



UPCOMING MEETINGS
AND ITEMS OF
INTEREST:

TPB Meeting, May 20:

- Notice of proposed amendment to include the Purple Line light rail project in the 2009 CLRP
- Notice of proposed amendment to include in the 2009 CLRP projects associated with a planned unit development on the I-395 air rights between E Street and Massachusetts Avenue, NW

More information may be found at:
www.mwcog.org/

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
OF *TPB news*:

- Upcoming May Agenda Items 3
- Other April Agenda Items 3
- Calendar of Events 4

TPB news

A Publication of the
National Capital Region
Transportation
Planning
Board

VOLUME XVI, ISSUE 10

MAY 2009

FLEET GETTING OLDER, ANALYSIS FINDS

Vehicle registrations are up 3.5 percent in the metropolitan Washington area since 2005, according to a presentation given at the April 15 meeting of the TPB. Maryland and Virginia area jurisdictions saw increases in registrations of three percent and 5.6 percent, respectively, whereas registrations decreased by 5.8 percent in the District of Columbia during that same period.

Because an area's emissions are very sensitive to the composition of its vehicle fleet, the TPB periodically conducts a regional vehicle inventory as part of its air quality conformity requirements. Beginning in 2005, a vehicle identification number (VIN) decoder has been applied to vehicle registration data for use by the TPB to

examine the composition of the vehicle fleet in the region every three years.

Mobile source emissions vary significantly according to vehicle characteristics, including vehicle type, fuel use, and year of manufacture. The April 15 presentation – which was based on data as of July 1, 2008 that includes every vehicle in the region – provided a breakdown of these characteristics. Since 2005, the region's vehicle fleet has changed significantly, creating a number of policy implications.

(Continued on page 2)

BIKE TO WORK DAY IS MAY 15

On May 15, thousands of area commuters will participate in Bike to Work Day, a celebration of bicycling as a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work. The annual event, organized by Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), caps off the national Bike to Work Week. Bike to Work Day brings together commuters in the metropolitan Washington area to promote bicycling to work as a healthy, environmentally-friendly, and cost-effective alternative to drive-alone commuting.

More than 7,000 people are expected to participate this year, representing a growth in participation of more than 40 percent since 2004.

(Continued on page 2)



BIKE
TO
WORK
DAY
2009

FRIDAY MAY 15

The TPB's presentation indicated that the region's fleet has gotten older since 2005, and the increase in vehicle age is even greater for light trucks, SUVs, and heavy trucks than for passenger cars.

FLEET GETTING OLDER

(Continued from page 1)

Prior to 2004, the percentage of passenger cars relative to sport utility vehicles (SUVs) had been steadily declining for each model year, resulting in an almost equal share of new vehicle purchases. However, the trend reversed in 2004, and this reversal has continued progressively, with passenger cars now claiming 60 percent of new purchases to 40 percent for SUVs.

Within their "type," newer vehicles tend to have lower emissions relative to their older counterparts. The TPB's presentation indicated that the region's fleet has gotten older since 2005, and the increase in vehicle age is even greater for light trucks, SUVs, and heavy trucks than for passenger cars. Although the number of hybrids has increased more than threefold, they still only constitute less than 1.5 percent of the entire region's fleet, and are not currently significant enough to offset the increased emissions of older vehicles.

Based upon these factors, Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), told the Board that staff will be re-estimating

emissions forecasts for its current air quality conformity assessment.

To reinforce the shift from SUVs to smaller passenger cars, and to encourage purchases of newer vehicles, concepts such as 'Cash for Clunkers' are currently being considered by Congress. These proposals would provide vouchers worth up to \$4,500 toward the purchase of a new vehicle upon turning in an older one, with specific standards placed on the fuel efficiency of both the trade-in and the new vehicle.

Harriet Tregoning, TPB member and Director of the D.C. Office of Planning, noted that despite an increase in population and household income, the District had seen a significant reduction in the number of vehicle registrations since 2005, indicating that people are choosing a less car-dependent lifestyle. Tregoning suggested that any Cash for Clunkers proposal need not require that vouchers be spent on purchasing new vehicles.

The data sources for the report include vehicle registration data as of July 1, 2008 from the District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles, Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

BIKE TO WORK DAY

(Continued from page 1)

Twenty-six "pit-stops" will be set-up throughout the region, including a new stop at Nationals Park in southeast Washington, D.C. At these pit-stops, riders can grab refreshments and meet other two-wheeled commuters. Prizes and souvenirs are also handed out at these stops.

To help assist riders, Commuter Connections has launched a beta version of its online "Bike Path Finder," which helps users determine the shortest and safest bicycle routes between their origin and destination. The Web site for the Path Finder is <https://tdm.commuterconnections.org/mwccog/BikePathQuery.jsp>.

Bike to Work Day is an event for the novice and the veteran alike. Participants who pre-register and join in the festivities will receive a free T-shirt, refreshments, giveaway prizes and a chance to win bicycles. For more details and/or to register for Bike to Work Day 2009, visit www.waba.org/events/btwd/index.php.

TPB News, 777 North Capitol St, NE, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290
202-962-3237; scrawford@mwccog.org
"TPB News" at www.mwccog.org/transportation

OTHER APRIL AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB's April agenda also included the following items:

Approval of Amendments to the FY 2009-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Include Projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

The Board voted to amend ARRA-funded projects for WMATA and VDOT in the FY 2009-2014 TIP. The Board was also briefed on the status of accountability information submitted by the state DOTs and WMATA to the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and modifications to the FY 2009-2014 TIP to include ARRA funding as requested by DDOT and MDOT.

Approval of An Amendment to the FY 2009-2014 TIP to add funding for the I-495 HOT Lanes and the Fairfax County Parkway at the Engineering Proving Ground (EPG) Projects, and to include the Richmond Highway Public Transit Initiative Project in Fairfax County

The Board was briefed on an amendment to add \$93 million in National Highway System (NHS) and other federal funding for the I-495 HOT Lanes Project; to add \$26 mil-

lion in NHS and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding for the Fairfax County Parkway at EPG project; and to include the Richmond Highway Public Transit Initiative project in Fairfax County.

Briefing on Additional Findings from the 2007/2008 Regional Household Travel Survey

As part of a series of briefings, the TPB heard about the travel and socio-economic results from the TPB's Household Travel Survey.

Briefing on Draft Round 7.2 Cooperative Forecasts of Population, Households and Employment

On January 14, 2009, the COG Metropolitan Development Policy Committee approved the Round 7.2 Cooperative Forecasts of population, households and employment for use in the forthcoming Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2009 CLRP and FY 2010-2015 TIP. The Board was briefed on a TPB staff analysis of the Draft Round 7.2 Cooperative Forecasts, including key changes from the previous round of forecasts.

MAY AGENDA

The TPB's May 20 agenda is expected to include the following items:

- Approval of amendments to the FY 2009-2014 TIP to include projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
- Status report on the draft 2009 Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and FY2009-15 TIP and the related air quality conformity assessment
- Briefing on 2008 peak period freeway congestion in the Washington region, and changes since 2005 and 2002
- Briefing on additional findings from the 2007/2008 Regional Household Travel Survey
- Update on the TPB's Scenario Study Task Force, including the development of a priority bus transit network
- Notice of proposed amendment to the 2009 CLRP to include the Purple Line light rail project
- Notice of proposed amendment to the 2009 CLRP to include projects associated with a planned unit development on the I-395 air rights between E street and Massachusetts Avenue, NW.

PUBLIC FORUM

ON THE DRAFT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN REGION

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2009

7:00—8:00 p.m.

Hear about the Washington region's new draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which will include all the regionally significant transportation projects that are anticipated to be funded over the next six years. The official public comment period on the TIP and the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) will begin on June 11. For more information, contact: Andrew Austin. Phone: 202-962-3353
E-mail: aaustin@mwkog.org; www.mwkog.org/tipforum



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All meetings are at COG unless otherwise indicated. If you are in need of special assistance to participate in meetings, please call (202) 962-3315 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Bicycle racks are located in the parking garage at 777 N. Capitol St., N.E. (Enter from 1st St., N.E.).

May 2009

- 1 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 1 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 12 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy Task Force and Technical Subcommittee Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 13 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 13 Car Free Day Steering Committee (11:30 am)
- 14 Freight Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 14 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 19 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 19 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 20 TPB Scenario Study Task Force (10 am)
- 20 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 22 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 26 Travel Management Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 26 20th Annual Public Transit Forum (11 am)
- 27 Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force (noon)
- 28 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)

June 2009

- 5 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 5 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 9 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy Task Force and Technical Subcommittee Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 11 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 16 Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee (10 am)
- 16 Regional TDM Marketing Group (noon)
- 17 TPB Scenario Study Task Force (10 am)
- 17 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 23 Travel Management Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 23 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 24 TPB Priority Bus Transit Workshop (8 am—4:15 pm)
- 26 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 26 TPB Steering Committee (noon)

July 2009

[Please note: The meetings on June 26 of the Technical and Steering committees will focus on the TPB agenda items for July.]

- 9 Freight Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 9 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 14 Employer Outreach Committee (10 am)
- 14 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 14 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy Task Force and Technical Subcommittee Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 15 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 17 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9am)
- 21 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 21 Travel Management Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 23 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)

This document is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Sarah Crawford at scrawford@mwco.org, (202) 962-3237 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Allow seven working days for preparation of material.

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. Postage Paid
Washington, D.C.
Permit #9770