



# NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

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## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

TPB Technical Committee

July 10, 2015

Item #10

### MEMORANDUM

July 2, 2015

To: TPB Technical Committee

From: Andrew Austin  
Transportation Planner IV

Re: Status Update on the List of Unfunded Transportation Projects  
in the National Capital Region

This memo provides a brief review of the challenges faced in developing a list of Unfunded Transportation projects, steps that were taken to address those challenges, and next steps.

TPB staff faced two challenges while developing the unfunded projects list: a lack of regional balance in projects due to different approaches taken by the jurisdictions, and missing cost data for a significant number of projects.

The lack of regional balance in project listings was addressed by revisiting some plan source documents and including projects from the Maryland Department of Transportation's Highway Needs Inventory and the TPB's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the National Capital Region. The addition of projects from these two sources continued the problem of missing cost data. As discussed at the June 2015 Technical Committee meeting, staff took two steps to address this issue. Using a sampling of projects that did have data on project type, length and cost, some very basic assumptions were developed for cost per unit mile for various project types (i.e. reconstruction at \$1 million per mile, widening at \$7 million per mile, construction at \$11.5 million per mile, etc.). For projects where length and type were available, a cost was calculated based on these assumptions. All projects with given or calculated costs were then grouped into the color-coded ranges shown in Table 1 on the next page. For projects where calculations could not be made, estimates were performed based on similar projects in other jurisdictions. Lower and upper cost amounts were calculated using the number of projects in each range, and then summing those amounts. Finally, the total amount from WMATA's unfunded projects list (\$39 billion) was added to each limit since that figure is an order of magnitude larger than any one individual project.

**Table 1: Calculations of Cost Ranges for the List of Unfunded Transportation Projects**

Cost In Millions		Regional Count	Lower Total	Upper Total
Lower	Upper			
\$0	\$5M	526	52.6	2577.4
\$5M	\$25M	160	800	3984
\$25M	\$50M	87	2175	4341.3
\$50M	\$100M	82	4100	8191.8
\$100M	\$500M	36	3600	17964
\$500M	\$1 B	4	2000	3996
\$1B	\$2B	5	5000	10000
> \$2 B				
			\$ 17,727.60	\$ 51,054.50
+ \$39,000 (WMATA total)			<b>\$ 56,727.60</b>	<b>\$ 90,054.50</b>

Based on these assumptions and figures, staff has calculated that the region’s unfunded transportation capital projects will cost between \$57 and \$90 billion.

Members of the TPB Technical Committee are asked to review the list of unfunded projects posted in the committee’s documents online. Please advise staff if any projects are placed in the wrong cost range.

At their June 17 meeting, the TPB directed staff to work with members of the Board to establish a working group to direct the future development and usage of this project list. This working group is expected to be named at the July 22 TPB meeting.