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**TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING RECAP**

July 9, 2021

**1. WELCOME, VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES, AND MEMBER ROLL CALL PROTOCOL**

Staff described the procedures and protocols for the virtual meeting and conducted a roll call. Meeting participants are documented in the attached attendance list.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 4, 2021 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

There were no questions or comments regarding the May Technical Committee meeting. The minutes were approved.

**3. RECAP OF TPB MEETING**

Director Srikanth gave a brief recap of the June 16 TPB meeting. He began by acknowledging the huge amount of work that staff and stakeholders have done thus far. The TPB approved the conformity inputs at the June meeting and Mr. Srikanth spoke about the approved Resolution R19-2021 and both of its parts. The second clause of the resolution refers to the 2024 update of the long-range transportation plan and will include 2 features: the plan will be formed through scenario planning analysis and will not make any assumptions for projects from the 2022 plan to the 2024 update, also referred to as a zero-based budgeting approach. The first clause approved the conformity inputs and the cooperative forecast. There was also the approval of a list of projects with 617 line items. One project was not approved, the Maryland Express/HOT Lanes (I-495/I-270) project.

Mr. Srikanth noted that following the approval of the resolution, staff have begun coding the conformity work into the travel demand model and also spoke about the 9-month process. Taking action in June was important to stay on time with the federally mandated update schedule. Since the meeting, he noted that there had been a lot of discussion about the removal of the Maryland I-495/I-270 project since the weighted vote occurred. Specifically, there were two phases of news and communication, the first occurring on June 21 when MDOT wrote to the TPB notifying that the removal of this project included \$6 billion of funding from a Public-Private Partnership (PPP). Of that \$6 billion, \$1.5 billion was going towards the rebuilding and maintenance of American Legion Bridge. MDOT noted that the \$1.5 billion will now be the state's responsibility to pay for the American Legion Bridge and that the conformity list of Maryland projects is no longer fiscally constrained. MDOT would have to amend the list of projects to stay fiscally constrained. Staff developed a list of Maryland projects and costs and sent it to MDOT. TPB staff recommended that MDOT review and propose a list of projects to delete/downgrade, to ensure fiscally constraint, and that they issue a notice that TPB will be modifying the list of projects that were approved on June 16.

On July 7, MDOT sent the TPB a response letter noting all projects that they can remove will be projects with a completion date of 2035 or earlier. MDOT's letter contained a list of projects, adding up to \$2.8 billion, that could be chosen to be removed from the plan. MDOT will provide a revised list with a set of projects that will add up to \$1.5 billion in time for the July TPB meeting. MDOT as well as Maryland localities have notified TPB staff and MDOT that the removal of the Maryland I-495/I-270 project has impacted construction, operations, and implementation of other projects that were included in the conformity list that was approved on June 16. These impacts are new information that was not available when the project was removed from the list in June and TPB staff has received requests to revisit the removal of the project. This issue will be included as another action that TPB staff will propose to be included in the July TPB agenda.

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Mr. Erenrich (Montgomery County) noted that projects that will be completed from 2035-2045 should also be considered and, by only including projects from 2021-2035, it is not a comprehensive review and analysis of the projects. He also asked that TPB staff share the list of Maryland projects and costs that were sent to MDOT with the Technical Committee. Mr. Srikanth noted that the list can be shared. He also noted that all of Mr. Erenrich's points are valid but not for TPB staff to get involved in.

Mr. Weissberg (Prince George's County) agreed that all projects should be considered and asked for clarification on the financial constraint for Maryland and the offset of funding. Mr. Srikanth explained the funding for the Maryland Express/HOT Lanes (I-495/I-270) project and referred to MDOT for further information.

Ms. Snyder (MDOT) acknowledged that MDOT will be considering the addition of all projects from 2021- 2045 in their list of potential projects to cut or downgrade from the conformity list. She will be reaching out to localities to discuss different scenarios or groups of projects to be removed to reach fiscal constraint. She also noted that for fiscal constraint, the cost estimate for the American Legion Bridge and associated system preservation benefits were from a managed lanes study and assumptions that went with the process.

Mr. Whitaker (VDOT) commented on the zero-based budgeting concept for the 2024 update. He noted that projects that are already funded are exempt from zero-based budgeting as 'committed' projects and that this is a concept that many regional planning organizations use. Mr. Srikanth confirmed that he is correct and that it is noted in the second clause of the resolution.

Ms. Williams (VDRPT) commented that VDRPT and MDOT have completed the I-495/American Legion Bridge Transit and TDM plan earlier this year. It included transit recommendations going over the American Legion Bridge and expressed concern for what it could mean for the transit projects if the American Legion Bridge project was removed. Mr. Srikanth acknowledged the existing plans to operate express busses and lanes from Maryland to Virginia and noted her comments were accurate.

Mr. Brown (Loudoun County) commented that the draft agenda for the July TPB meeting, found in the Steering Committee agenda, has the resolution action as item #10. He recommended that it is moved to the beginning of the meeting and opening remarks are condensed to give the Board members as much time as possible for discussion. Mr. Srikanth noted the suggestion and mentioned items could be moved around.

Ms. Sinner (VDOT) asked what would happen if there is no agreement on a revised list of Maryland projects that meet fiscal constraint during the August meeting. She also noted the importance of meeting the federal deadline for adopting the plan due to transit, paving, and transportation project funding tied to it. Mr. Srikanth responded saying the December deadline will be missed if there is no adopted revised list of fiscally-constrained projects by the proposed August meeting.

## **ITEMS FOR THE BOARD AGENDA**

### **4. ARPA APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND TIMELINE FOR SELECTION AND TPB APPROVAL**

Ms. Winchell-Mendy provided the committee with a brief overview of FTA's American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funding, eligibility criteria, selection criteria and the selection process. She then shared the types of applications received and from which jurisdictions, and the timeline for TPB and FTA approval of projects recommended for funding. There were no questions.

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## **5. FY 2021 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET ASIDE PROGRAM FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND MARYLAND TPB JURISDICTIONS**

Ms. Koudounas shared the FY 2022 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP) Selection Panels' recommendations for Maryland and the District of Columbia. Ms. Koudounas explained that later that day (Friday, July 9, 2021) the TPB Steering Committee would be voting on two resolutions to approve the proposed project funding recommendations for Maryland and DC.

This year, there was \$2,930,671 available for the Maryland regional suballocation. MDOT received ten eligible applications representing a total of \$13,269,768 in requested funding. The selection panel recommended funding for six projects for a total of \$2,688,501 with \$242,170 remaining. This year there was \$1,030,989 available for the DC regional suballocation. DDOT received four eligible applications representing a total of \$1,030,989 in requested funding. The selection panel recommended full funding for four projects for a total of \$1,030,989 with \$0 remaining. There were no questions regarding Ms. Koudounas' presentation. Kari Snyder (MDOT) added further detail that the remaining Maryland TAP applications that were not funded would be sent to the state of Maryland for further funding consideration.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **6. VOICES OF THE REGION FOCUS GROUPS**

Ms. Armendariz spoke about the summary of findings from the focus groups conducted earlier this year. She went over the purpose of the focus groups, the selection for the different sessions, and discussed the participation selection process. The analysis of the focus groups consisted of 17 hours of audio and 600 pages of transcripts that were analyzed using a qualitative analysis software program, MAXQDA. The summary of the findings was presented from this qualitative analysis and staff went over highlights and notable quotes from the three sections: equity, safety, and climate change. Data from this summary will be found in a focus group report, used to supplement the Voices of the Region survey, incorporated through the Visualize 2045 update, and will be included in the Voices of the Region story map.

### **7. ASPIRATION TO IMPLEMENTATION: PUBLIC OUTREACH ON EXISTING PROJECTS THAT ALIGN WITH THE ASPIRATION INITIATIVES**

Ms. Armendariz spoke about the Aspiration to Implementation activity. She noted that posters are being put up that align with the aspiration initiatives. Most of the posters have been placed with the remaining being finalized for their locations. Success has already been seen with several of the posters with residents filling out the survey from the QR code found on it. Ambassador kits will also be provided to members to spread the word about the Aspiration to Implementation outreach activity. Information acquired from this activity will be used to bring together more information from the public perspective.

### **8. LOCAL AND REGIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE PLANNING**

COG's electric vehicle (EV) efforts began in 2011. Efforts included workshops, ride and drives, a regional EV report and a cooperative purchase program. The 2012 EV Report put forth three primary objectives: 1- to develop a regional strategy that addresses obstacles to infrastructure planning, 2- promote EV adoption as a transportation alternative, and 3- work to help remove barriers to EV adoption and infrastructure. In 2015 COG negotiated an MOU agreement with Vision Fleet, an EV consulting firm, to provide free fleet analysis for four fleets: DC, Prince George's County and the Cities of Alexandria and Frederick. This historical work set the stage for developing regional zero emission vehicle (ZEV) targets outlined in the 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan, as well as EV-related actions and plans undertaken by individual jurisdictions.

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Jurisdictions can take advantage of EV deployment and infrastructure opportunities through the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation program at their state environmental offices, Electrify America's ZEV Investment Program and area utilities, including Dominion Energy, Pepco, BGE and SMECO. For additional support, COG's master contracts with ICF and Cadmus can be used for climate, energy and EV planning. Prince George's County, Frederick County, the City of Rockville and Montgomery County have used the contract through task order agreements. COG is developing the framework for regional study that would layout the common elements of EV plan. Jurisdictions will be able to use the study as a launch point for individually tailored EV plans.

## **9. TRAVEL TRENDS DASHBOARD DEMONSTRATION**

Mr. Canan kicked off this item by informing the committee that the UPWP calls for TPB to prepare more enhanced visualizations of its data and products. Developing a web-based dashboard of various transportation statistics for the region is an important first step. Staff began this activity earlier in the fiscal year and wanted to provide the Committee with a sneak peak at an early "work in progress" prototype of the dashboard under development.

Ms. Howard gave the demonstration to the committee. The dashboard contained a mix of GIS maps, data tables and graphics. The dashboard entails several tools used together, including ArcGIS and Tableau, among others. The subject areas demonstrated by Ms. Howard include visualizations on traffic volumes, commuting, transit ridership, system performance (bridges and roadways), and safety. The dashboard will eventually contain a broader suite of information and Committee members were asked for their input. Suggestions included displaying commuter rail ridership as well as functionality to export data. Staff will consider these suggestions, as well as any others provided by members, as they continue to develop this resource.

## **10. UPDATE ON CONNECTED AND AUTOMATED VEHICLES**

Mr. Meese presented, referring to a memorandum included in the meeting materials. Following publication of Visualize 2045 in 2018, the need was identified to strengthen TPB planning regarding connected and automated vehicles (CAVs), which is challenging because of high uncertainty in CAV technology development and market forces. Steps since then have included staff commissioning a consultant white paper on CAV considerations for the TPB planning process, as well as holding a series of informational webinars. These are helping advise CAV content for the next version of Visualize 2045, including a specific recommendation to develop TPB regional CAV principles. Principles were envisioned to be phrased at the policy level, not delving into tactical or engineering details.

Staff presented a strawman draft of CAV principles the day before this meeting, at the July 8 Systems Performance, Operations, and Technology Subcommittee (SPOTS). SPOTS provided important feedback. Staff will make changes based on this feedback for a next version of the draft CAV principles, anticipated to be presented for review at the September 3 TPB Technical Committee meeting (after a second SPOTS review on September 2). The goal is to then take this to the TPB for review and approval this fall, for subsequent inclusion in the text of the upcoming Visualize 2045 update. Mr. Meese noted that, for anyone who may be interested, detailed materials were available on the TPB website for the July 8 SPOTS meeting calendar entry, but advised that these materials were draft pre-meeting materials for SPOTS that will be superseded.

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## OTHER ITEMS

### 11. OTHER BUSINESS

#### 2017/2018 Regional Travel Survey In-Depth Analysis

Staff shared information about the Regional Travel Survey (RTS) In-Depth Analysis with the Technical committee. Staff did research and analysis on a number of submitted questions using data from the Regional Travel Survey. The analysis can be found on the RTS webpage. A presentation on findings will be held later in the month and there will be a presentation on it to the Technical committee in the fall.

#### Car Free Day

Staff informed the Technical committee about Car Free Day on September 22. The proclamation is planned for the September Board meeting. Before the meeting, TPB is working with the Car Free Day steering committee to get local jurisdictions to adopt a Car Free Day proclamation. Car Free Day encourages residents to use alternative forms of travel.

#### Resiliency Study Update

Staff updated the Technical committee on the status of the Resiliency Study. This study is a first step to look at the issue of resiliency in the region. An internal memo and a whitepaper are being developed and will serve as a companion to the long-range plan. After internal review, the TPB will be sharing the draft whitepaper for review to technical members who contributed to the study. An e-mail will be going out to those members.

#### HCT Map Project

Staff updated the Technical committee on the status of the High Capacity Transit map project. Partner engagement will begin soon after the proposal is approved.

#### Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) update

Staff updated the Technical committee on the Transportation and Climate Initiative. A number of draft materials were released on June 10 for public review. This review will be active until August 13 and a memo with an overview of the draft documents will be included in the Directors Report in the July TPB meeting materials.

#### TPB Climate Change and Mitigation Study (CCMS): Release of Full Literature Review with Executive Summary

Staff informed the Technical committee about the CCMS study. A brief overview of the study and its process was shared. The Literature Review is available to be downloaded on the Technical committee meeting page. Staff also went over the next steps for the study. Please contact Mark Moran if there are any questions or comments on the CCMS.

#### Return to Office

Staff informed the Technical committee about COG/TPB's return to office. COG staff are currently on maximum telework until September where staff may then choose to telework up to 3 days a week. Also in September, the building should be open to members for meetings with the option to attend virtually. New equipment is being tested to run hybrid meetings. A survey will be going out in a few weeks to cover all questions related to in-person hybrid meetings.

### 12. ADJOURN

No other business was brought before the committee.

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## ATTENDANCE

### MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT

Mark Rawlings – DC DOT Kristin Calkins – DCOP Jason Groth – Charles County Mark Mishler – Frederick County Kari Snyder – MDOT Gary Erenrich – Montgomery County Victor Weissberg – Prince George’s County Emad Elshafei – Rockville Jennifer Slesinger - Alexandria Dan Malouff – Arlington County Malcolm Watson – Fairfax County Robert Brown – Loudoun County	Chloe Delhomme – City of Manassas Sree Nampoothiri – NVTA Dan Goldfarb – NVTC Meagan Landis – Prince William County Betsy Massie – PRTC Norman Whitaker – VDOT Maria Sinner – VDOT Regina Moore – VDOT Ciara Williams – VDRPT Katherine Youngbluth - VDRPT Christine Hoeffner – VRE Mark Phillips – WMATA Laurel Hammig – NPS
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### OTHERS / MWCOG STAFF PRESENT

Lyn Erickson Kanti Srikanth Tim Canan Andrew Meese Mark Moran Andrew Austin Charlene Howard Nicole McCall Dusan Vuksan Jane Posey Bill Bacon Jon Schermann Nazneen Ferdous Eric Randall Erin Morrow	John Swanson Sergio Ritacco Leo Pineda Leah Boggs Sarah Bond Stacy Cook Karen Armendariz Janie Nham Kyona Davis Arianna Koudounas Jessica Mirr Jeff King Nicholas Ramfos Feng Xie
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