

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING LONG-RANGE PLAN TASK FORCE
INITIATIVES FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS**

WHEREAS, the National Capital Regional Transportation Planning Board (TPB), as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington Region, has the responsibility under the provisions of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, the TPB, as part of the regional metropolitan planning process, continues to develop and adopt a fiscally Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) as mandated by the federal FAST Act as a means of ensuring that federal funding and approval for transportation projects in the region are made available; and

WHEREAS, the TPB has noted that the combination of project inputs and the planned land use reflected in the current CLRP results in less than satisfactory levels of performance of the region's transportation system compared to current conditions and does not make significant progress towards achieving the goals laid out in TPB and COG's governing documents; and

WHEREAS, the TPB understands that one of its primary responsibilities is "to coordinate future plans, provide fair, balanced and comprehensive data and analysis to decision makers to inform and influence transportation programming decisions so as to advance the regional Transportation Vision and Priority Principals by advancing a more effective set of project and policy inputs to the region's long range transportation plans"; and

WHEREAS, the TPB believes the region needs to develop a Long-Range Transportation Plan that goes beyond the project inputs reflected in its current CLRP, and that includes a combination of programs, projects and policies that would better achieve the broad range of transportation goals embedded in TPB and COG's adopted guiding documents; and

WHEREAS, the TPB adopted R16-2017, As Amended, establishing the Long-Range Plan Task Force with the mission of "identifying for TPB's acceptance in July 2017 for further analyses approximately 6-10 projects, policies or programs to determine if they make significantly better progress towards achieving the goals laid out in TPB and COG's governing documents"; and

WHEREAS, the Long-Range Plan Task Force used existing governing TPB and COG policy documents as guidance, including the goals from the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan,

Region Forward, and the Vision, and the challenges in achieving the goals as identified in the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Long-Range Plan Task Force, over the course of the past three months, had identified over 80 individual project, policy, and program ideas, and undertook a process to narrow that long list down to 10 initiatives that are worthy of further analysis to assess their potential impact on the performance of the region's transportation system, as presented in Table 1 of the attached memo dated July 13, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the 10 initiatives go beyond what is included in the current CLRP such that each initiative is regional in nature and will be assessed to see if they have the potential to make noticeable improvements in some aspects of regional performance toward achieving the goals described in TPB and COG's governing documents, and such that each initiative includes supporting elements that increase the improvement potential of each initiative; and

WHEREAS, the crafting of this combination of initiatives was extremely difficult and reflects the task force's best attempt at thinking regionally and recognizing that the diversity of the region's transportation needs and solutions merits being open to assessing projects, programs and policies which may be appealing to some, but not all member jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the acceptance of these 10 initiatives for further analysis by the TPB does not: (1) reflect an endorsement of the initiatives or elements thereof; (2) guarantee that any of the individual initiatives will be endorsed by the TPB in December or added into the Long-Range Transportation Plan; and (3) and cannot require any jurisdiction to alter any existing or future plans for transportation projects, land-use, pricing or travel demand management policies or programs; and

WHEREAS, the acceptance of the 10 initiatives by the TPB will mean that staff will undertake a planning level technical analysis to determine any potential improvement in the performance levels of the region's transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the technical analysis of the 10 initiatives will include potential quantitative and qualitative benefits to the region of the initiatives as well as rough estimates of cost, the results of which will be shared with the task force and TPB later this fall; and

WHEREAS, the results of the analysis will not by themselves become determining factors for any further action the TPB may wish to take, rather, the results will help inform a more detailed discussion by the TPB regarding if any of the initiatives should be considered for further endorsement by the TPB; and

WHEREAS, such a discussion could include other factors such as more detailed definition and analysis of the components of the initiatives, cost-benefit considerations, identification of the funding needed to implement the initiatives, and the viability of taking any action needed to implement policies or programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD:

1. Accepts for further analysis the attached list of 10 improvement initiatives from Table 1 of the attached July 13, 2017 memo as recommended by the Long-Range Plan Task Force.
2. Charges staff with analyzing if and how any of these 10 initiatives could make significantly better progress towards achieving the goals laid out in TPB and COG's regional governing documents, using the goals and challenges for guidance.
3. Charges the task force with reviewing the analysis and presenting to the TPB later this year a summary of findings and with presenting to the TPB a recommended process by which the TPB may later endorse a final selection from among the 10 initiatives for inclusion in the aspirational element of the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan and/or future concerted TPB action. The task force may also choose to present the TPB with a recommendation of the final selection.
4. Charges the Task Force and staff to explore possible sources of funding and financing strategies for advancing these regionally significant projects, policies or programs.

Adopted by the Transportation Planning Board at its regular meeting on July 19, 2017



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Jay Fiset, Chairman, TPB Long-Range Plan Task Force
SUBJECT: Projects, Policies, and Programs Recommended for TPB Acceptance for Analysis
DATE: July 13, 2017

This memorandum presents the 10 projects, policies, and programs (“initiatives”¹) that the TPB Long-Range Plan Task Force recommends to TPB for further analysis “to determine if they make significantly better progress towards achieving the goals laid out in TPB and COG’s regional governing documents,” as the task force was charged to do by TPB Resolution R16-2017, As Amended. The recommended package of 10 initiatives allows for the analysis of a wide variety of improvement ideas, including multi-modal (highway and transit) projects, pricing, land use and travel demand management strategies. As such, the initiatives in Table 1 are best accepted as a package as a whole to maintain the spirit of discussions and basis of recommendation from the task force as well as to keep the schedule defined in R16-2017, As Amended.

This section below describes the principles the task force used to select these 10 initiatives recommended for analysis, describes the next steps, and presents the 10 initiatives recommended for analysis in Table 1.

PRINCIPLES FOR SELECTION

Over the course of the past three months, the task force identified over 80 individual project, policy, and program ideas for consideration, and undertook a process to narrow that long list down to approximately 6 to 10 initiatives for further analysis. In recommending initiatives to advance for analysis, the task force recognized that members represent a wide variety of interests with different perspectives, and in deliberations put an emphasis on recommending a set of initiatives worthy of further analysis to assess their potential regional level impact on the performance of the region’s transportation system, even if some of the initiatives are controversial. Task force members had opportunities to identify and discuss their preferred initiatives, and the task force agreed on the following general principles in selecting initiatives to recommend to TPB for analysis:

- Each initiative goes beyond what is currently included in the existing CLRP.
- Each initiative is regional in nature and is worthy of analysis to examine whether it has the potential to make noticeable improvements in regional performance toward achieving the goals described in TPB and COG’s regional governing documents.

¹ Initiatives were defined as mega-projects, mega-programs, or mega-policies of a regional scale that may involve multiple components. Use of the term “initiative” allows the task force to proceed without needing to differentiate between those that are projects, policies, or programs.

- Considerations of the viability (e.g., political or financial) of initiatives were limited at this point because at this stage the task force is proposing initiatives for further analysis, not for inclusion in the long-range plan. Some of the initiatives generated significant controversy among task force members, but the task force concluded that it was important for them to be analyzed given that the ideas are worthy of further analysis to assess whether they hold potential to produce noticeable improvements in the region.
- Where an initiative requires multiple components to achieve substantial improvements and those components all relate sufficiently to each other, they were considered one cohesive initiative (e.g., a mega-project/program/policy).
- Each initiative is assumed to include supporting elements. For example, transit initiatives will be accompanied by improvements in bicycle and pedestrian access and supported by land use policies that focus development around transit stations.
- As a whole, the initiatives should allow for the analysis of a wide variety of options and solutions, including multi-modal, technology, project, program, and policy elements.

NEXT STEPS

The TPB will be asked to accept these 10 initiatives for further analysis. The TPB’s acceptance of this package does not imply that any of the individual initiatives will be endorsed by the TPB in December or added into the Long-Range Transportation Plan.

When the TPB accepts these 10 initiatives for analysis, TPB staff and their contractor team will immediately begin their analysis, which will allow the task to remain on schedule for the delivery of the final report at the end of the calendar year. This report will provide the TPB with information as to how these initiatives might help the region move closer to its regional goals and a planning level estimate of the cost of implementing the initiatives. This information together with other considerations such as the viability (including funding and support from stakeholders and decision makers) will inform the TPB’s future discussion and action in December as to whether any of the initiatives should be endorsed for inclusion into the aspirational element of the region’s Long-Range Transportation Plan.

**TABLE 1 10 INITIATIVES RECOMMENDED FOR ANALYSIS
BY TPB LONG RANGE PLAN TASK FORCE**

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Components</i>
Multimodal Initiatives	
1. Regional Express Travel Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express toll lanes network (free to HOV and transit) with added lanes where feasible on existing limited access highways (including remaining portion of the Capital Beltway, I-270, Dulles Toll Road, U.S. 50); includes expanded American Legion Bridge. • New express bus services on network (paid in part through tolls) connecting major Activity Centers.

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Components</i>
2. Regional Congestion Hotspot Relief Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of technology and enhanced system operations strategies, such as ramp metering, active traffic management, and integrated corridor management (including transit signal priority and enhanced multimodal travel information), plus targeted capacity enhancements where feasible to address top regional congestion hotspots and adjoining connections. • Improved roadway design (such as treatments of turning movements) and reversible lanes on major roadways, as appropriate (to be identified based on strong directional flows). • Expanded regional incident management where appropriate. • Technological integration of demand-responsive services for persons with disabilities and others with limited mobility to create efficiencies of scale and improve mobility of traditionally underserved populations.
3. Additional Northern Bridge Crossing / Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New northern bridge crossing of Potomac River, as a multimodal corridor. • New express bus services connecting existing Activity Centers in this multimodal corridor.
<i>Transit Initiatives</i>	
4. Regionwide High-Capacity Transitways (such as Bus Rapid Transit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-capacity transit networks (such as bus rapid transit (BRT)) in Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, Northern Virginia (TransAction 2040), DC (moveDC), and transitway from Branch Ave to Waldorf, specifications according to jurisdiction plans. • Improved bicycle and pedestrian connections and access improvements to transit stations.
5. Regional Commuter Rail Enhancements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRE System Plan 2040 and MARC Growth and Investment Plan (including run-thru and two-way service on selected lines, increased frequency and hours of service). • Long Bridge corridor improvements including at least 4 tracks and bicycle-pedestrian facilities. • Improved bicycle and pedestrian connections and access improvements to rail stations.
6. Metrorail Regional Core Capacity Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% 8-car trains • Metrorail station improvements at high-volume stations in system core. • Second Rosslyn station to reduce interlining and increase frequency. • New Metrorail core line to add capacity across Potomac River (new Rosslyn tunnel) between Virginia and DC through Georgetown to Union Station toward Waterfront. • Improved bicycle and pedestrian connections and access improvements to rail stations.

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Components</i>
7. Transit Rail Extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrorail extensions to Centreville/Gainesville, Hybla Valley/Potomac Mills. • Can consider an extension(s) in MD, such as to National Harbor or north of Shady Grove (to be defined later). • Purple line extension to Tysons (west) and Eisenhower Avenue (east). • Improved bicycle and pedestrian connections and access improvements to rail stations.
<i>Policy-Focused Initiatives</i>	
8. Optimize Regional Land-Use Balance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimize jobs/housing balance regionwide. • Increase jobs and housing around underutilized rail stations and Activity Centers with high-capacity transit. • Build more housing in the region to match employment (about 130,000 more households).
9. Transit Fare Policy Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced price Metrorail fare for off-peak direction during peak period and on underutilized segments. • Free transit for low-income residents.
10. Amplified Travel Demand Management for Commute Trips	<p>New policies (e.g., employer trip reduction requirements) and programs (e.g., financial incentives) implemented at the local and regional scale to significantly reduce single-occupancy vehicle commute trip making, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer-based parking cash-out • Expanded employer-based transit/vanpool benefits • Expanded telework and flexible schedule adoption • Substantial increase in priced commuter parking in major Activity Centers.