



UPCOMING MEETINGS
AND ITEMS OF
INTEREST:

- **Transportation Planning Board (TPB) Meeting, November, 14: CANCELLED**
- **TPB Citizens Advisory Committee Seeking Applications from Interested Citizens: see page 4**
- **TPB Meeting, December 19: Approval of the TPB Participation Plan and review of the 2007 CLRP and 2008-2013 TIP**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
OF *TPB news*:

- TPB Honors and Awards 2**
- Texas Transportation Institute Documents Nationwide Congestion Trends 4**
- How you can Participate: 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee 4**
- Other October Agenda Items 5**
- TPB Outreach Forums in the District of Columbia 7**
- Calendar of Events 8**

TPB news

A Publication of the
National Capital Region
Transportation
Planning
Board

VOLUME XV, ISSUE 4

NOVEMBER 2007



MORE PROJECTS IN FY 2008 FOR THE TLC PROGRAM

Following a positive evaluation of the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program in its pilot phase, the TPB in October approved an amendment to the FY 2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to continue and expand the Program.

In FY 2008, the TPB will administer at least eleven technical assistance projects under the TLC Program. The TPB adopted staff recommendations to increase the number of technical assistance projects funded through the Program, from five location-specific projects to at least six of these projects. TPB staff will also maintain and update the TLC website, developed through consultant services during the pilot phase of the TLC Program.

The TPB also will administer funding received through a grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Multimodal Grant Program. The following

(Continued on page 3)



Source: beyonddc.com

The Transportation Planning Board's TLC Program provides support to local jurisdictions as they work through integrating land-use and transportation planning at the community level. The Program shares national proven tools with local governments and agencies across the region, and highlights regional success stories through the Regional Clearinghouse.

TPB HOSTS FORUM ON THE TIP

On October 11, the TPB hosted its first annual public forum on the region's six-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The meeting was designed to give citizens a preview of the draft FY2008-2013 TIP and provide background information on the annual process for developing the program.

As required by federal law, the TIP includes all the regionally significant projects that are anticipated to be funded over the next six years. Along with the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP), the TIP is one of the TPB's fundamental planning documents.

(Continued on page 6)

TPB HONORS KATHY PORTER



Takoma Park Mayor Kathy Porter (left) received recognition for her many years of service to the TPB from Chair Cathy Hudgins at the TPB meeting on October 17. Mayor Porter has served in many capacities on the TPB, including chairing the Access for All (AFA) Committee and the Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force. “During the time I have been on the Board, I have seen the TPB evolve into a much more proactive regional entity that has taken some very positive steps toward improving transportation in the region,” said Mayor Porter as she thanked fellow TPB members and staff for their support during her years of service to the TPB. ▲

RECOGNITION FOR TPB PROGRAMS

The TPB received an award from the *Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO)* at the 2007 AMPO Annual Conference in early October. The Honorable Mention Award for Excellence in Metropolitan Transportation Planning was presented to the TPB for the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan and Program.

The TPB took the initiative in becoming one of the first metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) to serve as a designated recipient for the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs under the 2005 federal transportation reauthorization legislation (SAFETEA-LU). The TPB achieved consensus on its new role by effectively involving regional transportation partners, human service agencies, private transportation providers and consumer advocates early in the process. The TPB put an emphasis on “customers first,” which helped overcome parochial and institutional barriers. Through this award, AMPO acknowledges the TPB’s

Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan as a model for addressing funding challenges and multi-state complexities in other metropolitan areas.

The TPB was presented with the Outstanding Award for an Implemented Program/Tool for the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program at the *National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association (NCAC-APA)* 60th Anniversary and Awards Gala on November 8, 2007. This award is given for a program or tool that is a significant advancement to the planning profession and that fosters greater participation in community planning.

TPB Chair Cathy Hudgins accepted the honor, which was jointly awarded to the TPB for the TLC Program and also to Toole Design Group and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commissions in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties for their work on the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Pedestrian Access and Mobility Study. This Study was completed as part of the pilot phase of the TLC Program for the Counties. ▲

For more information
about the JARC and
New Freedom
programs, please
visit the program
website at
[www.mwcog.org/
tpbcoordination](http://www.mwcog.org/tpbcoordination)



FY 2008 TLC PROGRAM

(Continued from page 1)

five additional technical assistance projects will be completed in FY 2008 through this VDOT Program:

City of Alexandria

Review of the Transportation Management Plan Program. The City of Alexandria requested consultant services to review their Transportation Management Plan (TMP) Program and provide recommendations for improving the policy framework and implementation of the Program.

Fairfax County

A Review of Past Land-Use and Transportation Projects. Fairfax County requested consultant services to review several implemented land-use projects that incorporated transportation improvements as part of the development. The final product will provide the County with a survey of the effectiveness of these past projects and recommendations for improving future transportation components.

City of Falls Church

South Washington Street Corridor Planning. The TLC grant will provide the City of Falls Church with technical assistance for corridor planning along South Washington Street, which will complement a

collaborative planning effort between Arlington County and Falls Church around the East Falls Church Metro Station.

Town of Leesburg

An Analysis of Bus Rapid Transit for Leesburg. The Town of Leesburg, through TPB member jurisdiction Loudoun County, requested technical assistance for an analysis of the potential for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) from Leesburg to the terminus station of the Dulles Metrorail extension.

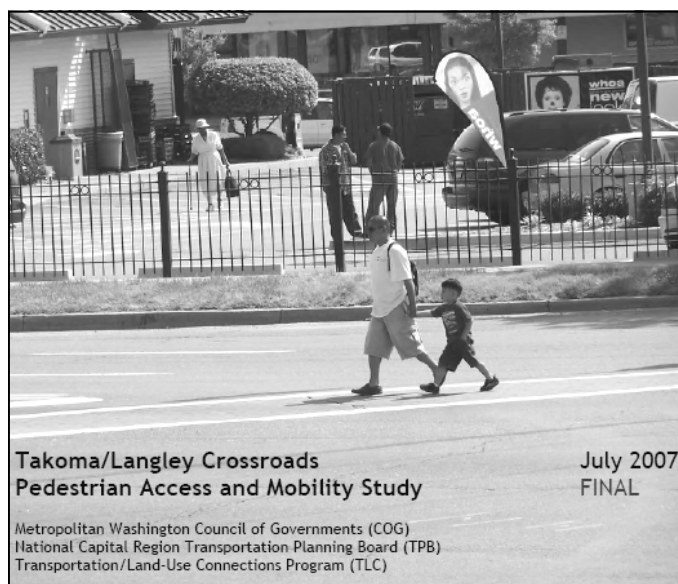
City of Manassas Park

City Core Planning and Development. The City requested technical assistance to examine development potential around the planned Park Center development and other land-use opportunities around the Manassas Park Virginia Railway Express (VRE) train station.

The TPB began the TLC Program in FY 2007 with a pilot phase including five location-specific technical assistance projects and one region-wide public presentation on density issues. Projects completed in the pilot phase addressed a wide range of issues linking transportation and land-use. Technical assistance was provide to:

- District of Columbia Office of Planning for a scope of work for a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan for the Potomac Avenue Metro Station,
- Montgomery and Prince George's County Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commissions for a pedestrian mobility study for the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Sector Plan,
- Charles County for urban roadway standards for the St. Charles Urbanized Area,
- Fairfax County for an analysis of appropriate levels of service around Transit-Oriented Development, and
- Prince William County for a scope of work for a planning study to determine appropriate land-use and transportation actions in response to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decision.

For more information about the FY 2007 pilot phase projects, upcoming FY 2008 projects, and the TLC Program, please visit the program website at www.mwcog.org/tlc. ▲



Takoma/Langley Crossroads
Pedestrian Access and Mobility Study

July 2007
FINAL

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)
Transportation/Land-Use Connections Program (TLC)

Source: Toole Design Group

The Study produced by Toole Design Group for the TLC Program jointly won the Outstanding Award for a Program/Tool at the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association Gala with the TPB and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commissions of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE DOCUMENTS NATIONWIDE CONGESTION TRENDS

“Traffic congestion continues to worsen in American cities of all sizes, creating a \$78 billion drain on the US economy.”
– Press Release of the Urban Mobility Report

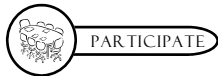
According to the headline-grabbing results of the Texas Transportation Institute’s 2007 Urban Mobility Report (TTI Report), the Washington Region’s congestion ranks second in the nation. At the TPB’s October 17 meeting, Ron Kirby, Director of COG’s Department of Transportation Planning, suggested that these annual rankings may distract from the real value of the TTI Report, which is the finding that congestion is getting worse everywhere.

“What is really dramatic about this report is that these trends are going in the same direction everywhere in the country,” said Kirby. “That suggests that this has more to do with national policies than it does with what we’re doing in this area or any other area.”

Mr. Kirby emphasized that the primary value of the TTI Report is in studying how urban areas across the country are performing over time. These performance trends are not encouraging. The report authors emphasized that congestion is worse in urban areas of all sizes.

Even though the methodology in the TTI Report has improved over time, Mr. Kirby said it still provides average conditions across a region and it not a substitute for a regional congestion monitoring program which can identify location, direction, and time-specific problem areas. The TPB’s Congestion Monitoring Program for highways represents such a study of the Washington area freeway system for morning and evening peak periods. The

(Continued on the next page)



BE PART OF THE 2008 TPB CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Visit www.mwcog.org/transportation for more information and to complete an application

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for membership on the 2008 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), please contact TPB staff by December 7, 2007. The TPB’s public involvement process encourages candidates who “represent environmental, business, and civic interests in transportation, including appropriate representation from low-income, minority, and disabled groups and from the geographic area covered by the TPB.”

For more information, contact John Swanson (202-962-3295 or jswanson@mwcog.org) or Sarah Crawford (202-962-3237 or scrawford@mwcog.org). ▲

New Look for *TPB news*

TPB news has a new format that should make it easier for you to find the information you are looking for:

- Icons representing key issues
- Table of Contents
- Items of Interest highlighted on the cover page

Please provide us with feedback on the new design of *TPB news* by visiting: <http://www.mwcog.org/transportation/public>. ▲

TPB News, 777 North Capitol St, NE, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290
202-962-3237; scrawford@mwcog.org
“TPB News” at www.mwcog.org/transportation

Program identifies congestion by location, time, and intensity (including the top ten congested locations). The Congestion Monitoring Program for arterial roadways uses global positioning system (GPS) technology, which provides speed information every two seconds along the arterial roads being studied and helps identify bottlenecks.

In addition, the TPB is currently developing a Congestion Management Process, which will evaluate transportation system performance and compile project-specific congestion management information. The Congestion Management Process will also define, analyze, implement, and assess strategies for improving regional mobility.

Beyond the technical analysis of congestion, there are policy implications that can be drawn from our growing road congestion problems. Traditional federal and state funding sources, such as the gasoline tax, have not kept pace with needs. Much of the responsibility for adding capacity appears to be shifting to local funding sources and tolls.

Two commissions were established under SAFETEA-LU to review congestion and transportation project financing at the national level. *The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission* is charged with completing a comprehensive study of the national surface transportation system and the Highway Trust Fund. This commission will then develop a conceptual plan with alternative approaches to ensure that this national transportation system continues to serve the needs of the United States. A report is expected in December 2007.

The National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission is charged with analyzing future highway and transit needs and the finances of the Highway Trust Fund and making recommendations regarding alternative approaches to financing transportation infrastructure. A report is expected early in 2008. ▲

TPB

Alphabet Soup

AFA	Access for All Committee
CAC	Citizen's Advisory Committee
CLRP	Constrained Long-Range 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
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

OTHER OCTOBER AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB's October 17 agenda included the following items in addition to the topics covered elsewhere in this newsletter:

- Approval of the *Final Call for Projects Document for the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009-2014 TIP* to better align TPB and state DOT approvals with the federal fiscal year. To read briefing materials, go to www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb and see Item 7 for the October 17 meeting.
- Briefing on the *I-95 Corridor Coalition Activities in the Washington Region*, including the Mid-Atlantic Rail Operations (MAROps) Study. To read briefing materials, go to www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb and see Item 9 for the October 17 meeting.
- A status report on the *Draft 2007 CLRP, FY 2008-2013 TIP and Air Quality Conformity Assessment*. For more information, go to www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb and see Item 11 for the October 17 meeting.
- A review of the *Draft Agreement Between the TPB, the State DOTs, and the Public Transportation Operators* on Metropolitan Transportation Planning Responsibilities in the Washington Region. For more information, go to www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb and see Item 12 for the October 17 meeting. ▲

TIP PUBLIC FORUM

For more information about the Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRPP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), please visit the CLRPP website at www.mwcog.org/clrp

(Continued from page 1)

The 2005 federal transportation reauthorization legislation (SAFETEA-LU) requires metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) like the TPB to conduct a public meeting during the TIP development process.

The TIP forum featured presentations from the agencies responsible for implementing transportation in the region, including the state departments of transportation and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). Representatives of these agencies provided insight into their project selection processes and agency revenue streams. The forum was held during the second hour of the regular TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting.

TPB staff provided information about federal requirements detailing the development of the TIP; financial summaries of transportation funding for the state DOTs and WMATA; and the schedule for approval of the TIP. Representatives from the DOTs of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia (DDOT, MDOT, and VDOT) and WMATA described how projects are developed, prioritized and funded within their jurisdictions. The agency staff discussed the process for

approving a project for construction and opportunities for the public to be involved in the project development process.

The public forum provided an opportunity for citizens to voice their concerns about project development within their jurisdictions. Participants inquired about strategies the agencies use to identify projects of regional significance. Agency staff responded that while most projects are conceptualized at the local or state levels, the agencies have recently been increasing coordination on regional priorities.

Participants also commented that it is difficult for the average citizen to make connections between how the TIP relates to local plans and to the CLRPP. They suggested that staff should develop materials to show how the individual projects listed in the TIP fit into the wider regional context. Other questions focused on specific transportation project coordination among the departments of transportation.

The TIP is scheduled to be released for public comment on December 13, along with the 2007 Constrained Long-Range Plan. ▲



ON THE WEB

Subscribe Online

Readers of the *TPB* news can now subscribe to get the newsletter and other TPB-related materials online.

Visit our website at www.mwcog.org/subscribe and enter your name and e-mail address to sign up. Monthly notifications are sent out directing readers to find the TPB news on the web.

In addition to the newsletter, readers can subscribe to other publications and TPB meeting materials. ▲



On October 23, members of the District of Columbia Federation of Citizens Association participated in an exercise that encourages residents to provide transportation infrastructure to accommodate growth in the region. The activity also asks residents to direct forecasted employment and household growth.

OUTREACH FORUMS IN THE DISTRICT

In recent weeks, TPB staff has conducted outreach forums in the District of Columbia with the DC Federation of Citizens Association and residents of Ward 7. The forums are part of a series called "What If the Washington Region Grew Differently?" They provide information on the TPB's transportation and land-use scenario study, the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Scenario Study. TPB staff will report feedback provided at the District forums to the TPB Scenario Study Task Force to help shape future scenario planning activities and other TPB actions that may be appropriate. ▲



On October 29, residents in Ward 7 decide where they believe transportation infrastructure is needed to accommodate forecasted employment and household growth.

2009 MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is updating its Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan, known as the Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP). This plan establishes a 20-year vision for transportation in Maryland and helps guide statewide improvements across all means of transportation, including highways, roads, tunnels, bridges, trains, buses, water ports, airports, bike paths, and sidewalks.

MDOT updates the MTP every five years to address current and future transportation challenges, needs and conditions and strives to create a plan that reflects and responds to Maryland's residents, businesses, local governments, and communities. MDOT is conducting extensive public outreach to engage you, as a user of the Maryland transportation system, as well as numerous other citizens, agencies, and interested organizations to help revise the long-range vision, goals, and objectives of the MTP.

MDOT welcomes your input! Help shape the future of transportation in Maryland:

- Visit the MTP project website at www.mdot.state.md.us/Planning
- Complete an online 10-minute survey or comment card
- Join MDOT's mailing list to stay informed

To learn more, contact Ron Spalding, MTP Project Manager at mtupdate2@mdot.state.md.us or visit www.mdot.state.md.us/Planning. ▲

UPCOMING DECEMBER AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB's November 14 meeting was cancelled. The December 19 agenda is expected to include:

- Approval of the TPB Participation Plan. To review the Draft TPB Participation Plan, go to www.mwcog.org/transportation.
- Report of the Nominating Committee for TPB Officers and approval of the slate of TPB Officers for the year 2008.
- Briefing on the Draft Air Quality Conformity

Assessment for the 2007 CLRP and FY 2008-2013 TIP.

- Briefing on the Draft 2007 CLRP and FY 2008-2013 TIP. For more information about the 2007 CLRP and the FY 2008-2013 TIP, visit the CLRP website at www.mwcog.org/clrp.

Information and materials for the December 19 TPB meeting will be posted on the TPB website one week prior to the meeting: www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb

▲



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.).

November 2007

- 2 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 2 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 8 Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (1:30 pm)
- 8 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 14 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 14 Transportation Planning Board (CANCELLED)**
- 15 Access for All Advisory Committee (2 pm)
- 16 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 17 Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Evaluation Group (10 am)
- 20 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 20 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 27 Travel Management Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 27 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 29 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 29 Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force (noon)

December 2007

- 5 Task Force on Value Pricing for Transportation (10 am)
- 7 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 7 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 13 Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (1 pm)
- 13 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 18 Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Marketing Group (noon)
- 19 TPB Scenario Study Task Force (10:00 am)
- 19 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**

January 2008

- 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 (1 pm)
- 10 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 15 Employer Outreach Committee (10 am)
- 15 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 15 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 16 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 17 Access for All Advisory Committee (2 pm)
- 18 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 22 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 29 Travel Management Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 30 Task Force on Value Pricing for Transportation (10 am)
- 31 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 31 Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force (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@mwkog.org, (202) 962-3237 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Allow seven working days for preparation of material.

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. Postage Paid
Washington, D.C.
Permit #9770