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**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

October 21, 2020

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Kelly Russell, TPB Chair – City of Frederick  
Mark Rawlings – DC DOT  
Lezlie Rupert – DC DOT  
Sakina Khan – DC Office of Planning  
Phil Mendelson – DC City Council  
Charles Allen – DC City Council  
Jeffrey Hirsch – Maryland DOT  
R. Earl Lewis, Jr. – Maryland DOT  
Jason Groth – Charles County  
Patrick Wojahn – College Park  
Denise Mitchell – College Park  
David Edmonston – City of Frederick  
Dennis Enslinger – Gaithersburg  
Neil Harris - Gaithersburg  
Emmet V. Jordon – Greenbelt  
Craig A. Moe – Laurel  
Bill Goddard - Laurel  
Gary Erenrich – Montgomery County Executive  
Evan Glass – Montgomery County Legislative  
Terry Bellamy – Prince George’s County Executive Office  
Victor Weissberg – Prince George’s County Executive Office  
Deni Taveras – Prince George’s County Legislative  
Bridget Donnell Newton – Rockville  
Kacy Kostiuk – Takoma Park  
Mark Korman – Maryland House of Delegates  
Carol Krimm – Maryland House of Delegates  
Maria Sinner – Virginia DOT  
Norman Whitaker – Virginia DOT  
Canek Aguirre – Alexandria  
Christian Dorsey – Arlington County  
Dan Malouff – Arlington county  
David Meyer – City of Fairfax  
Walter Alcorn – Fairfax County  
James Walkinshaw – Fairfax County  
David Snyder – Falls Church  
Robert Brown – Loudoun County  
Kristin Umstattd – Loudoun County  
Pamela J. Sebesky – Manassas  
Ann B. Wheeler – Prince William County  
Victor Angry – Prince William County  
Shyam Kannan – WMATA  
Sandra Jackson – FHWA DC  
Julia Koster – NCPC

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Tammy Stidham – NPS  
Dan Koenig – FTA  
Kyle Nembhard - MTA

**MWCOG STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Kanti Srikanth  
Chuck Bean  
Lyn Erickson  
Mark Moran  
Tim Canan  
Andrew Meese  
Tom Gates  
Stephen Waltz  
Stacy Cook  
Andrew Austin  
Bryan Hayes  
Sergio Ritacco  
John Swanson  
Dusan Vuksan  
Deborah Etheridge  
Abigail Zenner  
Erin Morrow  
Charlene Howard  
Ken Joh  
Maia Davis

Nancy Abeles – CAC  
Kristen Calkins – DC Office of Planning  
Dolly Turner – DC Council  
Jim Poticello – Virginia DOT  
Kari Snyder – Maryland DOT  
Christopher Laskowski – DC Council

Materials referenced in the minutes can be found here:

<https://www.mwco.org/events/2020/10/21/transportation-planning-board/>.

**1. VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES, MEMBER ROLL CALL, AND VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Chair Russell reminded the board that the meeting is being recorded and broadcast. She said the process for asking questions and voting is the same as past meetings. After each item, members will be asked to comment or vote by jurisdiction.

Ms. Erickson conducted a roll call. Members that were present are listed on page one of the minutes.

Chair Russell asked if any comments were received from the public.

Ms. Erickson said that one email was received. The comment, from Stewart Schwartz of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, requested that live testimonial be reintroduced to TPB meetings. The comment also referenced a letter the Coalition for Smarter Growth sent to the TPB concerning including additional transportation strategies beyond vehicle fleet electrification and TCI's cap and invest program in the COG Climate, Energy, and Environmental Policy Committee's Climate Action Plan.

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## **2. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Sebesky made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 16 TPB meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jordan and approved by the board.

## **3. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Nembhard said that the Technical Committee met on October 2 and was briefed on items before the board at this meeting. These include the Participation Plan update, the agenda for the work session on climate change, the high capacity transit station areas interactive map, and staff recommendations for updating the CAC.

## **4. CAC AND AFA REPORTS**

Ms. Abeles said that the CAC met on October 15. At the meeting the committee was briefed on staff recommendations for updating the committee. She said that the recommendations reflect feedback the committee has provided over the years. She said that detailed comments can be found in the CAC report. She said the committee endorsed the recommendations, including the one to bring broader representation from TPB member jurisdictions on the committee. She said the committee was also briefed on draft regional safety targets and the Regional Travel Survey.

Ms. Kostiuk said that the AFA met on October 6. The meeting started with a remembrance of Mr. Charlie Crawford, a longtime committee member who recently died. She said the committee was briefed on the Wheels to Wellness program, that coordinates rides for patients in Calvert, St. Mary's, and Charles Counties in Maryland. The committee was also briefed on the results of the National Aging and Disability Transportation Centers survey. Finally, the committee was briefed on the Visualize 2045 update. She added that she is stepping down as AFA chair and that TPB staff are seeking a replacement.

## **5. STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Srikanth referenced his report. He said that on pages 7 and 8 there was a joint TPB and COG letter to the National Capital Region's congressional delegation. On pages 11 and 12, there was a staff memo that describes staff work to analyze the travel, economic, and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **6. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Chair Russell thanked her vice-chairs for working with her to draft a letter to the congressional representatives of the region. She also thanked the COG board for its partnership on the letter. The letter acknowledged economic hardships faced by transit agencies during the pandemic and requests a fresh round of federal funding assistance.

Chair Russell referenced the work session on climate change that happened before the board meeting. She summarized the meeting agenda. She said she believes that the board must proactively engage with other regional planning entities and departments to work collectively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the changing climate.

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## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **7. PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE**

Mr. Hayes said that 45-day public comment period on the Participation Plan ended on October 9. He shared a summary of comments received, staff response to those comments, and a list of changes made to the plan based on those comments. Details can be found in the memo for this item.

Ms. Sebesky made a motion to adopt Resolution R7-2021 to approve the TPB's Participation Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Allen.

The resolution was adopted by the board.

### **8. INTERIM 2030 REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION GOAL**

Ms. Morrow referenced the work session that happened before the board meeting. She provided a summary of that meeting. More details on that meeting can be found in the materials for this item. She said that the resolution R8-2021 does three things. First, it affirms the 2030 interim regional greenhouse gas reduction goals. Second, it affirms the region's climate resilience goals. Third, it affirms the need to incorporate equity principles and expand education on climate change.

Ms. Krimm asked if telework is reflected in the resolution.

Mr. Srikanth said the resolution affirms regional goals for reducing greenhouse gases and that the action plan builds on strategies from the 2017 multi-sector working group, which calls for enhancement in regional travel demand management (TDM) strategies. These strategies include telework.

Ms. Krimm asked if there was data that demonstrates the decrease in emissions during the pandemic.

Mr. Srikanth said that data are not yet available for the pandemic, but that Commuter Connections conducts an evaluation of all TDM programs in the region and estimates the number of vehicle trips that have been reduced, including the reduction in miles driven and emissions. These data were last updated in 2019. He said that the 2030 climate action plan, which will be available in November, will highlight strategies that have the greatest potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Ms. Krimm requested that the TPB work with the federal Office of Personnel Management on this topic.

Ms. Kostiuk asked about the TPB's role in climate change. She said the Visualize 2045 aspirational initiatives are one way to address this, but they need to move from aspirational to tangible. She said that the board really needs to emphasize the impact of transit.

Mr. Srikanth said that Commuter Connections recently released a set of documents, called Commute with Confidence, that encourage people in the region to utilize all the mobility options that are available. He said this dedicated website is available to everyone in the region and that staff are working with federal partners to raise awareness.

Mr. Snyder asked why the region did not meet the 2020 goals.

Mr. Srikanth said that one of the reasons is that the region continues to add jobs and residents, which has an impact on emissions.

Mr. Walz said that along with this growth there has been an increase in vehicle miles of travel (VMT) across the region. He added that people have been using larger cars with higher greenhouse gas emitting profiles since 2005.

Mr. Snyder asked how the transportation sector performed in terms of meeting its goals for 2020. He said he does not believe in aspirational goals and prefers setting goals that can be met. He observed that highways are being expanded across the region and this will increase greenhouse gas emissions.

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Mr. Srikanth said that the regional GHG reduction goals are non-sectoral, meaning they were established for all sector combined and not by each of the four sectors. As such, there was no separate goal for the transportation sector. He said that the TPB has been working with the Department of Environmental Program staff to develop regional inventories of greenhouse gases from various sectors, including transportation.

Ms. Umstattd said asked about emissions data during the pandemic shutdown. She said that as more people start to telework, datacenters are going to be increasingly necessary. She noted that they also have an impact on the environment.

Mr. Walz said that staff are working with the data center industry to try to get better information on their impact.

Mr. Srikanth said that it is necessary for multiple sectors to work together to address climate change. He cited one of TPB's aspirational initiatives as an example. In the initiative to bring land use and jobs closer together, 75 percent of the growth in households and populations should be in activity centers or near high-capacity transit, which will help not only to reduce the amount of VMT and the fuel consumed and thus reduce greenhouse gases, it also allows for micro-grid types of strategies in the energy sector to be implemented.

Mr. Snyder said this also has an impact on air quality and the region's ability to meet ozone and particulate matter standards.

Mr. Kannan asked what the VMT target needs to be in order to reach the greenhouse-gas emissions goals. He said knowing that number will help agencies in the region do a better job.

Mr. Srikanth said that the TPB has not adopted goals for specific target amount of VMT reduction and instead has adopted the overall goal of reducing VMT per capita. He said that due to the relationship between VMT and the economy, it was considered important to account for growth. He said that the while the work for the multi-sector working group shows that there is no single strategy for reducing emissions, it also showed that many of the identified transportation strategies will reduce growth in VMT. He also said that the TPB's aspirational initiatives reduce the growth in VMT as well. He also said that all past work has shown that in addition to reducing VMT, changing the fuel and the operating conditions of the vehicles are two other areas that have the potential to reduce greenhouse gases and these need to be pursued.

Mr. Kannan said there are lots of things that the region cannot control, like the auto industry or consumer behavior. He said that a VMT target is a number over which we do have some control. He said that if we have sense of the amount of VMT reduction needed, then we can talk about which strategies are most effective in getting to that number and how we would measure those if we want to go there.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt Resolution R8-2021 to endorse the 2030 regional greenhouse gas reduction goal.

Mr. Jordan seconded the motion.

Chair Russell made a friendly amendment to add the TPB to the third goal.

The motion with the amendment was approved.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **9. REGIONAL TRAVEL SURVEY BRIEFING: INITIAL FINDINGS OF OBSERVED DAILY TRIPS**

Mr. Joh briefed the board on the TPB's once-in-a-decade Regional Travel Survey. He said the survey offers a detailed look at the 17.1 million trips—commute and non-commute—taken on a typical weekday

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in the Washington region, including information on travel mode, origin, and destination. It provides the most recent and comprehensive picture of travel in the region. He said that his presentation and memo cover the initial findings on observed daily trips.

Ms. Taveras asked about the difference in commute time between Asian and white populations.

Mr. Joh said that the weekday person trip rates for Asians were notably lower than the other racial and ethnic groups. He said that cultural factors may account for lower trip rates.

Ms. Taveras said it was interesting that the number of commute trips for Latinos and African Americans was similar.

Mr. Joh said that there are a number of factors including household income and household size that could impact the data. The charts on the difference in person trip rates by ethnicity does not take into account these factors. He added that person trip rates could include non-work trips.

Mr. Todd asked about the non-single occupancy ride-share trips. He was curious about the cost impact for lower income families.

Mr. Joh said that ride-share includes ride hailing and taxis.

Mr. Harris asked if data is available for mode share cross-tabulated by income. He said he was curious to see if income is a factor as opposed to geographic or racial and ethnic factors. He asked why more people are riding the bus in Charles County than in Montgomery County. He also asked why the number of single-occupancy trips for work is higher than trips for carpool or HOV.

Mr. Joh said that there are many ways that data can be cross-tabulated. He said the dataset will be made available for public use by the end of the year. He said that he could look closer at data from Montgomery County to see if it would be feasible to examine differences at a smaller geographic area.

Some highlights from the briefing included travel behavior of people who live in different parts of the region, how people of different incomes and age groups travel, and more.

## **10. TRANSIT-ORIENTED COMMUNITIES: HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT STATION AREA INTERACTIVE MAP**

Mr. Canan demonstrated an interactive map that identifies high-capacity transit station areas, classifies them according to various geographic filters, and summarizes selected planning data. He referenced his memo, presentation, and URL so board members can try the tool. He said this planning tool can support local planning agencies' efforts to identify opportunities for projects, programs, and policies that support the development of transit-oriented communities in the region. He demonstrated how to use the tool.

## **11. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: UPDATE AND RECRUITMENT**

Mr. Hayes briefed the board on staff recommendations for updating the Citizens Advisory Committee. Specific recommendations can be found in the memo and presentation for this item. He said that this would be the first major update to the committee since it was formalized by the board in 1999.

Mr. Aguirre asked for more detailed information and data about the staff recommendation for shifting committee structure from equal numbers by state to the three TPB subregions.

Mr. Hayes said that the staff recommendation seeks to correct for historic over-representation on the committee. He said the goal was to balance committee membership to reflect the region's diversity.

Mr. Srikanth said that travel experiences are not dictated by state of residence or jurisdictional boundaries. He referenced the Regional Travel Survey presentation and said that there are a number of factors that impact transportation experiences.

Ms. Kahn said that the proposed changes to committee structure would dilute the District of Columbia's participation on the committee. She said that the DC Office of Planning, DDOT, and Arlington County reached out to staff with their reservations about this recommendation. She said they look forward to

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working with staff to make changes.

Mr. Srikanth said that there are different ways to structure the committee. He said staff recommended a regional approach.

Ms. Kahn said she appreciates the comment and looks forward to discussing further after the meeting.

Mr. Aguirre would like to discuss this further, too.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### **12. ADJOURN**

No other business was brought to the board. The meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.