

---

## **TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

July 3, 2024

### **1. WELCOME, VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES, AND MEMBER ROLL CALL PROTOCOL**

Staff described the procedures and protocols for the virtual meeting and conducted a roll call. Meeting participants are documented in the attached attendance list.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MEETING RECAP FROM THE JULY 3 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

There were no questions or comments regarding the June Technical Committee meeting. The summary was accepted as final.

## **ITEMS FOR THE BOARD AGENDA**

### **3. CAR FREE DAY PROCLAMATION**

The regional Car Free Day event is scheduled to occur Monday, September 23, 2024. Commuter Connections promotes Car Free Day with hopes that a one-day commitment to going car-free will introduce participants to viable alternatives to driving alone for their various trips. The Commuter Connections program markets the event through various media outlets and sources event sponsors that pledge giveaways and raffle prizes to encourage participant sign-ups. The TPB will be asked to formally recognize Car Free Day by endorsing a proclamation at their July 17, 2024 meeting. A regional proclamation recognized by the TPB sets precedent for local jurisdictions to support similar actions targeted within their own respective jurisdictions.

### **4. FY 2024 MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET ASIDE PROGRAM PROJECT APPROVALS**

John Swanson briefed the committee on the projects recommended for funding under the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP) for FY 2025 in Maryland. He said the application period was between April 1 and May 15. He said MDOT received 11 applications for our region for a combined funding request of \$11,236,335. The funding available this year to the TPB for Maryland was \$3,764,590. He said a TPB selection panel met twice in June and identified 6 projects to recommend for funding for a total of \$3,846,526, which was above the available funds. He said that MDOT had agreed to fund the overage through statewide TAP funds. He described each of the recommended projects. He said the TPB would be asked to approve the projects at its meeting on July 17. There were no questions.

### **5. PERFORMANCE CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM: STATE DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION BRIEFINGS**

The committee was briefed on collaboration with the state DOTs on project identification and selection for formula funding from the Carbon Reduction Program, which was established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and provides funds for projects designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from on-road transportation.

---

To introduce the item, Mr. Srikanth briefed the committee on the Carbon Reduction Program elements and requirements as they pertain to the region.

**Item #5A: CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM: MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. Lovaas briefed the committee on MDOT's project identification and selection process for the Carbon Reduction Program funding. Mr. Srikanth emphasized that the MDOT process, which included extensive coordination with TPB staff, was designed to allow for the funds to be obligated for the projects that are ready as some of the funds will lapse in September 2025 if not obligated.

**Item #5B: CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM: VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. Berg briefed the committee on VDOT's project identification and selection process for Carbon Reduction Program funding. Mr. Srikanth noted that there were substantive differences between the approaches by MDOT and VDOT, as (1) Maryland developed a competitive process for projects to find the best projects, while still emphasizing project readiness, while Virginia was relying on funding the existing projects (i.e., the newly available funding was used to backfill funding gaps for the existing projects, including the TPB's Commuter Connections program, which had been funded with CMAQ funds, rather than bringing in new projects that can contribute to GHG reduction), and (2) TPB staff had no idea which projects were considered and how many projects were reviewed. TPB staff were not involved in solicitation or review of the projects and had no opportunity to provide comment, which does not meet the spirit of the Carbon Reduction Program. Mr. Srikanth added that the TPB has made climate change a very important consideration over the past decade and will look for ways to work with VDOT to improve the process in the future.

Mr. Berg (VDOT) noted that FHWA has approved VDOT's approach and VDOT feels that they are meeting the consultation and coordination requirements but could work with TPB on the approach for project selection for the out-year funding. Ms. Sinner (VDOT) noted that VDOT communicated its intent in several meetings. The CRP funding was applied to two existing projects and with the BRT project, the original funds for that project were out-year and by using CRP funds, VDOT was able to free up those out-year funds for activities in Fairfax County, and the funds were redistributed by NVTA for three other projects that are related to carbon reduction intent, which were lacking funds and can now be implemented sooner. As far as new projects, VDOT is ahead of the curve on the Regional Multi-Modal Mobility Program (RM3P), which Ms. Sinner stated is a regionally impactful project in terms of carbon reduction.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**6. REGIONAL SAFETY EVENT**

Ms. Nham briefed the Committee on a safety event TPB staff is currently planning for Fall 2024 to draw attention to the regional concern around recent traffic fatalities and severe injury trends. Ms. Nham reported that staff is still in the preliminary stages of planning but envisions a board-level, stand-alone event that will take place in September, potentially at an off-site location. The event format is still being determined but may feature a series of panel sessions each moderated by a TPB board member. Ms. Nham noted that a conceptual agenda was included in the meeting materials and encouraged Committee members to provide feedback and suggestions on the agenda and potential speakers. The Committee did not have any questions or comments.

---

## 7. WMATA BETTER BUS NETWORK REDESIGN PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Himes and Mr. Jones presented an update of WMATA's Better Bus Network Redesign (BBNR) project. BBNR is a Metrobus planning project centered on redesigning its network of bus routes across Maryland, D.C., and Virginia to better serve customers where they are and where they're going. Projected outcomes include not only more seamless trips on many routes, but also a new route naming system, improved connections, frequency, and reliability, more equitable service, and greater investment in bus priority tools. The project is an iterative process that has had multiple opportunities for public comment and has incorporated feedback into the final plan's recommendations. Certain tradeoffs were required to achieve stated goals, including cutting service to areas and routes with low ridership and potentially making bus stops more distant due to stop consolidation. The suggested changes are expected to attract 13,000 more riders each weekday to the broader transit network. BBNR includes financially constrained and more ambitious "visionary" unconstrained network possibilities. The goal is to adopt the final plan in Fall 2024 and begin implementing it in Summer 2025. Public comment opportunities continue as the plan is finalized. The Committee did not have any questions or comments.

## 8. CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM: DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Ms. Soniat briefed the committee on DDOT's project identification and selection process for the Carbon Reduction Program funding. Ms. Soniat's presentation included description of the proposed coordination process with the TPB.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

Visualize 2050: Recap, deadline extensions, schedule forthcoming – Cristina noted the TPB approval of two travel demand model analyses for the air quality conformity analysis. The schedule was extended to December 2025. The Non-Regionally Significant (NRS) project submissions due date was also extended to Friday, August 2. Internal review of the NRS projects will begin in August and continue into the Fall.

Curbside Management Symposium this Summer – Janie Nahm followed up on last month's announcement of the Curbside Management forum for this summer. Registration will begin soon and the meeting will be held in-person. TPB staff are looking into possibly offering a hybrid option.

DMV Moves - Kanti Srikanth mentioned a new website called DMV Moves, [dmvmoves.org](https://dmvmoves.org). TPB staff is assisting COG and WMATA by using and providing information and using some of TPB's planned activities. A transit survey has been developed and sent out to understand residents' needs and desires about the future of public transportation in the region and results of the survey are expected to be shared some time in the Fall.

Staff Update - Mark announced that the Travel Forecasting and Emissions Analysis team has two job openings listed on the COG job page. The positions are for a Transportation Engineer focused on Air Quality and Emissions, and a Transportation Engineer focused on model development. Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply.

**ATTENDANCE – Hybrid/ In-person**

<b>MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT</b>	
Mark Rawlings – DDOT - I Gary Erenrich – Montgomery County – V David Edmondson – City of Frederick - V Douglas Smith - Gaithersburg – V Victor Weissberg – Prince Georges County - V Kari Snyder – MDOT – V Malcolm Watson – Fairfax County - V Rob Donalson – Loudoun County – V	Gladys Hurwitz – Loudoun County - V Chole Delhomme – City of Manassas- V Megan Landis – Prince William Co. – V Evandro Santos – Prince William Co. – V Maria Sinner- VDOT - V Sree Nampootheri – NVTA – V Anne McGrane – NVTC – V Mark Phillips – WMATA - V Amy Garbarini – VDRPT - I
<b>OTHERS / MWCOG STAFF PRESENT</b>	
Kanti Srikanth - I Lyn Erickson - I Tim Canan - I Sergio Ritacco - I Andrew Austin - I Cristina Finch - I Jeff King - V Laura Bachle – I Charlene Howard – V  Heather Edelman – DC Council - V Chris Berg – VDOT - V Dale Castellow – VDOT - V Rahul Trivedi – VDOT - V	Janie Nham - I Leo Pineda - I Mark Moran - I Rachel Beyerle - I John Swanson - V Katherine Rainone - I Andrew Messe - I Dusan Vuksan - I Erin Morrow - V  Deron Lovaas – MDOT - V Meredith Soniat – DDOT - V Al Himes – WMATA - I William Jones – WMATA - I