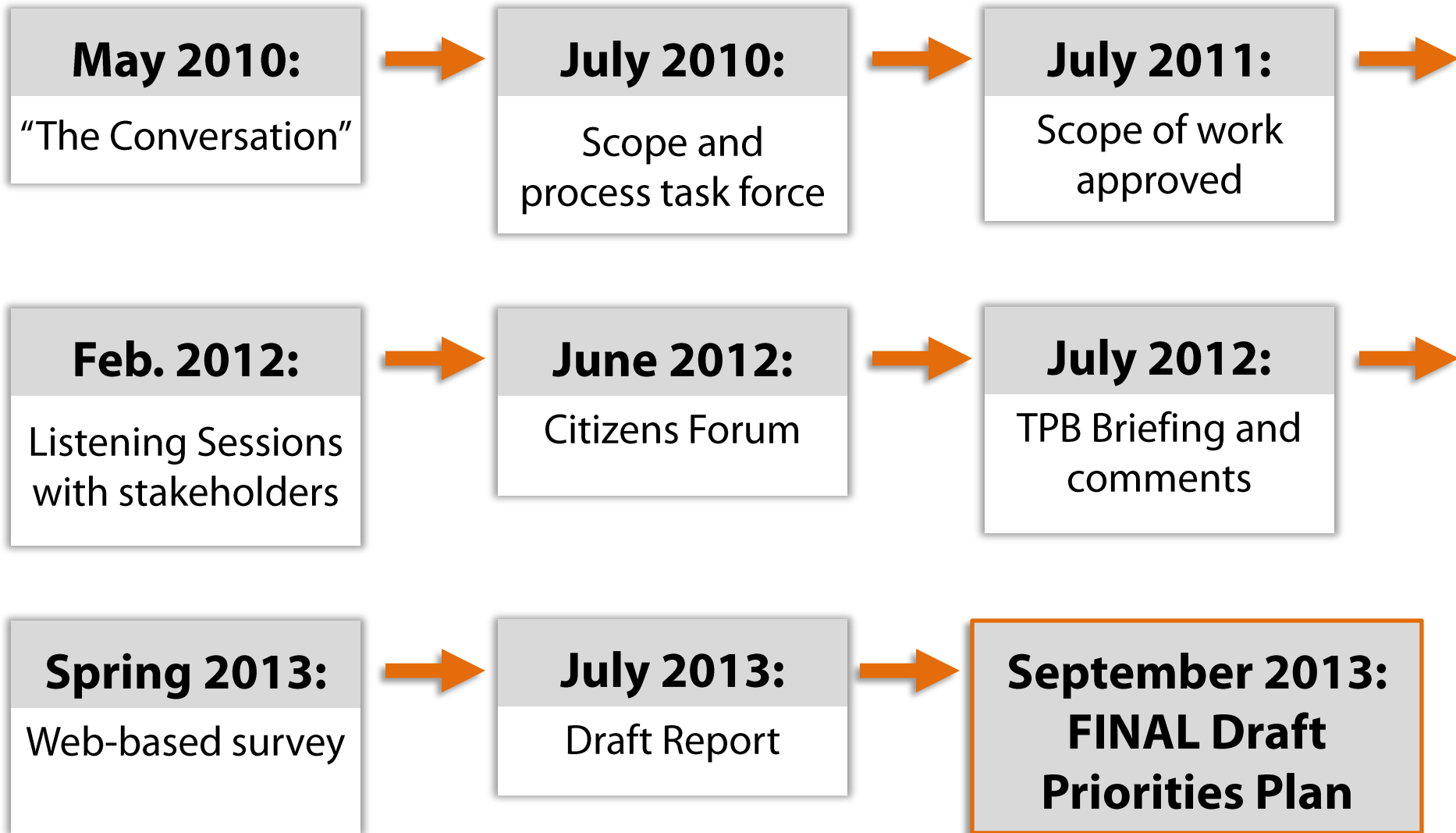
### **Additional engagement:**

COG/TPB citizen committees, community groups, advocacy organizations



**FINAL Draft  
Priorities Plan:  
September 18  
TPB Meeting**

## Project Timeline



# Questions?



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