

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

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**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
November 19, 2014**

Members and Alternates Present

Robert Brown, Loudoun County
Rick Canizales, Prince William County
Marc Elrich, Montgomery County
Dennis Enslinger, City of Gaithersburg
Gary Erenrich, Montgomery County Executive
Lyn Erickson, MDOT
Jay Fisette, Arlington County
Tawanna Gaines, Maryland House of Delegates
Seth Grimes, City of Takoma Park
Jason Groth, Charles County
Rene'e Hamilton, VDOT
Cathy Hudgins, Fairfax County
Sandra Jackson, FHWA
Shyam Kannan, WMATA
Tim Lovain, City of Alexandria
Ellen McCarthy, DC Office of Planning
Phil Mendelson, DC Council
Mark Rawlings, DC DOT
Kelly Russell, City of Frederick
Peter B. Schwartz, Fauquier County
Paul Smith, Frederick County
David Snyder, City of Falls Church
Jonathan Way, City of Manassas
Patrick Wojahn, City of College Park
Sam Zimbabwe, DDOT

MWCOG Staff and Others Present

Robert Griffiths
John Swanson
Ron Milone
Andrew Meese
Eric Randall
Mark Moran
Michael Farrell
Dusan Vuksan
Daivamani Sivasailam
Wenjing Pu
Andrew Austin
Wendy Klancher
Lynn Winchell-Mendy
Dan Sonenklar
Ben Hampton
Bryan Hayes
Sergio Ritacco
Lamont B. Cobb
Erin Morrow
Debbie Leigh
Deborah Etheridge
Marco Trigueros
Steve Walz COG/DEP
Jeff King COG/DEP
Paul DesJardin COG/DCPS
Matt Kronenberger COG/OPA
Nancy H. Smith Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance
Rachel Farbman AMPO
Jim Dinegar Board of Trade
Pierre Holloman Alexandria
Malcolm Watson Fairfax County DOT
Shweta Dixit Loudoun County - DOT
Patrick Durany Supervisor Jenkins' Office
Betsy Massie PRTC
Stewart Schwartz CSG
Jim Ponticello VDOT
Norman Whitaker VDOT
Maria Sinner VDOT
Bill Orleans Resident

1. Public Comment on TPB Procedures and Activities

Carroll George requested the Board consider his idea to eliminate stopping in the incoming acceleration lane on expressways. Drivers in these lanes are under pressure and at risk from the behavior of drivers in through lanes. Mr. George proposed correcting this stopping safety hazard by first, placing large chevron pavement markers in all lanes in the merging area and specifying the legal follow distance with signage and second, extending the lane line between merging lanes from the taper parallel to the outer lane line.

Jim Dinegar asked the Board to consider not having public comment as the first agenda item to ensure that all TPB members have a chance to be seated. Mr. Dinegar expressed the Board of Trade's support for rail run-through between VRE and MARC trains at Union Station to make better use of existing infrastructure. Mr. Dinegar also reiterated support for the Maryland Purple Line as a light rail system to support economic development. He also called to expand Metrorail capacity to all eight-car trains and long-term funding dedicated funding for WMATA.

Stewart Schwartz endorsed the remarks of the Board of Trade and expressed disappointment about the Arlington County Streetcar decision. Mr. Schwartz emphasized that the region needs to rethink growth and do the hard work of making transit corridors succeed. He noted that the existing draft resolution on greenhouse gas emissions does not commit to an emissions reduction target of 80 percent from the transportation and land use sectors and does not include a deadline for reductions. He recommended the region create a new, integrated transit and land use plan for implementation. He also stated that an unconstrained projects list does not offer the fundamental changes the region needs.

Stu Whitaker commended Jay Fisette for cancelling the Columbia Pike and Crystal City streetcar projects in Arlington County. He said he appreciated Mr. Fisette for continuing to work with him and others who disagreed with the projects.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 15 Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 15 meeting. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

3. Report of the Technical Committee

Referring to the mailout item, Lyn Erickson reported that the Committee met on November 7. Their agenda included:

- TPB agenda items, including:
 - the draft update to the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan;
 - the draft call for projects and air quality conformity schedule for the 2015 CLRP and FY 2016-2021 TIP;
 - a report on the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan Information

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- Sessions;
- MWAQC and CEEPC requests regarding the resolution to create a working group on greenhouse gas emissions reductions;
 - an update on the development of a list of unfunded transportation projects in the region;
 - an update to the National Capital Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan; and
 - briefing on the recent federal certification review.
- Informational items, including:
 - the proposed reconstitution of the public transportation subcommittee;
 - development of a GIS-based mapping application for CLRP projects;
 - the kick-off meeting for the vehicle probe users group; and
 - a status update on the development of MAP-21 performance measures.

The committee supports the staff recommendation for approval of the Coordinated Human Services Plan.

4. Report of the Citizen Advisory Committee

Referring to the handout report, Ms. Loh commented that the CAC would like to see public participation integrated into the working group on greenhouse gas emissions, with members of the existing CAC or COG's other citizen committees. She said the CAC would continue to engage the Board on the development of a list of unfunded projects in the region, with recommendations for a public participation component after the list is completed.

Chairman Wojahn commented that he plans to support the CAC's requests in establishing a working group to develop a list of recommendations for principles behind the reauthorization of MAP-21 with the support of the Board. He recommended the group use previously developed Board recommendations for SAFETEA-LU reauthorization as a starting point. He invited Board members to volunteer to join the working group, as well as members of the CAC. He suggested organizing the group before the end of the year.

Ms. Loh said the CAC has provided names of interested members for this working group, but their participation is contingent on the composition of the incoming 2015 CAC.

5. Report of Steering Committee

Mr. Srikanth reported that the committee met on November 7. The committee approved an amendment to the FY 2015–2020 TIP regarding projects and funding for the Federal Highway Administration's Eastern Lands Division. He reported the amendment would not affect the air quality conformity or financial analyses of the 2014 CLRP.

Mr. Erenrich suggested for the future, the TPB might request that FHWA's Eastern Federal

Lands Division submit their TIP changes in sequence with the TPB's TIP development process.

Mr. Srikanth said the Board could make this request. He also commented that the three states have their own TIP schedules that vary based on individual state funding cycles. In addition, the Board occasionally changes its schedule regarding the TIP.

Mr. Srikanth reviewed five letters received by the committee

- a letter from the Commonwealth of Virginia transportation secretary documenting the Commonwealth's approval of the expansion of the TPB's planning area to include an eastern portion of Fauquier County
- a letter with responses from VDOT and WMATA regarding comments from the Access for All committee on some projects in the 2014 CLRP
- letters from WMATA, PRTC, and the City of Alexandria providing information on the status and completion plans for TIGER grant-funded projects.
 - Mr. Srikanth noted that all projects are anticipated to be completed by end of June 2016 and that staff has compiled the project reports and provided it to the FTA as requested
- a letter from WMATA with suggestions on enhancing the TPB's travel demand model.
- a letter from WMATA requesting the Board take action at the regional level to lead a discussion on finding new funds for the unfunded regional transportation needs; projects that are deemed regionally significant but are not funded and as such not included in the CLRP.

Mr. Wojahn requested that staff provide a response to the WMATA letter regarding the TPB's travel demand model.

Mr. Wojahn noted that the region has made significant strides in funding transportation projects and that the 2014 CLRP had for the first time demonstrated full funding for maintaining the highway and transit system in a state of good repair. He noted that the region still has some unfunded transportation projects including those within the WMATA system. He said that he was happy to note that three jurisdictions have continued to identify additional funding especially when federal funding for transportation has been going down. Mr. Wojahn also noted that today state and local funds make up 60 percent of total transportation revenues in the region. He noted that in that context the region should be exploring new and innovative methods of financing to generate new regional funding for a small set of unfunded regional transportation projects the Board could collectively agree to support. Mr. Wojahn suggested that this discussion/exploration should be conducted in a deliberative, consultative and collaborative manner in which a small set of truly regional, multi-modal projects are identified that we can all support. Mr. Wojahn noted that under agenda item 13 today the Board will discuss compiling a list of unfunded projects in this region. Once we have this list together, the Board can then work to review this and work to identify a small set of multi-modal projects that are in need of

funding. TPB then could work with COG as it is just concluding its yearlong examination of infrastructure needs in this region and collectively examine some innovative ways of financing these needs.

Ms. Hudgins noted that such a deliberative and comprehensive approach would be very useful and recalled that the previous such effort in this region was successful in that it led to the WMATA's Metro Matters agreement. She remarked that the Board must have a voice and that the region must come together to find a funding stream with some continuity of time. She also stated this should include a broad coalition, including the business community and other community leaders.

Mr. Wojahn agreed with Ms. Hudgins comments and noted the business community's stake in the region's transportation process and the participation of the Board of Trade.

Mr. Lovain also expressed support for including the business community. He also commented that the list of unfunded projects would allow for a tough assessment of regionally significant projects. He highlighted two important goals: a funding stream for Metro and transit connections to Metro through BRT or light rail. He stated that many transit systems across the country have a dedicated revenue stream, often via a regional sales tax.

Mr. Kannan thanked the chair and TPB staff for considering WMATA's call to action on finding new revenue streams. He remarked that he looks forward to seeing a thoughtful and reasonable approach that integrates a variety of other efforts. He referred back to the TPB's vision statement regarding enhanced funding and reminded the Board that this applied to funding a range of transportation projects and not just transit projects.

Mr. Way said that evaluating unfunded projects is essential. He noted that the current CLRP does not improve congestion, but rather lessens its growth. He said the list would not just be a long list of projects, but could be used to cull down a list of major projects that have regional significance. He also noted the list would be useful to the NVTA as they decide how to concentrate their efforts.

Mr. Snyder remarked that the Board should not repeat past efforts, where suggestions for dedicated funding did not get far due to political realities. He mentioned looking at better use of existing resources and funds, such as IT improvements to the transportation infrastructure or integration of the region's local and WMATA bus services. He reminded the Board to be realistic in exploring how best to spend the funds considering the unpopularity of proposals for new taxes and simply.

Ms. Loh spoke about the importance of meaningful public participation in the planning process. She said there is a gap between needs in the region's transportation network and the public's trust in decision-making bodies to meet those needs.

6. Chair's Remarks

Mr. Wojahn reserved further comment for later agenda items.

ACTION ITEMS

7. Appointment of Nominating Committee for Year 2015 TPB Officers

Chair Wojahn said that he would appoint a nominating committee that would be tasked with identifying the board members that will lead the TPB in 2015 as chairperson, first vice chairperson, and second vice chairperson. He said that the committee would consist of the most recent chair from the three states.

Approval of the Update of the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan for the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program

Mr. Lovain, chair of the Human Services Transportation Committee, introduced the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan update.

Referring to her presentation and the handout presentation, Ms. Klancher described the purpose of the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, which is to remove barriers and improve mobility for older adults and people with disabilities. She described how the plan would be used to guide the selection criteria of the federally required Enhanced Mobility program. She said that Washington area jurisdictions and eligible recipients submitted applications for Enhanced Mobility funding in October, and that the selection panel is expected to award funding in January.

Mr. Way asked why the title of the agenda item referred specifically to seniors and individuals with disabilities when those groups were only eligible for 18 percent of funding.

Ms. Klancher said that the title reflects the federal definition for the program.

Chair Wojahn commended TPB staff, Mr. Lovain, and the Human Services Transportation Coordination Task Force for their work on the plan and Enhanced Mobility program.

Mr. Lovain made a motion to adopt Resolution R9-2015 to approve the entire update to the Coordinated Plan. The motion was seconded and approved.

8. Approval of Final Call for Projects and Schedule for Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2015 CLRP and FY 2015-2020 TIP

Mr. Austin briefed the Board on the 2015 CLRP Call for Projects policy document as well as a new summary brochure meant to more explicitly highlight the regional goals, priorities, and needs the TPB is encouraging area transportation agencies to consider when developing new projects to include in the CLRP, or when making changes to projects already in the plan.

Mr. Austin highlighted two key changes made to the Call for Projects summary brochure in response to Board member comments at the October TPB meeting. One was the inclusion of the full schedule for the annual update as an insert to the brochure, and the second was to clearly note public involvement opportunities in the CLRP development process, both at the local and state levels and at the regional level. He also pointed out some changes made in the way regional goals, priorities, and needs were presented in the brochure, including an additional note about tougher new federal air quality standards expected in the next couple of years and the further emissions reductions those changes might require.

One final item Mr. Austin noted was a change to the Project Description Form that agencies will use when submitting projects for inclusion in this year's CLRP update. He told Board members that new questions were added to the form that ask agencies to note how the projects they are submitting help support or advance the regional needs outlined in the Call for Projects as well as other regional goals.

Chair Wojahn opened the floor to comments and questions.

Mr. Kannan commended staff on their work to distill the larger Call for Projects policy document into a clearer, more accessible document for the public and others wishing to better understand the CLRP development process. He also noted that the new brochure and the top regional needs it identifies are a great example of how the TPB is using the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan, approved by the Board in January, and other regional policy documents and studies to inform the CLRP development process.

Chair Wojahn entertained a motion to approve the Call for Projects and analysis schedule. The motion to approve the final Call for Projects document for the 2015 CLRP and FY 2015-2020 TIP for distribution for state, regional and local agencies was seconded and approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS

9. Update on the Washington Region Transportation Planning Process Certification Review

Ms. Jackson from the Federal Highway Administration summarized the federal requirements and process for review and certification of the regional transportation planning process. She thanked TPB staff, regional partners, and FAMPO for their cooperation, ensuring a smooth review process. She said that representatives from FHWA and FTA reviewed the TPB's planning documents, including the UPWP, CLRP, and TIP, and met with members of the public at the Citizens Advisory Committee and Access For All Committee as part of the process. She said that the federal team was impressed with the long-range plan and assessment, congestion management, and the air quality assessment. She said that while public involvement was very good, she said that the TPB needs to work on a regular evaluation of its outreach. Other areas for improvement include the TIP, financial analysis, and the environmental justice analysis. She said

that the final certification review report should be completed in early 2015.

Chair Wojahn commended staff for their work to ensure a successful review. He also asked if staff was going to respond, point by point, to the federal recommendations.

Mr. Srikanth said staff would respond to the recommendations in the review and incorporate them into the UPWP.

Mr. Smith said that since the region is so large and diverse, he did not believe it is possible for the TPB to duplicate the amount of public involvement that happens on a local level.

Mr. Srikanth said that following the 2010 certification review, TPB staff has worked on creative ways to expand access to the public and get the TPB message out. He said that perhaps one way to expand the reach of involvement efforts is to partner with local jurisdictions during their initial outreach on projects.

Ms. Jackson said that the TPB's outreach was good. She said that evaluation was the area that needed improvement.

Ms. Loh stated that effective public participation requires communication in two directions. Not only does effective participation include informing the public, but it also requires that the TPB listen to the public's critiques and questions and respond, letting the public know how their input has shaped the process.

A question was asked if other jurisdictions had model engagement efforts that the TPB could refer to as staff plans for future engagement.

Ms. Jackson said that she could pass along some suggestions.

10. Briefing on the Highlights of Listening Sessions with Staffs of TPB Jurisdictions on How the Region is Achieving the Goals in the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP)

Referring to the mailout material and the handout presentation, Mr. Swanson presented a report on a series of ten listening sessions that were conducted between June and October with more than 90 local staffers who work on a range of transportation and land-use planning activities. He said that TPB staff designed the listening sessions to gather information on whether and how the professionals who work in local planning believe we are achieving regional transportation goals. The sessions were also intended to expand awareness among the TPB's member jurisdictions of both the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan and COG's *Place + Opportunity* report, which promotes enhancement of the region's 141 Activity Centers.

Mr. Swanson described themes that emerged from the discussions in the ten listening sessions. He said that the sessions mostly focused on the first three goals of the Priorities Plan. He

concluded by describing follow up activities that were suggested in the listening sessions.

In the interest of time, Chair Wojahn asked that TPB members contact staff after the meeting with their questions and comments regarding this item.

11. Briefing on the Request from the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) to Affirm the 2008 COG Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Goals

Chair Wojahn said that in November the TPB received a letter from the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) requesting that the TPB participate in a multi-sector working group and that the TPB affirm the region's adopted goals for reducing greenhouse gases. He said that Mr. Freudberg, Deputy Director of COG, would make a presentation on the working group and that Mr. Srikanth would present a draft resolution.

Mr. Freudberg said that COG is open to feedback as it proceeds with establishing this multi-sector technical working group. He said that the purpose of this group is to identify multi-sector strategies for greenhouse gas reduction that can be implemented at local, regional, state, and national levels. The working group would evaluate strategies to quantify greenhouse gas reductions and the anticipated cost of those strategies. He said the group would also evaluate the viability from an implementation timeframe. The group would also explore establishing realistic and attainable greenhouse gas reduction targets for transportation and all other sectors. The product of this working group would be a report, possibly called, "What We Can Do," that analyzes implementation timetables and viable options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The process will incorporate public input.

Mr. Freudberg said that the TPB, COG, MWAQC, and CEEPC would provide oversight for the working group. Staff assistance would be provided by COG's departments of transportation, community planning, and environment. Jurisdictions and agencies would suggest staff to participate, and Mr. Bean, Executive Director of COG, would appoint 25 to 35 people to sit on the working group.

Mr. Freudberg said that this group will begin meeting in January and anticipates releasing a finalized report by the end of 2015.

Chair Wojahn asked if it would be possible for there to be citizen representation on the working group.

Mr. Freudberg said that the working group is intended to be technical and staffed by professionals. He said that he anticipates regular check-ins with citizen groups. He added that he would like to find a way to make sure that public input is effective in shaping the process.

Mr. Brown asked for clarification on the difference between "goals" and "targets." He also asked

about the financial implications of this working group.

Mr. Freudberg said that Region Forward sets broad goals and targets. The broad goal, he said, is a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions with substantial reductions from the built environment and transportation sectors. He said that the targets are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050.

Mr. Srikanth said that the cost of operating the working group would be shared between MWAQC, CEEPC, and the TPB. He said that the exact cost is not known, but suspects the transportation sector's contribution could be approximately \$100,000. He added that staff is working to identify this money to be set aside in the work program as part of the regional planning studies activity.

Ms. Loh said that the most meaningful way to engage the public, in this instance, is at the beginning of the process, as the group is identifying strategies and not at the end during a public comment period. She encouraged the working group to engage the public continuously and not reactively at the end of the process.

Mr. Canizales asked if jurisdiction staff would sit on the working group. Mr. Freudberg said yes.

Mr. Fisette asked who would appoint members of the working group. He also asked how many people would sit on the committee.

Mr. Freudberg said that the COG executive director would appoint people to the working group that were recommended by jurisdiction staff. He said that the group is expected to consist of around 30 people.

Mr. Fisette also encouraged the group to be specific about how they define "viable."

Mr. Srikanth said that viable recommendations would be those that are within reach, those that can be reasonably expected to be adopted by local jurisdictions and put into action.

Mr. Erenrich asked if the working group will seek outside assistance from consultants. Mr. Srikanth responded that the working group is expected to have consultants' assistance.

Chari Wojahn asked Mr. Srikanth to present the draft resolution that the TPB will be voting on in December.

Mr. Srikanth referred the TPB to the draft handout of the proposed resolution. He summarized the resolution: describing the context and history of COG's work on greenhouse gas reductions; acknowledging the TPB's earlier work on the matter specifically its "What Would It Take" study; noting that many emissions reductions actions have been taken at federal, state and local levels to help reduce criteria pollutants which also help reduce greenhouse gases; that the TPB

recognizes that tougher air quality standards are anticipated and the continued challenge faced by the region regarding greenhouse gases; and recognizing that the COG will be convening a working of professionals from all different sectors to identify cost-effective and coordinated actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Referring to the resolved clauses he outlined the two specific elements the Board was resolving: first, that the TPB affirms COG's regional multi-sector goals for greenhouse gas reductions in this region, and second that the TPB commits staff and resources to supporting the proposed multi-sector working group.

Mr. Snyder asked if the resolve clause of the resolution does what MWAQC and CEEPC asked for in their letter to the TPB.

Mr. Freudberg said that the CEEPC chair, Mr. Berliner, expressed a desire for the resolve clause to explicitly address CEEPC's and MWAQC's concerns.

Mr. Snyder asked if the resolve clause could explicitly reference the 2008 goals.

Mr. Srikanth said that it was possible to update the resolve to endorse the 2008 goals.

Mr. Zimbabwe asked about the timeline for providing comment on the draft resolution and suggested that the revisions be reviewed with the Technical Committee.

Mr. Srikanth suggested that board comment be submitted within the next week to be able to have the revisions ready for the technical Committee's review.

12. Briefing on the Development of a List of Unfunded Transportation Projects

Referring to the mailout material, Mr. Griffiths said that staff is proposing to use the members of the TPB Technical Committee to develop a list of unfunded transportation projects that are in the locally approved plans but currently not in the CLRP but would be eligible to be in the CLRP if funding were available. He said that once that list has been assembled, staff would bring it back to the TPB for review and further direction.

Mr. Wojahn noted the discussion the Board had regarding identifying a small set of regionally significant project and to explore finding new funding mechanisms for those projects. He stated that the list of unfunded projects could provide an opportunity for the Board to identify these projects, and thanked Mr. Way and the CAC in promoting the idea.

Mr. Canizales said that it is important to look at the reality that funding for new projects is becoming increasingly difficult to secure.

Chair Wojahn agreed. He said that he hoped this effort would help regional decision makers better understand the scope and scale of the challenge so that decision makers can take on this challenge and help their constituents understand it and begin to solve it.

Note: Further discussion about the List of Unfunded Projects occurred during the Steering Committee Report (Item 5) at this meeting.

13. Briefing on the Draft Update of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the National Capital Region

This item was postponed until the December 17 TPB meeting.

14. Other Business

No other business was brought before the board.

15. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.