



## TPB REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

### Virtual Meeting Summary: April 26, 2022

#### ATTENDEES, total: 16

Spring Worth, DDOT (Chair)  
Deanna Archey, MCDOT  
Gary Erenrich, MCDOT  
Ronetta Zack-Williams, NVTC  
Charles David, DC DFHV  
Cody Christenson, RKK

Amir Shapir, VDOT  
Raka Choudhury, WMATA  
Melissa Kim, WMATA  
Stacy Weisfeld, WMATA  
Will Truong, MATOC

Andrew Meese, TPB  
Stacy Cook, TPB  
Zhou Yang, TPB  
Eric Randall, TPB  
Joe Davis, TPB  
James Li, TPB  
Lyn Erickson, TPB

#### AGENDA

##### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS, *Spring Worth, Chair*

- The meeting was called to order at 12:04 PM and a roll of online attendees was called.

##### 2. VISUALIZE 2045 OVERVIEW, *Stacy Cook, TPB*

- Stacy Cook briefed the committee on the recently published draft long range transportation plan, Visualize 2045. She reviewed the content of the plan and how it satisfies federal requirements.
- She highlighted the new section on transit in the main part of the plan as well as a new appendix summarizing transit developments plans (TDPs) and other transit planning documents in the region.

##### *Discussion:*

- Are there policy recommendations in the plan? The plan includes priorities identified by the board over the years, but there is no authority to require the adoption of any policies or recommendations.

##### 3. WMATA BUS PRIORITY UPDATE, *Raka Choudhury, WMATA*

- Raka Choudhury briefed the committee on projects, studies, and other activities being undertaken by WMATA to implement bus priority.
- Of note a Transit Signal Priority (TSP) project has just been implemented in Northern Virginia, in close cooperation with VDOT engineers.
- TSP has not proven as effective downtown as hoped. Analysis shows the bus stops and intersections are too close together to lead to a time savings benefit.
- Queue jump installation is now the focus. Analysis by Kittelson on what works where has

been very helpful; for instance, not at intersections where there are many right turn movements.

- Bus lanes cameras are the next step; an RFP is out now. The goal is for 50-70 cameras to be installed each year. These will be both bus-mounted enforcement cameras (BMECs) and stationary.
- All Door Boarding (ADB) is being planned for piloting on one route in each state.
- Small benefits add up. Though each bus priority measure may only save seconds, over the course of a 40-minute route traveled by many buses throughout the year, the operating improvements and benefits to travelers add up

*Discussion:*

- It was noted that enabling legislation for bus cameras outside of the District has not been accepted.
- In DC, DDOT has now been given the responsibility to enforce non-moving traffic violations. Similar efforts outside of DC have not advanced. Though some legislation has been passed for the bus lanes in Baltimore, which may be extended to other MD localities.
- In general, bus lane enforcement has been slow to spread anywhere in the US, despite many efforts.

**4. DC NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECT, Charles Davis, DC DFHV**

- Charles Davis briefed the committee on developments for the DC Neighborhood Connect paratransit service.
- He mentioned that the TPB-funded TLC study evaluating the service, being conducted by Foursquare ITP, has been particularly helpful in providing new direction.
- Late March brought a big change with the creation of a new zone, splitting a former zone into two with some expansion as well.
- Many riders use the service to access Metro (23%) or grocery stores, so the new zones are organized around providing good connections to the Metro stations and to key shopping centers. The Washington medical center is located in both zones to facilitate trips there as well as transfers between the zones
- New vehicles have arrived and the fleet is being expanded, with the goal of both reducing wait times and serving more eligible customers.
- The service has been free to date, but fares are being evaluated, including a \$4 flat fare.

*Discussion:*

- Are statistics for the service reported to the National Transit Database? Not sure.
- How would fare payment take place? Most likely using SmarTrip, though the travel app (provided by Via) already has credit/debit card details. Providing payments choices for the unbanked would be a big part of any implementation of fares.

**5. OTHER BUSINESS / ADJOURN, Spring Worth, Chair**

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 PM.
- The next meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2022

All meeting materials are available for download from the subcommittee's website:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2022/4/26/regional-public-transportation-subcommittee/>

