

# VISUALIZE 2050

*National Capital Region Transportation Plan*

## BRIEFING ON VISUALIZE 2050 COMMENTS RECEIVED IN MARCH

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### Visualize 2050 & FY 2026-2029 TIP

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Transportation Planning Board Work Session  
April 17, 2024



National Capital Region  
**Transportation Planning Board**

# Overview

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- Updates to the Air Quality Conformity Input Table and the Scope of Work
- Updates to the Project Summary Table
- Summary of Public Comments
  - Why did we seek comments?
  - How did we seek comments and what did we receive?
  - What are the main takeaways from the comments received?
  - How are TPB staff and member agencies responding?
  - What should the Board do with the comments and responses?
- Next Steps

# Updates to Air Quality Conformity Project Inputs Table

- Changes since the March 2024 draft

Pink – technical corrections

- Highlighting indicates changes from the current Visualize 2045 plan

Blue – strikethrough, not continuing

Yellow – updates, new projects/segments

- Changes to completion date, improvement, cross-referencing to project entries in the Project InfoTrak (PIT) database

- To be approved by TPB in May 2024

PIT Project ID	Con ID	Project ID	Agency ID	Improvement	Facility	From	To	Fr	To	Lanes From	Lanes To	Completion Date		
181	CE3651 <del>T3212</del>	944	DP32	Reduce Capacity - bike lanes	17th Street NW	New Hampshire Avenue	<del>K-66-NW, Massachusetts Ave.</del>	3	3	2	1	2021 completed		
182	T3232	31534		Reduce Capacity - bike lanes	17th St NE/SE	Benning Rd NW	Potomac Ave SE			2	1	2023 completed		
183	T3232	31996		Reduce Capacity - bike lanes	19th St SE	Potomac Ave SE	East Capitol St NE			2	1	2024		
184	<del>T3232</del> T3232	<del>7821-11122</del>	DS37	Reduce Capacity - bike lanes	20th St. NW Bike Lanes	G St.	Massachusetts Ave.	4	4	4	2	2022 completed		
185	<del>T3232</del> T3232	<del>7827-11118</del>	DS38	Reduce Capacity - bike lanes	21st St. NW	<del>Constitution Ave. C Street NW</del>	<del>Massachusetts Ave. G Street NW</del>			3	2	2021 completed		
<b>MDOT</b>														
<b>Interstate</b>														
186	T3044	126	M12Q	M08391	Construct	I-270 Interchange	at Watkins Mill Road			1	1	8	8	2020 completed
187	<del>T6492- T11582 CE1186</del>	125	M12U1	<del>AW0734- AW0754</del>	Construct/Widen	I-270 Toll Lanes	<del>I-270Y on the entire western spur; and on the eastern spur from MD187 north to the main I-270</del>			1	1	4 + 2 HOV	4 + 4 HOT	<del>2025</del> 2030
188	<del>T6492- T11582- CE1186- CE3281</del>	125	M12U1	<del>AW0734- AW0754</del>	Construct/Widen-Convert	I-270 Toll Lanes	<del>I-270Y on the entire western spur; and on the eastern spur from MD187 north to the main I-270</del>			1	1	4 + 2 HOV	4 + 2-4- HOT	<del>2025</del> 2040
189	<del>T6492- T11582- CE1186- CE3281</del>	892	M12U2	<del>AW0734- AW0754</del>	Construct	I-270 Toll Lanes	I-270Y			1	1	10 + 2 HOV	10 + 4 HOT	<del>2025</del> 2040
190	<del>T6492- CE1186 T11583</del>	893	M12U3	<del>AW0734- AW0754</del>	Construct/Widen-Study	I-270 Northbound Toll Lanes	I-370			1	1	3 + 1 HOV NB	3 + 2 HOT NB	<del>2030</del> not coded
191	<del>T6492- CE1186 T11583</del>	893	M12U4	<del>AW0734- AW0754</del>	Construct/Widen-Study	I-270 Southbound Toll Lanes	Middlebrook Road			1	1	4 SB	4 + 2 HOT SB	<del>2030</del> not coded
192	<del>T6492- CE1186 T11583</del>	894	M12U5	<del>AW0734- AW0754</del>	Construct/Widen-Study	I-270 Northbound Toll Lanes	Middlebrook Road			1	1	2 + 1 HOV NB	2 + 2 HOT NB	<del>2030</del> not coded



April 3, 2024

**AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS:  
VISUALIZE 2050 & FY 2026-2029 TIP**

**DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The list of projects solicited for the Visualize 2050 National Capital Region Transportation Plan and the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is scheduled to be finalized at the May 15, 2024 meeting of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB). This work effort addresses requirements associated with attainment of the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) are ozone precursor pollutants.

The amended plan must meet air quality conformity regulations: (1) as originally published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the November 24, 1993 Federal Register, and (2) as subsequently amended, most recently on March 14, 2012, and (3) as detailed in periodic Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) / Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and EPA guidance. These regulations specify both technical criteria and consultation procedures to follow in performing the assessment.

This scope of work provides a context in which to perform the conformity analyses and presents an outline of the work tasks required to address all regulations currently applicable.

**II. FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS**

As described in the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, conformity is demonstrated if transportation plans and programs:

1. Are consistent with most recent estimates of mobile source emissions budgets
2. Contribute to annual emissions reductions

A-1


# Updates to Air Quality Conformity Scope of Work

- Removed unnecessary references to old information
- Attached the COG-approved Cooperative Forecasts Round 1
- To be approved by TPB in May 2024



# Updates to the Project Summary Table

- Supplementary information, details are not being approved in May
- Corrections to projects, titles, costs, completion years, project alignment with TPB goals



March 1-30, 2024, Public Comment Opportunity  
 Summary Table of Draft Regionally Significant for Air Quality Projects to be completed in 2026 or [later](#)

Transit Projects by State

Project	Cost	Completion Year	Project Type	Safety	Maintenance	Reliability	Affordable and Convenient	Efficient System Operations	Environmental Protection	Resilient Region	Livable and Prosperous Communities
<b>District of Columbia</b>											
Benning Road Streetcar Expansion from Oklahoma Avenue NE to Benning Road Metro Station	\$202,664,372	2030	Streetcar Expansion								
<b>Maryland</b>											
MARC Service Improvements for Brunswick Line	\$1,825,000,000	2045	Rail Service Improvements			☑	☑				☑
MARC Service Improvements for Camden Line	\$726,000,000	2045	Rail Service Improvements			☑	☑				
MARC Service Improvements for Penn Line	\$2,497,000,000	2045	Rail Service Improvements			☑	☑	☑			☑
MD 355 New BRT Expansion from East-West Highway (MD 410) to Clarksburg Road	\$436,081,000	2030	New BRT Expansion	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑

# Why did we seek comments?

- Regional Air Quality Conformity (AQC) test must be completed prior to adopting the next National Capital Region Transportation Plan
- Federally required AQC analysis takes a long time (10 months) - best for board to agree on projects included in the analysis
- Local/State/Transit agencies undertake their own public engagement during project development
- Provide one more opportunity at the regional level for the Board to hear the public's thoughts on planned undertakings, air quality analysis process



# How did we seek comments; what did we receive?

- Many methods to communicate the comment period including newspaper ads, social media and paid advertising via Facebook

	MetroQuest Form <b>NEW!</b>	TPB Website Comment Form	Phone	Email	Letter	In Person at TPB's March 2024 Meeting	Total
Number of Respondents	823	0	0	48	16	6	893

- *Comments were also received between April 2023 and November 2023 when projects were still being considered by TPB member agencies*

# What are the main takeaways?

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- Open comment opportunity, not a scientific survey
- TPB has many goals, projects aim to address one or multiple goals, not necessarily to improve air quality
- Many participants showed support / opposition to a project base on type, rather than application of the project type at a particular location or reason
- Concerns shared about
  - Express toll lanes effectiveness to reduce congestion
  - Roadway widenings encouraging more automobile trips, increasing carbon pollution
  - Transit projects, not enough being done, not enough soon
  - Bicycle and pedestrian projects not included in this list, not enough being done



# How are TPB staff, member agencies responding?

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- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) handout on the MD express lane projects
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) handout on general questions
  - TPB members during the March Work Session
  - Public via comments received
- Member agencies invited to respond

# What should the Board do with this information?

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- Consider the information
- Ask questions of your staff, our staff to seek clarifications where needed
- Review and understand the May Board meeting actions items
  - Approval of Air Quality Conformity Scope of Work
  - Approval of Air Quality Conformity Projects Input Table

# Next Steps

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- April Comment period results shared with & reviewed by Board members
- May TPB action on Air Quality Conformity Scope of Work and Project Inputs  
TPB staff begin performance and air quality analysis of Visualize 2050 and the FY 2026-2029 TIP
- June Deadline to submit remaining transportation projects, not significant for air quality analysis due via the Project InfoTrak Database by June 28

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