VISUALIZE 2050 UPDATES

Comments Summary, Project Inputs, Transit Inputs

Marcela Moreno, Andrew Austin, Jane Posey
TPB Staff

TPB Technical Committee
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National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

Agenda Item 5

Today's Presentation

- TPB staff summarized the sentiment analysis and themes for selected comments (Marcela)

- Project Inputs and the PIT (Andrew)

- Transit Inputs (Jane)

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Background

- TPB staff is collecting public comments to share with agencies as they re-examine projects for Visualize 2050 via:

  - SurveyMonkey: Visualize 2050 Initial Project List Feedback Form

  - Email: TPBcomment@mwcog.org

  - TPB Comment Form, voicemail, or mailed letter

- **721 project-specific comments and 85 project suggestions** were received via the Feedback Form (SurveyMonkey)

- **6 comments** were received via email

Visualize 2050 Initial Project List Feedback Form

Comment #1: Maryland Project Comment

* Please select which project in Maryland that you would like to comment on.

Other (If you don't see the project you'd like to comment on, please describe it to the best of your ability here)

How did you hear about this project?

Other (please specify)

I support this project's inclusion in the long-range transportation plan (Visualize 2050).

○ Strongly agree

○ Agree

○ Neutral

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Methodology

- TPB staff summarized the sentiment analysis and themes for selected comments:

  - Comments received from February 15 – August 31, 2023

  - Green list projects with over 10 comments

  - Orange list projects with over 5 comments

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Overarching Themes

- Overall themes from comments received:

  - Strong negative sentiment towards **road widening and expansion projects,** with concerns that projects will result in induced demand.

  - Positive sentiment for **mass transit projects, including BRT, heavy/light rail, and local bus systems.**

  - Positive sentiment for **projects that improve regional connectivity.**

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Top Three – Green List Projects exempt from re-examination

MD: Op Lanes Maryland Phase 1

- Received 179 comments

- Strong negative sentiment towards the project. Themes include:

  - Skepticism about road expansion/capacity as a long-term solution to congestion (induced demand).

  - Concern about negative impacts to the environment, historic resources, and climate goals.

  - Concerns about equity impacts and cost burden.

- Few neutral or positive sentiment comments noting:

  - Support for addressing bottlenecks at the American Legion Bridge.

  - Positive impact to transit and carpooling.

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VA: Long Bridge VA - DC

- Received 39 comments

- Strong positive sentiment about the project. Themes included:

  - Emphasis on the significance of the project for regional passenger rail and freight transportation.

  - Support for including a pedestrian and bike connection, and the project's potential to reduce carbon emissions.

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MD: I-270 Innovative Congestion Management

- Received 36 comments

- Strong negative sentiment towards the project. Themes include:

  - Skepticism about road expansion/capacity as a long-term solution to congestion (induced demand).

  - Negative impacts to the environment and quality of life.

  - Criticism that toll lanes are inequitable.

  - Support for alternatives such as mass transit, transit-oriented development, and teleworking or congestion pricing without highway widening

- Positive sentiment in few comments. Themes include:

  - Support for the project's anticipated effect on congestion and safety.

  - Citing success of similar projects in other jurisdictions.

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Orange List Projects
not exempt from re-examination

MD: MARC Improvements

- Received 22 comments

- Positive, or strong positive sentiment towards the project. Themes included:

    - Emphasis on the regional significance of the project.

    - Support for the project to meet climate goals, improve air quality, and reduce congestion.

    - Respondents desired improvements to include all-day, weekend, and/or bidirectional service on all MARC lines.

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MD: MARC Brunswick Line

- Received 13 comments

- Positive, or strong positive sentiment towards the project. Themes included:

  - Desire for improved frequency, including weekend and bidirectional service.

  - General support for improved rail service to address congestion.

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VA: Dulles Toll Road Expansion

- Received 8 comments

- Negative or strong negative sentiment towards the project. Themes include:

  - Concern that expanding roadway capacity on Dulles Toll Road will undermine the region's investment in the Silver Line.

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VA: Dulles Airport Access Road Project

- Received 12 comments

- Strong negative sentiment towards the project. Themes include:

  - Concern that expanding roadway capacity on Dulles Airport Access Road will undermine the region's investment in the Silver Line.

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VA: Reston Parkway Improvements

- Received 7 comments

- Negative or strong negative sentiment towards the project. Themes include:

    - Skepticism that road expansion will improve congestion, and result in induced demand.

    - Suggesting bike, pedestrian, and transit projects as alternatives.

    - Some concern that expanding roadway capacity on Reston Parkway will undermine the region's investment in the Silver Line.

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MD: MARC Run-through Service to Virginia

- Received 7 comments

- Positive or strong positive sentiment towards the project due to concerns about:

  - Emphasis on the regional significance for the rail system, especially for travel to destinations outside of the District of Columbia.

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VA: Battlefield Park Bypass Project

- Received 6 comments

- Strong negative sentiment towards the project. Themes include:

  - Concern that the project will encourage high-speed traffic through the area.

  - Criticism that the project undermines the Prince William County Strategic Plan vision for walkable, bikeable, and transit-friendly communities.

  - Suggestions to fund bike, pedestrian, and transit projects.

VA: Dulles Toll Road Collector

- Received 6 comments

- Negative or strong negative sentiment towards the project. Themes include:

  - Suggestion that the project is outdated and will undermine the region's investment in the Silver Line.

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VA: Rolling Road Widening Project

- Received 5 comments

- Strong negative sentiment towards the project. Themes include:

  - Skepticism that road widening will improve congestion, and result in induced demand and increased carbon emissions.

  - Some respondents suggested investments in safety and/or complete streets improvements considering current challenges for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders in the area.

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VA: US 50 Improvements

- Received 5 comments

- Strong negative sentiment towards the project. Themes include:

  - Support for the STARS Study recommendation for safety and operational improvements.

  - Support for considering a BRT study on the corridor.

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V2050 Project Inputs List

Projects in V2050 Financial Plan	Currently Programmed Through FY29	For Future Programming In FY30-50
Regionally Significant for Air Quality	Highway or Transit Projects (due 12/29/23)	Highway or Transit Projects **(due 12/29/23)**
Not Regionally Significant for Air Quality	Highway, Transit, Bike, Ped, etc. Projects, Phases, or Project Grouping Categories (due 1/25/25)	Highway, Transit, Bike, Ped, etc. Projects, Phases, or Project Grouping Categories (due 6/28/24)

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Inputs for Air Quality Conformity Analysis

- Provide inputs for any new projects and update records for all existing projects that…

    - Add or remove capacity on the region's roadways or transit systems, and/or

    - Create new connections or movement options for users that didn't exist before,

    - Regardless of source of funding (federal, state, private, etc.)

- Examples include:

    - Construction of a new road segment

    - Implementation of a new fixed-route transit service

    - Removal of a roadway travel lane for a bike lane, dedicated transitway, or parking

    - Completion of an interchange that gives northbound travelers the option to connect to westbound travel lanes, where previously limited to eastbound connections

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Studies: When a Project Is Not a Project

- Visualize 2050 definition of "Study":

  - Sufficient planning details (limits, year of completion, lane configurations, type of transit service, etc.) have not yet been developed, and/or

  - Full funding for construction or implementation has not been identified.

  - Project title and description should use the word "study".

  - Improvement Type in the Conformity Information section should be set to Study.

- Otherwise, projects that have a clear scope and funding "reasonably expected to be available" are included in Visualize 2050 for construction or implementation.

  - Project title should NOT include the word "study".

  - If FMIS or other constraints require that a project title keeps the "S"-word, use the "Federal Project Title" (on Project IDs tab) and submit a more descriptive title without the word "study".

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Reminders: PIT Form

- New required fields for all records:

  - **Source Document:** For <u>programmed projects</u>, provide the name of the sponsor agency's approved plan, program or other budgetary document that includes this project. For <u>future projects</u>, provide the approved plan or study.

    - Additional plans from agencies not responsible for implementation may be listed in the Narrative field below.

  - **Source Document Page/Record Link:** provide a valid web address that preferably links directly to the page or data record for that specific project.

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Reminders: PIT Crew

- Q&A Sessions bi-monthly on Fridays between Tech and TPB weeks

- Developing a FAQ page to be regularly updated in the Visualize 2050 & FY 2026-2029 Inputs channel

- All inquiries about project inputs must be sent to PIThelp@mwcog.org or in a new discussion post in the PIT Crew's Visualize 2050 and FY 2026-2020 TIP Inputs channel using #PIThelp

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Transit Inputs: Projects

- Update to the National Capital Region Transportation Plan: Visualize 2050 and the 2026-2029 TIP Development

- Highway and transit inputs for the Air Quality Conformity (AQC) analysis **due December 29, 2023** to TPB staff

Transit Inputs: Details

- Transit network coding details needed for projects in the Visualize 2050 Air Quality Conformity analysis

- Review and update network coding assumptions for existing projects and provide assumptions for new projects

- Forecast year assumptions built upon Fall 2023 base service

- Provide network coding details in writing by March 1, 2024

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Transit Inputs: Details Needed

Transit network coding details needed:

- ✓ Detailed Routes (street to street path)
- ✓ Stop Locations
- ✓ Peak and Off-Peak Headways
- ✓ Run Times
- ✓ Fare Assumptions

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Marcela Moreno

Transportation Planner III

(202) 962-3273

mmoreno@mwcog.org

Andrew Austin

Transportation Planner IV

(202) 962-3353

aaustin@mwcog.org

Jane Posey

Principal Transportation Engineer

(202) 962-3331

jposey@mwcog.org

mwcog.org

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300

Washington, DC 20002

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