

Meeting Highlights TPB Technical Committee – May 7, 2021

The Technical Committee met on Friday, May 7, 2021 in an online-only session. Meeting materials can be found here: <https://www.mwcog.org/events/2021/5/7/tpb-technical-committee/>

The following items were reviewed for inclusion on the TPB's May agenda.

ENHANCED MOBILITY SOLICITATION

The committee was provided an overview of the federal Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility grants solicitation process, which begins with pre-application conferences in May and solicitation period in June.

VISUALIZE 2045: WORK SESSION, REGIONAL POLICY QUESTIONS, SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT INPUTS TO THE PLAN AND AQC ANALYSIS

Ms. Cook reviewed the draft agenda for the May 19 TPB Work Session, during which the TPB and the agencies sponsoring the projects will continue the discussion regarding technical inputs to Visualize 2045 and the TIP. Ms. Cook also reviewed the draft documentation that will provide the TPB technical agency staff responses to regional/federal policy questions for all existing and proposed capital projects. Staff highlighted the primary themes of comments received during the comment period.

The following items were presented for information and discussion:

AIR QUALITY 101

Ms. Posey discussed the importance of the air quality conformity process for transportation planning in the metropolitan Washington region.

Under the federal Clean Air Act (CAA), areas that have not attained National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for one or more air pollutants are designated by the EPA as nonattainment areas and must develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) for reducing the associated air pollutant(s). Before a new LRTP or TIP in a nonattainment area can be approved by the FHWA and the FTA, the MPO must conduct a regional air quality conformity emissions analysis that demonstrates that the projected emissions from the entire transportation system are consistent with the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets established in the SIP.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (ARP)

A second round of Federal stimulus dollars under ARP will be made available to current and recent subrecipients of the Enhanced Mobility Program. Funding available, eligibility, and selection criteria mirror the recent CRRSAA solicitation and selection. Staff briefed the committee on the solicitation and selection timeline.

REGIONAL SAFETY STUDY: EQUITY EMPHASIS AREA ANALYSIS

The committee was briefed on the results of a crash data analysis of our region's Equity Emphasis Areas. The Analysis compared crash types and crash rates to other areas within the metropolitan region to establish trends and determine if greater focus is needed in the EEA's.

TRANSIT EQUITY WHITE PAPER

The committee was briefed on a white paper being prepared on transit equity in the region, looking specifically at local bus service coverage and frequency in relation to the travel needs of traditionally disadvantaged populations. The results could assist in determining priorities for restoration of bus service following the impacts of the pandemic.

PERFORMANCE-BASED PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING (PBPP) UPDATE

The committee was updated on the federally required performance-based planning and programming process. This included select calendar year 2020 performance data, progress towards the four-year targets adopted in 2018 for the period 2018 through 2021, and plans for the upcoming four-year targets to be adopted in 2022 for the period 2022 through 2025. In addition, the requirements for inclusion of PBPP in next year's Visualize 2045 long range plan and TIP were reviewed.

MARYLAND HOUSE BILL 1236

The committee received a briefing from MDOT/MTA on Maryland House Bill 1236 involving the proposed expansion of commuter rail service into Delaware and Virginia. The committee was given a brief overview of the purpose of the bill and activities MDOT/MTA is taking to meet the requirements of the bill.

OTHER BUSINESS

- FAMPO on TPB agenda
- Federal RAISE grants (TIGER/INFRA)
- Transit within Reach - May 3
- Visualize 2045 Phase 2 public outreach
- Vision Zero Workshop
- Street Smart
- Regional Roadway Safety Program
- TAP application opportunities
- Jurisdiction Level Voices of the Region Survey Summary
- Resiliency Study Update
- CAV webinar
- DOD Military Installation Resilience Review
- Climate and Energy Leadership Awards