



TPBnews

A Publication of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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TPB REVIEWS DRAFT CLRP AND CONFORMITY RESULTS

At its meeting on June 19, the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) received a briefing on the draft 2013 Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) for the Washington region. The TPB also reviewed the air quality conformity assessment for the 2013 CLRP, additional information on a recent travel model validation utilizing 2010 information, and recent regional data on vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

In the portion of the briefing that focused on the results of the air quality conformity assessment, the TPB was briefed on the recent validation of the travel demand model to reflect changes in travel trends. The version 2.3 travel demand model has a base year of 2007 and was originally calibrated using the 2007-2008

Household Travel Survey. Due to recent changes in travel trends nationally and in the Washington region, it was decided that the model should be validated using travel data for 2010.

Jane Posey of TPB staff described to the Board the process for validation of the travel demand model to the year 2010. She said staff used updated travel counts, data from WMATA, and new survey data, referring to the presentation given to the TPB in May by TPB staff member Robert Griffiths on Regional Changes in Commuter Patterns since 2007, which was highlighted in the June issue of *TPB News*. Posey noted that since World War II, there had been a steady trend of increasing VMT nationally, but that since

(Continued on page 5)

TPB APPROVES JARC AND NEW FREEDOM PROJECTS

The TPB on June 19 approved a slate of 10 projects totaling over \$2 million that will assist low-income persons and persons with disabilities who reside throughout the region in meeting their mobility needs.

The funding will support a variety of activities, including: providing taxi vouchers to residents of shelters and transitional housing in Northern Virginia to assist residents in attending job training or reaching job sites; supporting shuttle services to and from job sites in Fairfax County; providing low-interest car loans to working families in Prince George's County; purchas-

ing wheelchair-accessible taxicabs in Prince William County; and supporting wheelchair accessible taxicab projects in the District.

These projects are funded through the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Programs, which were created through the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users – commonly referred to as SAFETEA-LU – the federal legislation that was enacted in 2005 and served as the predecessor to the current authorizing legislation that governs the TPB's work, Moving

(Continued on page 3)

Upcoming meetings and items of interest:

Work Session on the Draft TPB Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP): July 17, 2013 -10:00 a.m.

TPB Meeting: July 17, 2013

- Approval of the 2013 CLRP

Inside this issue of *TPBnews*:

2 Bike to Work Day a Regional Success

2 Other June Agenda Items

4 TPB Briefed on Priorities Plan Schedule

4 Upcoming July Agenda Items

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

BIKE TO WORK DAY A REGIONAL SUCCESS

Bike to Work Day 2013, held on May 17, was a regional success with participation up 15 percent from the 2012 event. There were over 14,500 registered riders who participated in events at more than 70 regional pit stops. Virginia residents represented the largest share of registered riders with 6,328 participants. The District of Columbia and Maryland had 4,100 and 4,088 registered riders, respectively.

The pit stops were held around the region, including an increasing number of pit stops located in suburban locations: Sterling and Reston in Virginia, and the National Institute of Health in Maryland. The top five pit stops by participation were:

- Rosslyn – 965 participants
- Freedom Plaza – 917 participants
- Bethesda – 708 participants
- Old Town Alexandria – 621 participants
- Ballston – 571 participants

An objective of the region's Bike to Work Day Steering Committee was to build on momentum generated by past years and communicate benefits of bicycling to work as a fun, healthy, and cost effective way to

get to work. Committee goals were to exceed the previous year's 12,700 registration level, and exceed 2012 sponsorship dollars.

Bike to Work Day sponsorship reached a record-breaking cash total of \$48,550, a 6.5 percent increase over 2012. In addition, in-kind sponsorships of \$17,450 exceeded last year's total by 13 percent.



US DOT Secretary Ray LaHood (center, with tie) attended the Bike to Work Day pit stop at the US DOT building in the District and advertised the event on his blog and Facebook page.

The TPB's Commuter Connections Program jointly manages Bike to Work Day with the Washington Area Bicyclists Association. More information may be found at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org, or on Facebook and Twitter. ♦

OTHER JUNE AGENDA ITEMS

The June 20 TPB meeting also included the following item:

- Briefing on the Implementation of the TPB Regional Priority Bus Project under the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program. ♦

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JARC / NEW FREEDOM PROJECTS

(Continued from page 1)

Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, or MAP-21.

The solicitation for this JARC and New Freedom program cycle – which was conducted between February 12 and April 17 of this year – marks the final time that the TPB will call for projects under the JARC and New Freedom programs; MAP-21 streamlined the former SAFETEA-LU mobility programs and formed the new Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility program, which holds different requirements for the TPB.

In total, \$1.3 million in JARC funding and \$728,000 in New Freedom funding will be awarded. Applicants are required to put up matching funds – 20 percent for capital projects and 50 percent for operation.

For more information on the projects that were awarded, please see below, or visit www.tpbcoordination.org. ♦

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Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Grants

Doorways for Women and Families: Provides taxi vouchers for residents of shelters and housing in Northern VA to attend job training or reach job sites.

JARC Funds: \$20,000
 Required Match: \$20,000
Total: \$40,000

Dulles Area Transportation Association (DATA) Rideshare Coordinator: Provides a Coordinator to serve employment sites in the Dulles corridor to assist low-income employees to carpool, vanpool, or use public transit.

JARC Funds: \$150,000
 Required Match: \$37,500
Total: \$187,500

Skill Source Group Road to Employment Project: Support for a shuttle that will transport participants in the Fairfax County Pre-Release Employment program to and from job sites.

JARC Funds: \$125,127
 Required Match: \$125,127
Total: \$250,254

Family Matters of Greater Washington Ways to Work Program: Provides low-interest car loans to working families in SE DC and Prince George's County and benefits those with limited access to transit that have reverse commutes and/or child-care related transportation needs.

JARC Funds: \$224,000
 Required Match: \$116,000
Total: \$340,000

Northern Virginia Family Services Vehicles for Change Program: Provides vehicles to low-income families for a program fee and benefits working families with limited access to transit.

JARC Funds: \$784,000
 Required Match: \$286,410
Total: \$1,034,410

Northern Virginia Family Services Training Futures Program:

Supports a shuttle to the Training Futures job training site in Manassas from commuter stops within a 10-mile radius.

JARC Funds: \$51,278
 Required Match: \$51,278
Total: \$102,556

New Freedom Grants

City of Alexandria Pedestrian Mobility Enhancements:

Provides improved pedestrian access for persons with disabilities at four intersections with bus stops.

New Freedom Funds: \$320,000
 Required Match: \$80,000
Total: \$400,000

Yellow Cab Prince William County Accessible Taxi Pilot:

Funding for the purchase of four wheelchair-accessible taxis.

New Freedom Funds: \$125,000
 Required Match: \$31,250
Total: \$156,250

Liberty Transportation rollIDC Continuation:

Supports Royal Cab in the wheelchair accessible taxicab pilot for DC by providing funding for the purchase of three additional vehicles and operating funds for 10 existing accessible taxis.

New Freedom Funds: \$191,030
 Required Match: \$85,753
Total: \$276,783

DC Office on Aging Door-through-Door Project:

Funding for the continuation of Caregivers Respite Escort Service for Transportation (CREST) program which provides a home care aid to accompany older adults to medical appointments.

New Freedom Funds: \$91,468
 Required Match: \$91,468
Total: \$182,936

TPB BRIEFED ON PRIORITIES PLAN SCHEDULE

Since 2010, the TPB has been working on the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP), an effort to identify transportation strategies that offer the greatest potential contributions towards realizing regional goals. At the June 19 TPB meeting, staff presented an updated schedule regarding next steps for RTPP that include periods for comment and revision, and a work session for members of the TPB.

TPB staff will have a draft of the RTPP prepared and mailed to Board members on July 11. The draft will be posted to the TPB website and discussed during the Citizen Advisory Committee on July 11. At 10:00 a.m. on July 17, the TPB will convene a work session to have a detailed discussion on the draft RTPP. Following the work session, TPB staff will revise the RTPP, incorporating feedback from the TPB work session. Starting on July 25 and through the month of August, the revised RTPP will be available for public comment.

On September 6, the revised RTPP draft will be presented to the TPB Technical Committee. The TPB will be asked to review and approve the RTPP on September 18.

The RTPP will also be presented at a September 27 event: "Economy Forward: One Year Later". The event will link the RTPP to a parallel plan, the Strategic Development Plan for Regional Activity Centers, which is being prepared for approval by the COG Board of Directors.

Julia Koster, who represents the National Capital Planning Commission, expressed concern that this plan only allows for 30 days of public comment. She noted that this schedule provides "only a week for us to absorb both public comments, but also comments from the Citizen Advisory group." Todd Turner, who represents the City of Bowie, echoed those concerns. Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation planning, responded that the schedule is only a guide and that there may need to be some flexibility regarding the time line. ♦

UPCOMING JULY AGENDA ITEMS

The July 17 TPB Meeting is expected to include the following:

- Approval of Regional Car Free Days 2013 Proclamation.
- Review of Comments Received and Acceptance of Recommended Responses for Inclusion in the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2013 Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and FY 2013-2018 TIP.
- Approval of the Air Quality Conformity Determination of the 2013 CLRP and FY 2013-2018 TIP.
- Approval of the 2013 CLRP.
- Certification of the Urban Transportation Planning Process for the National Capital Region.
- Approval of Technical Assistance Recipients Under the FY 2014 Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program.
- Approval of Projects for Funding Under the MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program for FY 2013-2014 in the District of Columbia and Maryland and for FY 2014 in Virginia.
- Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2013-2018 TIP that is Exempt from the Air Quality Conformity Requirement to Include Project and Funding Updates for the Suburban Maryland Section.
- Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2013-2018 TIP that is Exempt from the Air Quality Conformity Requirement to Include Project and Funding Updates for the Northern Virginia Section.
- Briefing on the Draft TPB Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP).

Information and materials for the monthly TPB meeting are posted on the TPB website one week prior to the meeting: www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb. ♦

CLRP AND CONFORMITY ANALYSIS

(Continued from page 1)

2007, there has been a slight downward trend. Posey said potential reasons could be the effects of the recession, fuel price volatility, growing internet-based commerce, and changing travel preferences.

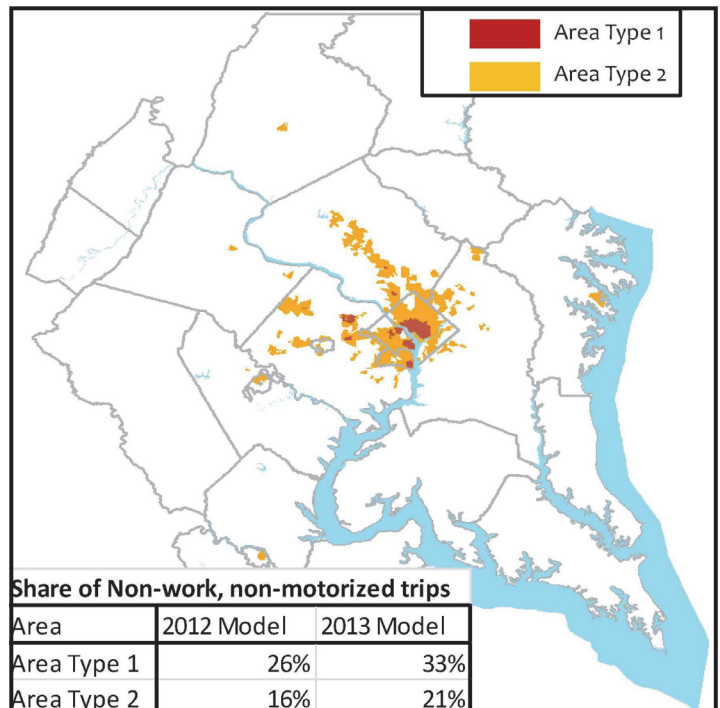
TPB staff analyzed the changes in VMT for the Washington region by three geographies: inner jurisdictions, suburban jurisdictions, and outer jurisdictions. Posey said the analysis showed that VMT was essentially flat and VMT per capita had declined for each of the three geographies, with the biggest percentage decrease in VMT per capita in the outer jurisdictions. She said staff modified the travel demand model by increasing the shares of non-motorized trips for non-work trips in two area types, shown at right, and by refining highway network coding. Posey said the 2012 travel demand model was four percent over when compared to observed VMT, but that for the revised 2013 travel demand model, the estimated VMT was the same as observed.

Marc Elrich of Montgomery County wondered if the downward turn in VMT isn't due primarily to recent increases in unemployment. He asked if staff would con-

tinue monitoring this trend. Posey said staff will continue to watch the trend in VMT and would modify the travel demand model again if data warrants.

At the February 20 meeting, the Board approved the projects submitted for inclusion in the air quality conformity assessment for the 2013 CLRP. On June 13 the draft plan was released for public comment at the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. After the 30-day comment period, the TPB will be asked to approve the 2013 CLRP at its July 17 meeting.

For more information about projects included in the draft 2013 CLRP and the air quality conformity analysis, please visit www.mwcog.org/clrp/resources. *TPB News* covered the draft submissions in the February issue. ♦



TPB terminology

AFA	Access for All Advisory Committee
ARRA	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee
CLRP	Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan
COG	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
DDOT	District Department of Transportation
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
MDOT	Maryland Department of Transportation
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
NVTA	Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
RTPP	Regional Transportation Priorities Plan
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
TPB	Transportation Planning Board
UPWP	Unified Planning Work Program
VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
WMATA	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

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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.).

July 2013

- 10 Car Free Day Meeting (10 am)
- 11 Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 16 Employer Outreach Committee (10 am)
- 16 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 16 Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 17 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 19 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 23 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 25 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 25 Access for All Advisory Committee (noon)

September 2013

- 6 Technical Committee (9 am)
- 6 Steering Committee (noon)
- 11 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 11 Car Free Day Steering Committee (11:30 am)
- 12 Citizens Advisory Committee (6pm)
- 17 Regional TDM Marketing Group (10am)
- 17 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 17 Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee Meeting (1 pm)
- 17 Commuter Connection Ridematching Committee (2 pm)
- 18 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 20 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 24 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 26 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)

October 2013

- 4 Technical Committee (9 am)
- 4 Steering Committee (noon)
- 10 Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 15 Employer Outreach Committee (10 am)
- 16 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 22 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 24 Access for All Advisory Committee (noon)

Dates and times subject to change.
Please visit our website at
www.mwcog.org
for up-to-date information.

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

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