



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

TPB FREIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE WEB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS **TOPIC: PREPARATION FOR OCTOBER TPB FREIGHT PLAN WORK SESSION**

The TPB Freight Subcommittee met via web conference on October 8, 2015 at COG. Highlights of the meeting are described below.

Update on Recent TPB Work Session Preparation Activities

In July TPB chairman Phil Mendelson requested that the board have an early look and discussion at the draft regional freight plan in order to provide policy level input into the otherwise technical level document. This led to plans for a TPB work session on this topic. Work sessions such as this are typically held during the morning of a regularly scheduled TPB meeting, enabling board members to Dell into greater detail on topics of interest. This freight policy work session will begin at 10:30 AM on October 21 and will be followed by a short summary item during the regular TPB meeting starting at noon. TPB staff has been working with the freight subcommittee, the TPB technical committee, and the TPB steering committee to prepare for the work session.

A key element of the preparations is the gathering of written stakeholder input for distribution to board members ahead of the work session since there will not be enough time for stakeholders to convey this information during the work session. Guidance from both COG's director of transportation and the TPB chairman is to (1) keep staff presentations to a minimum in order to enable the maximum amount of time for discussion among the elected officials, and (2) have staff summarize the results of the work session and use it to draft a policy section of the draft freight plan for review and approval by the board in subsequent months.

TPB staff is now preparing information for the TPB's read ahead package that goes out six days prior to the meeting. Staff is also working to finalize the work session agenda, develop the content of the read ahead package, and develop the content of the extremely brief presentation TPB staff will give at the work session.

Call for Outreach to Encourage Participation in the TPB Work Session

Mr. Schermann encouraged stakeholders to attend the TPB work session to be able to answer questions from board members. He further noted that the work session is not a formal board meeting with minutes and that it is important that the policy discussions be informed by facts and that knowledgeable stakeholders are there to provide input.

Review of Draft Agenda and Staff Presentation for the TPB Work Session

Mr. Schermann noted that the agenda for the work session covers only 75 minutes of which there are 15 minutes for the regional freight overview and 10 minutes for the summary of stakeholder comments. Because of the limited time available, the overview must be strategic and not comprehensive. While the presentation was still under development, Mr. Schermann summarized the elements considered for inclusion. Stakeholders suggested the addition of several elements for consideration by staff. Mr. Schermann noted that due to the limited time available, some important elements will not be able to be covered in the presentation, but could be included as part of the mail out package.

Next TPB Freight Subcommittee Meeting: November 5, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Debbie Bowden, Maryland Department of Transportation
Rick Crawford, Norfolk Southern Corporation
Stephen Flippin, CSX Transportation
Christine Hoeffner, Virginia Railway Express
L' Kiesha Markley, Maryland State Highway Administration
Chip Millard, Federal Highway Administration
Michael Onder, CDM Smith
Laura Richards, District Department of Transportation
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation
Rahul Trivedi, Virginia Department of Transportation
Victor Weissberg, Prince George's County

MWCOG STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Andrew Meese, MWCOG-DTP
Jon Schermann, MWCOG-DTP