

MEMORANDUM

To: TPB Regional Bus Subcommittee
From: Michael Eichler, TPB Staff
Re: Regional Priority Projects List
Date: October 28, 2008

Since its formation, the Regional Bus Subcommittee has been investigating long-range bus planning issues from a regional perspective. As work began on addressing these long-range issues, many transit operators observed that it was difficult to consider long-range planning when shrinking budgets and traffic congestion were combining to cause real problems for bus operations in the near future. The subcommittee decided to help address the short-term issues of bus operations in the region by creating a Regional Priority Projects List. This short and concise list, to be presented to the TPB, would detail high priority projects of regional significance that could have positive impacts on the operations of transit service in the near term. The list was to focus on capital projects that could be programmed into a 6-year TIP.

In the spring of 2008, the subcommittee established categories of projects eligible for the priority list and developed a project submission form. The form was distributed to the region's transit operators at the June 24 subcommittee meeting. Submissions were accepted by TPB staff until September 18 in preparation for the September 23 subcommittee meeting.

At its September meeting, the Regional Bus Subcommittee reviewed 75 candidate projects submitted by 8 transit operators for the regional priority projects list. After a brief discussion, it was decided that a working group of the subcommittee would meet to discuss the prioritization process and determine criteria by which these projects can be evaluated. Gary Erenrich from Montgomery County DOT, Circe Torruellas from the District DOT and Steve Yaffe from Arlington County volunteered to participate in the working group.

The three working group members met with TPB staff on Monday, October 20, to discuss the prioritization process. The group established the following criteria for determining whether a submitted project was regionally significant:

- For bottlenecks or running way improvements: 5,000 passengers per day or an effective headway of 10-minutes
- For stops: at least 250 passengers per day
- For park-and-ride lots: serviced by at least 4 buses per hour (15 minute frequency) and a minimum of 200 parking spaces.

- Projects should be capital projects that would provide benefit to multiple transit operators or multiple jurisdictions in the region.

The working group reviewed the submitted projects and applied the above criteria. While all of the projects submitted had value and should be advocated for, the following 15 projects are recommended to be advanced as the first priority project list:

Priority Project List

Bottlenecks/Runningway Improvements:

- C.01 Duke Street, East of Telegraph Road
- C.08 H Street between 18th and 14th Streets, NW
- C.10 K Street Busway
- C.14 Campus Drive/Paint Branch Pkwy and US 1 (Baltimore Ave)

Bus Stops:

- E.01 Southern Towers
- E.03 Union Station Bus Stops (Transit Center)
- E.06 University Blvd/Piney Branch
- E.12 Wisconsin/Willard Avenue

Transit Staging Areas:

- D.07 Bus staging area for Washington/Arlington PM rush hour services
- D.08 Van Dorn Metro Station Bus Staging Area
- F.08 RFK Operators Lounge and Transit Center
- F.10 Hillandale Transit Center/Staging Area

Other Bus Facilities:

- B.09 Landmark Transit Center
- E.07 Pentagon Transfer Facility Bus Bays
- E.09 Fort Totten Metro Bus Stops (Transit Center)

For full project descriptions, see the attached submission summary that was originally distributed at the September 23 RBS meeting.

A table listing the criteria met by these projects and a map of the project locations is included at the end of this document.

Areas of Additional Support

The group also recommended creating sets of projects that would receive the subcommittee's strong endorsement. These sets are Bus Storage and Maintenance Facilities, Regional Marketing and Customer Information, and Emerging Corridors.

Bus Storage and Maintenance Facilities

The Washington region's transit operators have an urgent need for additional bus storage and maintenance facilities. Often considered undesirable land uses, it is very difficult to find suitable locations for these facilities. Operators expressed in the project submissions a short-term need for storage and maintenance facilities for at least 338 new buses. It is very important that these needs be met to enable future growth of the bus transit system.

- D.03 SE Bus Garage (Capital Improvements)
- D.04 Bus Storage (Rocky Springs Road)
- D.06 Bus storage and maintenance facilities
- D.09 Additional Bus Maintenance and Storage Facilities
- D.11 PRTC Transit Center Bus Storage – Additional Western Facility

Regional Marketing and Customer Information

The working group recommended that all operators/jurisdictions pledge to spend 1% of their operating budget on marketing and customer information. Recommended projects falling under this category are:

- G.01 WMATA's Trip Planner / RideGuide
- G.02 Machines to add value to SmarTrip farecards
- G.03 Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS)
- G.04 Frederick Regional Commuting Options Brochure
- G.05 511 system
- G.06 One-stop Information System like 511
- G.07 Transit Routes in the City of Alexandria
- G.08 Upgraded bus stop information at major transfer centers
- G.09 Regional Joint Marketing Initiative for Airport Bus Services
- G.10 Inclusion in national and regional Trip Planning Applications
- G.11 Google map project

Emerging Corridors

The working group identified several projects that did not meet the regional criteria described above, but that are important to provide increased service to emerging residential and employment corridors in the region.

- B.04 Increased service between Frederick and the Washington D.C. Area
- B.05 Loudoun County Tyson's Express Bus as part of Dulles Rail

- B.08 Haymarket OmniRide – Metro Direct
- B.12 Service between Frederick Train Stations and the Urbana Park-N-Ride
- B.13 Bus Seating capacity
- B.15 Gainesville OmniRide
- C.04 I-270 through Frederick and Montgomery Counties
- C.11 U.S. 15 through Frederick City
- E.04 Frederick Town Mall Bus Stop
- F.03 Park-N-Ride lot north of Frederick
- F.06 Haymarket/Dominion Valley Commuter Lot

HOT Lane Transit Ramps

The working group would like to acknowledge the inclusion of two transit-only ramps that have been included in the I-95/395 HOT Lanes project. It is important that projects that increase capacity for private vehicles and raise revenue also provide support for bus transit.

- C.02 Shirley Hwy Express Lane Ramp to the Pentagon Transit Center
- D.02 Shirley Hwy Express Lane Ramp to the Shirlington Transit Center

WMATA Priority Corridor Network

Many projects submitted by the region's transit operators fall under the WMATA Priority Corridor Network service area. The subcommittee fully supports this short-term and fast-paced effort to drastically increase bus service in the region, and acknowledges that the local jurisdictions will need to do their part to improve transit running ways and bus stops along these corridors. Projects submitted along these corridors include:

- B.02 Crystal City – Potomac Yard Transitway
- B.03 16th Street Metro Extra Bus Service.
- B.06 Veirs Mill BRT/University Boulevard BRT
- B.07 US 1 (Hyattsville) to Laurel Corridor Improvements
- B.14 Georgia Avenue Busway
- C.06 Georgia @ Colesville to Wheaton through Silver Spring
- C.13 East West Highway from Silver Spring to Bethesda

Projects needing more information

The working group identified several projects that need further clarification or that might not meet the criteria for regional significance. Those are listed below.

- B.01 King Street Metro Station Redesign
- C.03 MD Route 4- Traffic coming into the District between Barney Circle-Southern Avenue
- C.08 H Street between 18th and 14th Streets, NW
- C.15 14th Street between New York Avenue, NW and the 14th Street Bridge

- D.05 Dulles North Transit Center
- D.08 Van Dorn Metro Station
- D.10 Limited parking capacity in Germantown Transit Center
- E.02 WB Arlington Blvd. at Glebe Rd Bus Stop
- E.05 Rosslyn, VA
- E.04 Frederick Town Mall Bus Stop
- E.08 WB Arlington Blvd. at Henderson Rd Bus Stop
- E.10 Francis Scott Key Mall Bus Stop Bus Stop
- E.13 WB Arlington Blvd. at Park Dr Bus Stop

Project Code	Name	Operators	Routes	Pax/Day	Buses/Hour
C.01	Duke Street, East of Telegraph Road	2	3		6
C.08	H Street between 18th and 14th Streets, NW	3+	10+		
C.10	K Street (22nd Street-Massachusetts)	3+	10+		
C.14	Campus Drive/Paint Branch Pkwy and US 1 (Baltimore Ave)	2	8		

Project Code	Name	Operators	Routes	Pax/Day	Buses/Hour
E.01	Southern Towers	2	5	350	
E.03	Union Station Bus Stops (Transit Center)	2	9		
E.06	University Blvd/Piney Branch	2	3	328	
E.12	Wisconsin/Millard Avenue	2	9	635	

Project Code	Name	Operators	Routes	Pax/Day	Buses/Hour
D.07	Bus staging area for Washington/Arlington PM rush hour services	2+	???		
D.08	Van Dorn Metro Station	3	11		
F.08	RFK Operators Lounge and Transit Center	2+	???		
F.10	Hillandale Transit Center	2	6		

Project Code	Name	Operators	Routes	Pax/Day	Buses/Hour
B.09	Landmark Transit Center	3	14		
E.07	Pentagon Transfer Facility Bus Bays	5	82		
E.09	Fort Totten Metro Bus Stops (Transit Center)	1	6		

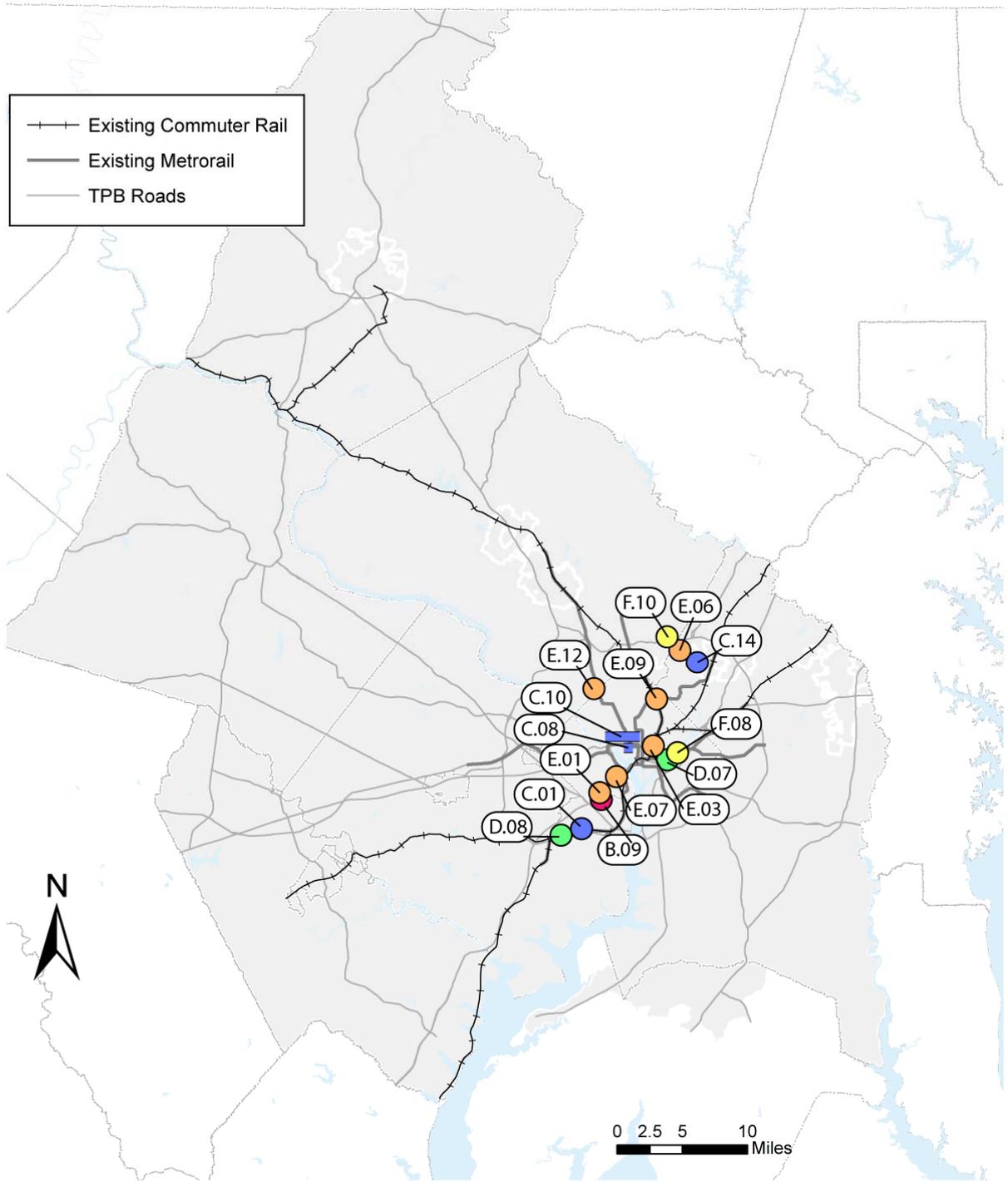


Figure 1: Map of selected Priority Projects.