

Comments on the Air Quality Conformity Findings, 2022 Update and FY 23-26 TIP

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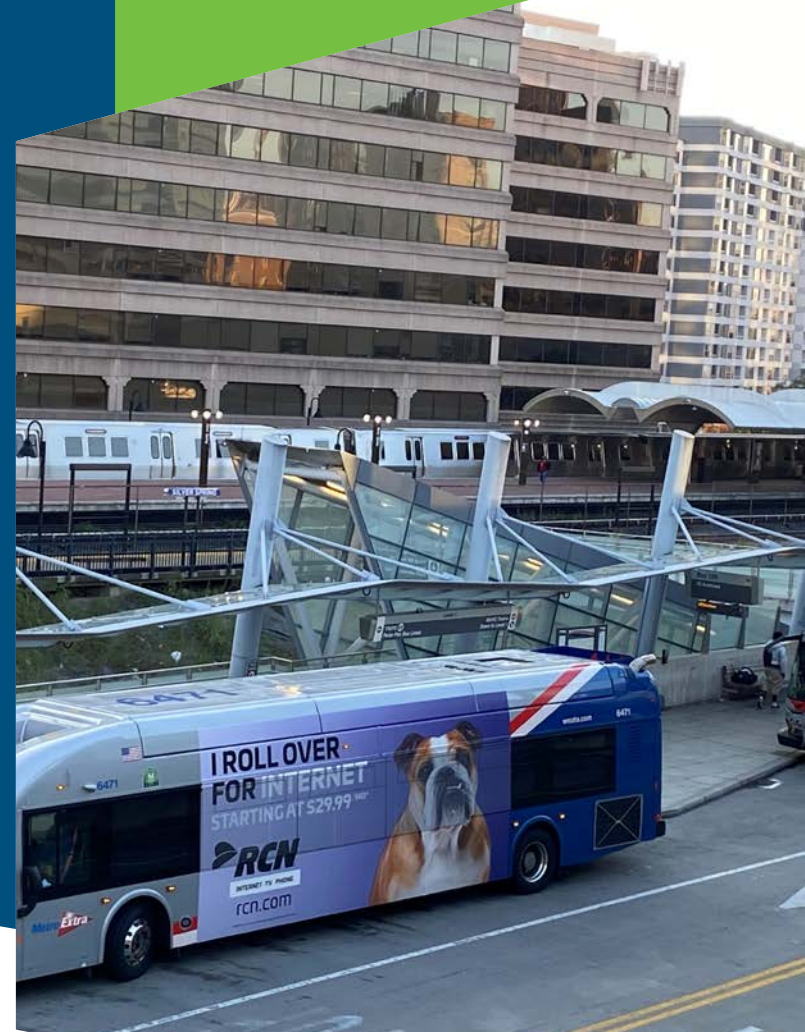
TPB Transportation Planner

Transportation Planning Board

May 18, 2022

Agenda Item #8

visualize
2045 A long-range
transportation plan
for the National
Capital Region



(Cook/TPB)

Agenda Item #8

- What aspects of the plan and TIP can/cannot change now?
- Purpose of Comment Period
- Comment Period Notice
- Comments Received by Number
- Comment Themes
- Project Specific Comments
- Summary review of Comment Period Packet
 - Comment/Response Summary Memorandum
 - Attachment A: Letters Received and Comment Compilation

The plan and TIP: What Can Be Revised Now? What Cannot?

Examples of what can change	What cannot change
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General text of the plan and TIP• Project descriptions (for clarity, not to include new capacity impacts)• Descriptive data• PBPP targets and data (revisions will capture very recent data and target updates)• URLs, photos• Project costs- many updates expected for the final TIP• Policy Priorities and Goals if the board took action to do so	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conformity inputs: projects, programs and policies included in the technical inputs for the Air Quality Conformity analysis (which is complete) cannot be added or deleted until the next plan update• Information required to meet federal requirements cannot be removed

Consistent with past plan cycles, comments on projects, programs and polices included in the constrained element would serve as input of agencies for the next/future updates of the plan.

2022 Comment Period - Notice

Conducted
from April 1 -
May 1, 2022

- The TPB staff advertised the public comment period via:
 - TPB's public comment email distribution list
 - Social media
 - TPB News
 - Newspaper advertisements: Washington Post, Washington Hispanic, and the Afro-American Newspapers.
- Staff shared information about the public comment period with the TPB's Technical, Community and the Access for All Advisory Committees.
- A comment form was available on the TPB comment page: mwcog.org/tpbcomment
- All materials provided for review were available online at: [Draft Plan - TPB Visualize 2045](#)

Comments Received – Summary

Platforms for commenting	Comments received
Sending email to tpbcomment@mwkog.org	483
Writing a letter to the TPB Chair at TPB (USPS)	1
Using the form online at mwkog.org/tpbcomment	34
Calling the TPB Public Comment Line at (202) 962-3262 and leaving a 3-minute message	0

Comments Received – Summary

Commentor	Comments received
Individuals	506
Non-Profit Organizations	10
Members of TPB	1
Advisory Committee	1
Business & For-Profit Organizations	0

TPB staff also worked with technical staff from jurisdictions in their review to correct or clarify information, primarily in Appendix B of the plan and the TIP.

Overarching Comment Themes

1. Concerns over official status of the MDOT Op Lanes projects in the constrained element of the plan (143 comments)
2. Stop climate change: adopt the full slate of climate strategies (263 comments)
3. Improve the safety of the transportation system (5 comments)
4. Invest in sustainable, walkable communities and continue to improve options for biking and walking in the region (275 comments)
5. Consider Equity in Transportation Planning (41 comments)
6. Opposition to and support for highway expansion and road widening (303 comments)
7. Approve Visualize 2045 which invests in ALL modes of transportation (38 comments)

Project Specific Comments

- A. Maryland 270 Dynamically Managed Op Lanes Project (143 comments)
- B. New Hampshire BRT (1 comment)
- C. Belmont Ridge Road Reconstruct/VA 234 Bypass Extension North (CE1897) (1 comment)
- D. US 15 Widening between Battlefield Parkway and Montresor Road (CE3738) (1 comment)
- E. Manassas National Battlefield Park Bypass (CE3061) (1 comment)
- F. VA 28 Manassas Bypass (CE1865) (1 comment)
- G. Northstar Boulevard between Tall Cedars Parkway and Braddock Road (CE3737) (1 comment)

Also, a letter was received that includes a series of tables with comments or suggestions for numerous projects. This will be included in the comment listing for TPB member and technical agency consideration.

Public Comment Topics

- Topic 1: Concerns over the official status of the MDOT Op Lanes projects in the constrained element of the plan (143 comments)

- Example excerpt:

“....Item T6432 on page 95 of Appendix B includes text stating that the Op Lanes Maryland Program Development will move forward along the entirety of I-495 from the American Legion Bridge to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge (text below).”

“Planning, preliminary design, and full delivery stream restoration activities in support of the Op Lanes Maryland program, which will implement high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes along I-270, between I-495 and I-70, and I-495, between the American Legion and Woodrow Wilson bridges.”

Public Comment Topics

- Topic 2: Stop climate change: adopt the full slate of climate strategies (263 comments)
 - Example excerpts:
 - “Specifically, I call on you to:
 - Set specific, numerical performance targets in Visualize 2045 informed by TPB’s climate study....
 - Commit to pursue the types of strategies in the Mode Shift and Travel Behavior Scenarios 1 and 2...”

Public Comment Topics

- Topic 3: Improve the safety of the transportation system (5 comments)

- Example excerpt:

“To get to vision zero there will need to be a tremendous improvement to walking and biking infrastructure. Also, to get to vision zero there will have to be street redesign to slow the cars down in dense pedestrian/cycling areas.”

Public Comment Topics

- Topic 4: Invest in sustainable, walkable communities and continue to improve options for biking and walking in the region (275 comments)
 - Example excerpt:

“... I urge you to invest in transit, biking, walking and other active transportation modes that are healthy financially, physically and ecologically. Highway widenings are expensive and have yet to solve our region’s transportation woes because solo driving does not scale.”

Public Comment Topics

- Topic 5: Consider Equity in Transportation Planning (41 comments)

- Example excerpt 1:

“Removing roadway projects from this plan will jeopardize the quality of life and access to opportunity for the 92% of people in the DC region who own a vehicle and rely on automobile travel to live, work, and play. That includes households in our region making \$60,000 or less who are twice as likely to drive than take any other form of transportation to get to work.”

- Example excerpt 2:

“The plan can be improved by setting specific numeric targets for shifting more travel to non-auto modes and for adopting electric vehicles for other travel, and it needs to shift its investment to projects that better support the region's goals for walkable, bikeable and transit-friendly communities. Please revise this plan to take the lead in moving us toward a sustainable and equitable future.”

Public Comment Topics

- Topic 6: Opposition to and support for highway expansion and road widening (303 comments)

- Example excerpt 1:

“There is ample evidence that increasing freeway capacity does not reduce traffic in the long term. Indeed, look at LA and the Bay Area, which have been building freeways for decades and still boast the nation's worst traffic.”

- Example excerpt 2:

“Removing roadway projects from this plan will jeopardize the quality of life and access to opportunity for the 92% of people in the DC region who own a vehicle and rely on automobile travel to live, work, and play. That includes households in our region making \$60,000 or less who are twice as likely to drive than take any other form of transportation to get to work.”

Public Comment Topics

- Topic 7: Approve Visualize 2045 which invests in ALL modes of transportation (38 comments)

- Example excerpt:

“As a resident of the DC area, I am asking that you please approve the Visualize 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan without removing any projects. We cannot expect our region to be competitive for economic development if we do not invest in appropriate transportation infrastructure. We need to take an all-of-the-above approach to transportation solutions that keep our region moving including investments in roadways, transit, bike, pedestrian, airport, and technology infrastructure.”

Next Steps

- In June, the TPB will be asked to take the following actions:
 - Accept recommended responses to comments received for the 2022 Update to Visualize 2045, the FY 2023-2026 TIP, and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis. They will be included in the conformity report.
 - Adopt a resolution finding that the 2022 Update to Visualize 2045 and the FY 2023-2026 TIP conform with the requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.
 - Approve the 2022 Update to Visualize 2045 and the FY 2023-2026 TIP.
 - Self certify that the TPB is following the metropolitan transportation planning process.