



REGION FORWARD COALITION

Friday, April 26, 2024
9:30 a.m. to NOON
3rd Floor COG Board Room
777 North Capitol Street NE

Meeting theme: Accessibility

In-Person Meeting

Chairman: Takis Karantonis

9:30 A.M. **COFFEE / NETWORKING**

10:00 A.M. 1. **WELCOME**

Takis Karantonis, Coalition Chair

- a. New member introductions and welcome
- b. 2024 meeting schedule
- c. FY2025 COG/ULI TAPs Program
- d. Activity Centers Map update
- e. HAPP Grant Awards
- f. Other - TBD
- g. Coalition member updates

10:15 A.M. 2. **IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH PLACEMAKING**

Gabriela Canamar Clark, PLA Partner, LandDesign

John Schlichting, Director of Planning and Code Administration, City of Gaithersburg

Ms. Clark will talk about LandDesign's approach and philosophy of "Places That Matter Are Places of Value" a forward-looking vision of Placemaking and will discuss several projects in the region such as the 7200 Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda, MD and the Rio project in the City of Gaithersburg, MD. Mr. Schlichting will provide a local government official's perspective and discuss the early history and evolution of the Rio project.

Q & A (15 minutes)

11:00 A.M. 3. **PROMOTING ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH THE TRANSPORTATION LAND-USE CONNECTIONS (TLC) PROGRAM**

John Swanson, TPB Transportation Planner

Kerri Oddenino, Principal Planner, Department of Community Planning and Economic Development Services, City of Falls Church

The TPB's Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program since 2007 has provided support to local jurisdictions seeking to promote mixed-use, walkable communities and support a variety of transportation alternatives. Mr. Swanson will highlight TLC projects designed to improve accessibility at the community level in a variety of ways. Ms. Oddenino will describe how Falls Church has used the TLC program to support and augment larger planning activities, particularly in the rapidly changing western end of the city.

Q & A (5 minutes)

11:25 A.M. 4. ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TRAIL NETWORK

Andrew Meese, TPB Systems Performance Planning Program Director

Developed under TPB guidance, the National Capital Trail Network ultimately will be a 1,500-mile-long system of multi-use trails connecting all parts of the region (currently, about half of the network's mileage is existing, the other half planned), promoting non-motorized modes of travel for both commute and non-commute purposes. The lion's share of the region's people, jobs, transit stations, Regional Activity Centers, and Equity Emphasis Areas are within ½ mile of the envisioned network, supporting regional Prosperity, Accessibility, Livability, and Sustainability targets. In February 2024, the TPB approved an update to the previous 2020 version of the network, and introduced an [online map](#). Staff will provide a briefing on the updated network, noting key portions completed since 2020.

11:35 A.M. 5. NOMA AND THE IMPACTS OF THE METROPOLITAN BRANCH TRAIL

Daniel Hoagland, NoMa Business Improvement District Chief of Staff

The District's NoMa neighborhood is a success story for walkability, bikeability, and transit use. Mr. Hoagland will provide a briefing on how the Metropolitan Branch Trail (an important part of the National Capital Trail Network) and other walking and bicycling infrastructure has helped shape NoMa's design, connections to other neighborhoods, and overall success.

Q & A (10 minutes)

12:00 P.M. 6. ADJOURN

The next scheduled Coalition meeting is Friday, July 26