



UPCOMING MEETINGS
AND ITEMS OF
INTEREST:

**TPB Meeting,
October 19:**

- Approval of the TPB Application for Funding under the FY 2011 TIGER Program
- Briefing on the Draft Air Quality Conformity Assessment of the 2011 CLRP

More information may be found at:
www.mwcog.org/transportation

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TPB news

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OCTOBER 2011

TPB APPROVES PROJECTS FOR INCLUSION IN TIGER APPLICATION

On September 21, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) adopted a resolution to approve projects recommended for inclusion in the TPB's FY 2011 US DOT Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program application package. The TPB also directed staff to submit the requisite pre-application by the deadline on October 3.

The TPB's grant application concept centers on innovative rail station access projects, including pedestrian, bicycle, streetscape or other circulation improvements that would improve access to the region's commuter and Metro rail stations. The application concept aims to support

and promote mixed-use development near rail station areas to reduce distances between housing and employment, thereby reducing VMT and congestion. The inspiration for the concept came out of the TPB's Transportation / Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program, a technical assistance program that provides small-scale planning grants to local jurisdictions developing innovative approaches to linking land-use and transportation. Jurisdictions have found that it is difficult to secure implementation funding for projects completed under the TLC Program due to the multimodal focus of the project recommendations. This concept was approved at the July 21 TPB meeting.

(Continued on page 5)

TPB BRIEFED ON PHASE 1 REPORT ON WMATA GOVERNANCE

The TPB was briefed at its September meeting on the Phase 1 Recommendations Report by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Governance Work Group (GWG) appointed by the Governors of Maryland and Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia. The GWG was established in January 2011 by the two Governors and the Mayor to make recommendations to improve governance at the WMATA.

The recommendations identified by the GWG aim to improve leadership on the WMATA Board, maintain regional relevancy, provide for a high-level policy focus, and ensure accountability and transparency. Bruce Gartner, representing MDOT for the GWG, said the WMATA Board has been working in parallel to the GWG in identifying enhancements that can be made to the functionality of the Board.

(Continued on page 4)

RECORD-BREAKING CAR FREE DAY



Nearly 12,000 people in the metropolitan Washington region pledged to “Uncar for a Day” or go Car-Lite on Car Free Day, September 22, according to Commuter Connections, a regional transportation network coordinated by the TPB. Pledges for this year’s event increased by 70 percent over 2010.

“We would like to thank all of those who participated and made this event the most successful one to date,” said Nicholas

Ramfos, Director of Commuter Connections. “We are so pleased that residents of this region shared a commitment to cleaner air and offered support to help reduce the region’s carbon footprint and decrease traffic congestion. We are also grateful to our sponsors whose generous donations helped to spark additional excitement for this event.”

Car Free Day is celebrated worldwide every September 22 to encourage traveling without a car and opting instead for transit, bicycling, walking, ridesharing and tele-

working. Washington, D.C. celebrated Car Free Day for the first time in 2007 with about 1,000 District residents committing to car free travel for the day. In 2008, the event was expanded to the entire Washington metropolitan region. ♦

Bethesda Transportation Solutions, a member of the Commuter Connections network celebrates Car Free Day 2011 in downtown Bethesda



OTHER SEPTEMBER AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB’s September 21 meeting also included the following items:

- Update on the Rail~volution Conference in Washington, DC: October 16-19, 2011.
- Briefing on the Draft Call for Projects and Schedule for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2012 CLRP and FY 2013-2018 TIP.

Information and materials for the monthly TPB meeting are posted on the TPB website one week prior to the meeting: www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb. ♦

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ROAD-USE PRICING FORUMS TO KICK OFF IN OCTOBER

A series of five community forums designed to gauge public acceptability of road-use pricing in the Washington metropolitan region will kick off in October with a forum in New Carrollton, Maryland. At the September 21 meeting of the TPB, John Swanson updated the Board on the work of TPB staff to design and plan the sessions, which will take place between October 2011 and January 2012.

The community forums, which are the central element of a study by TPB and the Brookings Institution, will probe the opinions and values that underlie public attitudes toward different types of road-use pricing, ranging from priced-lane networks to system-wide charges and to cordon charges. “We’ve contracted with the non-profit organization America Speaks, and rather than doing a telephone survey, we’re going to be conducting deliberative forums,” reported Swanson. “Essentially, these are mega-focus groups,” he said.

To ensure that a cross-section of views is represented in the forums, those interested in participating will be asked to complete a short questionnaire about their demographic characteristics and travel behaviors before being invited to attend one of the forums. “The goal is

to make sure that the participants in these forums are broadly representative of the region at large,” Swanson explained.

The study, which is being funded through a grant from the Federal Highway Administration, was approved by the TPB in October 2009. The results of the five community forums being held over the coming months will be reported to the TPB in the spring. ♦



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UPCOMING OCTOBER AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB’s October 19 agenda is expected to include the following items:

- Approval of TPB’s Application for Funding Under the FY 2011 Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Competitive Grant Program.
- Approval of Amendments to the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to Revise the Budget, Respond to the Federal Transportation Planning Certification Review, and Incorporate the Scope and Process to Develop a TPB Regional Transportation Priorities Plan.
- Approval of Call for Projects and Schedule for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2012 CLRP and the FY 2013-2018 TIP.
- Briefing on a New Sensitivity Test for the CLRP Aspirations Scenario.
- Briefing on the Draft Air Quality Conformity Assessment of the 2011 CLRP.
- Briefing on the Draft 2011 CLRP.
- Update on the Regional “Street Smart” Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education Campaign.

Information and materials for the monthly TPB meeting are posted on the TPB website one week prior to the meeting: www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb. ♦

WMATA GOVERNANCE

(Continued from page 1)

TPB members responded positively to the draft recommendations presented in the Phase 1 Report. Several members had more detailed questions about some of the recommendations.

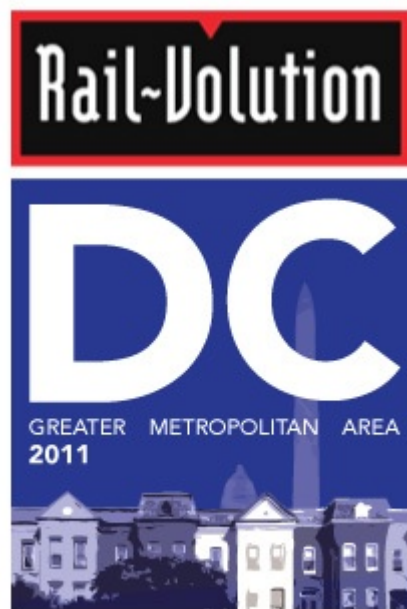
Patrick Wojahn of the City of College Park commended the GWG on recommending a ridership requirement for WMATA Board members, noting “it’s a great way to ensure that the Board has a better understanding of the system that it is governing.” He added, though, that he is concerned that this requirement might overlook “a very significant part of Metro’s services, one that’s historically been very troubled, and that is Metro Access.” Wojahn suggested that part of the ridership requirement include a stipulation that Board members use Metro Access several times a year.

David Snyder of the City of Falls Church asked “how stakeholders will know whether all these suggested changes are making a difference?” Gartner responded that by improving the functionality of the Board, including the fixed term requirement, the

Board will be cognizant of their key performance indicators and accountability to their appointing authority. Steve Strauss, representing DDOT for the GWG, added that “one of the advantages of having fixed terms for board members is it gives the appointing authority for that board member the opportunity and the requirement to [review the performance of] that board member.”

Catherine Hudgins of Fairfax County and current Chair of the WMATA Board thanked the GWG for its presentation of the Phase 1 report and “for acknowledging the progress that’s been made, and what I think has been a very open process to include not only the GWG, but the entire community in this region that is a part of Metro.”

As part of its work, the GWG requested and received research support from TPB staff on five topics related to WMATA board functions and funding needs. The report produced by TPB staff was presented to the TPB at its June 15 meeting. The GWG released its Phase 1 report for public comment on July 21. The public comment period ended on August 25. Gartner said the GWG hopes to provide the Governors and Mayor with consensus recommendations on the Phase I topics in time for the development of legislation to be considered in early 2012. ♦



The Rail~Volution Annual Conference will be held in Washington, DC, October 16-19, 2011. On Wednesday, October 19, Rail~Volution will feature a free half-day local program focusing on affordability and complete communities, the regional jobs/housing balance, and improving federal / local coordination. Please visit www.railvolution.org for more information.

FIND THE TPB ON FACEBOOK



Are you interested in getting up-to-date information about the TPB? Find us on Facebook! Search *National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board* and “Like” our page. You can find links to a variety of relevant and interesting information on regional transportation planning.

TPB REGIONAL TIGER APPLICATION

A total of seven local projects have been selected for inclusion in the TPB's TIGER grant application, with a total overall project cost of approximately \$38 million and a request for TIGER grant funds of \$29 million. A summary of the anticipated project package may be found below.

Several members acknowledged the difficulty of developing a meaningful regional application in such a short time period. Gary Erenrich of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation spoke of the process to compile the TPB's application and said it "was a monumental task, to come up with a concept with very complex criteria and to try to work with the jurisdic-

tions in a short period of time." He added that the process provides a lesson for jurisdictions on how to be ready for such opportunities: "you really have to have projects that are in the pipeline, and you have to have your local money already available or readily available for a match."

On August 12, USDOT released in the Federal Register the Final Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for \$527 million in discretionary surface transportation grant funding for the FY 2011 TIGER program, with pre-applications due on October 3 and final applications on October 31. ♦

FY 2011 TIGER:TPB Projects

District of Columbia

Fort Totten / 1st Place-Galloway Road Access Improvement Project

Cost: \$4.2 million

The project rebuilds the two streets serving the Fort Totten Metrorail Station: 1st Place (to Riggs Road) and Galloway Street (to South Dakota Ave). The project will improve accessibility and safety for pedestrians at this Metro transfer station by rebuilding sidewalks and curbing, installing new lighting, and providing wayfinding signage.

Maryland

Montgomery County: Forest Glen Metro Access Project

Cost: \$17.6 million

Construct a grade-separated pedestrian/bicyclist crossing of Georgia Avenue (MD 97) linking Forest Glen Metrorail Station to the sidewalk serving Holy Cross Hospital; construct one elevator to connect the street level directly to the Forest Glen Metrorail Station mezzanine; and establish ten Capital Bikeshare stations in the local area.

Prince George's County: Pedestrian Safety Measures for the New Carrollton Metro Station

Cost: \$950,000

The project site is the County's number one priority Transit Oriented Development site. The project will construct sidewalks and trails to improve access to the station, and create a full service bicycle station at the rail station.

Prince George's County: West Hyattsville Metro Station / Ager Road Improvements

Cost: \$7.4 million

The project involves improvements to facilities with sidewalk gaps, a WMATA secure bike parking facility and other multimodal access improvements to the West Hyattsville Station. The Ager Road portion will reconstruct the road as a complete green street, with wider sidewalks, improved crossing and an environmentally-sensitive stormwater system.

City of Rockville: Safer Walkways to Transit: Twinbrook Metro Station

Cost: \$500,000

The project will implement recommendations from the 2011 TPB Transit Land Use Connections (TLC) study: Safer Walkways to Transit. The study recommended a variety of bicycle and pedestrian safety and access improvements to the Twinbrook Metro Station.

Virginia

Arlington County: Army Navy Drive Multimodal Access Improvement Project

Cost: \$6.8 million

The project re-conceives 3,300 feet of Army Navy Drive, providing a wider, safer sidewalk, a physically-separated two-way cycle track, and a safer street cross section that will support a future streetcar. The project will also add ten Capital Bikeshare stations along Columbia Pike.

Virginia Railway Express (VRE): Bicycle Lockers at VRE Stations

Cost: \$300,000

The project will add bicycle lockers to VRE stations in Fairfax and Prince William Counties, and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park.

BRIEFING ON REGIONAL HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS

On September 21, the TPB received a briefing on an initiative undertaken by the District of Columbia's Office of Planning aimed at providing policymakers and the public with better information about how the region's five million-plus residents get around and how much it cost for them do so.



Art Rodgers, Senior Housing Planner at the Office of Planning, provided an overview of the recently released report, "Housing + Transportation Affordability in Washington, DC." The report, prepared by the Office of Planning and the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), aims to broaden the notion of affordability throughout the region.

The traditional definition of affordability focuses exclusively on housing costs, with a home being considered affordable if its costs consume 30 percent or less of total household income. Rodgers noted that this report adds transportation costs to that equation, creating a more realistic and complete determination of a home's affordability.

Based on data from over 300 metropolitan areas in the United States, the Office of Planning/CNT report recommends that no more than 15 percent of household income be expended on transportation costs, making the combined housing and transportation costs affordability target 45 percent or less. TPB members echoed Rodgers' suggestion that this more complete determination of affordability should be more readily available to consumers when making decisions about where to live.

Harriet Tregoning, Director of the Office of Planning, emphasized the importance of considering how land use and transportation decisions influence the other: "local jurisdictions can be doing things with land use that create, either at the workplace or at the residence, more opportunities to meet daily needs in neighborhoods, which reduces your auto dependence."

Rodgers also noted that the Office of Planning will be working with the TPB and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to integrate the findings of this report with the currently underway Household Travel Survey, detailed on the opposite page.

This report may be found at <http://www.cnt.org/publications>. ♦

Bids and Solicitations

For current COG solicitations available for bids and proposals, please visit "Doing Business with COG:" www.mwcog.org/doingbusiness/cogbid/ ♦

TPB TO CONDUCT GEOGRAPHICALLY-FOCUSED HOUSEHOLD TRAVEL SURVEY

In FY 2012, the TPB will conduct a finer grained household travel survey to complement the 2007/2008 Regional Household Travel Survey completed two years ago. The TPB included this item in the FY 2012 TPB Unified Planning Work Program in response to needs expressed by local jurisdiction users of TPB household travel survey data for additional household samples in smaller geographic subareas to assist them with their local planning efforts. The TPB will collect household travel survey data from 4,800 households in 14 geographically-focused subareas of the region to permit more intensive analysis of specific growth and transportation issues.

Households agreeing to participate in this survey will be asked to record and report on the travel of each household member for a specified 24-hour period. The

household information will allow planners and officials to analyze specific aspects of daily travel behavior in smaller geographic subareas of the region and compare transportation patterns before and after the construction of upcoming major transportation projects (including the Silver Line, the Purple line, Arlington and D.C. streetcars, the I-95 HOT lanes, and potential VRE service expansion in the Woodbridge area).

Household travel survey interviews will be conducted in the fall of 2011 between mid-September and mid-November and in the spring of 2012 between mid-March and mid-May. Initial results of the fall survey are expected to be available in January 2012; the spring survey results are expected to be available in July 2012. ♦

Geographic subareas to be surveyed in fall 2011:

1. The 14th St NW Corridor in the District of Columbia
2. The White Flint area in Montgomery County, Maryland
3. The Purple Line International Corridor in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties, Maryland
4. The Largo area in Prince George’s County, Maryland
5. The City of Frederick, Maryland
6. The Reston area in Fairfax County, Virginia
7. The Woodbridge area in Prince William County, Virginia

Geographic subareas to be surveyed in spring 2012:

1. Friendship Heights in the District of Columbia and Montgomery County, Maryland
2. New York Avenue Corridor in the District of Columbia
3. St. Charles Urbanized Area in Charles County, Maryland
4. National Harbor in Prince George’s County, Maryland
5. Eisenhower Avenue Corridor in Alexandria, Virginia
6. East Falls Church and West Falls Church Metrorail Station areas in Arlington County, the City of Falls Church and Fairfax County, Virginia
7. The Dulles North Area in Loudoun County, Virginia

TPB Alphabet Soup

AFA	Access for All Committee
ARRA	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
CAC	Citizen’s Advisory Committee
CLRP	Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan
COG	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
DDOT	District Department of Transportation
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
MDOT	Maryland Department of Transportation
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
NVTA	Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
RMAS	Regional Mobility and Accessibility Scenario Study
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
TLC	Transportation/Land-Use Connections Program
TPB	Transportation Planning Board
VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
WMATA	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All meetings are at COG unless otherwise indicated. If you are in need of special assistance to participate in meetings, please call (202) 962-3315 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Bicycle racks are located in the parking garage at 777 N. Capitol St., N.E. (Enter from 1st St., N.E.).

October 2011

- 7 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 7 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 13 Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (noon)
- 13 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 18 Employer Outreach Committee (10 am)
- 18 TDM Evaluation Group (noon)
- 19 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 25 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 27 TPB Access for All Advisory Committee (noon)

November 2011

- 4 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 4 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 8 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy Task Force and Technical Subcommittee Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 9 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 10 Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (noon)
- 10 Freight Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 10 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 15 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 15 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 16 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 17 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 18 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 22 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)

December 2011

- 2 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 2 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 8 Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (noon)
- 13 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy Task Force and Technical Subcommittee Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 14 Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force (1 pm)
- 15 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 20 Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee (10 am)
- 20 Regional TDM Marketing Group (noon)
- 21 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**



Dates and times subject to change.
Please visit our website at
www.mwcog.org
for up-to-date information.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Sarah Crawford at scrawford@mwcog.org, (202) 962-3237 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Allow seven working days for preparation of material.

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