

# LONG-RANGE PLAN TASK FORCE UPDATE

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Commuter Connections Subcommittee  
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National Capital Region  
Transportation Planning Board

# Status Report

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- Recap on Activities and Actions
- 10 Initiatives
- Task Force Next Steps



# Recap on Activities and Actions

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- The task force recommended 10 initiatives based on three months of work, and over 80 ideas of projects, programs and policies
- TPB passed resolution on July 19 accepting the task force's recommendations to do sketch planning analysis on 10 initiatives to see if and how they could make progress toward achieving the region's goals and challenges
- This action does NOT:
  - Reflect an endorsement by the TPB
  - Guarantee that any of these initiatives will ever be endorsed OR be added to the Long-Range Plan
  - Cannot require any jurisdiction to alter their own plans, policies or programs



# The 10 Initiatives to be Studied

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- Principles for selecting the 10 initiatives recommended to TPB:
  - Each initiative goes beyond what is currently included in the existing CLRP and is “regional”.
  - Initiative viability (e.g., political or financial) was not yet considered
  - 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.



# The 10 Initiatives to be Studied

INITIATIVE	COMPONENTS
<b>Multimodal Initiatives</b>	
<b>1. Regional Express Travel Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• New express bus services on network (paid in part through tolls) connecting major Activity Centers.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Regional Congestion Hotspot Relief Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Expanded regional incident management where appropriate.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Additional Northern Bridge Crossing / Corridor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New northern bridge crossing of Potomac River, as a multimodal corridor.</li> <li>• New express bus services connecting existing Activity Centers in this multimodal corridor.</li> </ul>

# The 10 Initiatives to be Studied

INITIATIVE	COMPONENTS
<b>Transit Initiatives</b>	
<b>4. Regionwide High-Capacity Transitways (such as Bus Rapid Transit)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Improved bicycle and pedestrian connections and access improvements to transit stations.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Regional Commuter Rail Enhancements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Long Bridge corridor improvements including at least 4 tracks and bicycle-pedestrian facilities.</li> <li>• Improved bicycle and pedestrian connections and access improvements to rail stations.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Metrorail Regional Core Capacity Improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% 8-car trains</li> <li>• Metrorail station improvements at high-volume stations in system core.</li> <li>• Second Rosslyn station to reduce interlining and increase frequency.</li> <li>• New Metrorail core line to add capacity across Potomac River (new Rosslyn tunnel) between Virginia and DC through Georgetown to Union Station toward Waterfront.</li> <li>• Improved bicycle and pedestrian connections and access improvements to rail stations.</li> </ul>

# The 10 Initiatives to be Studied

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



# Task Force Next Steps

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Currently:

- Technical team (staff and consultants) are underway with sketch planning analysis
  - Assumptions and inputs have been selected, using past local and regional studies as resources
  - Appropriate tools and methods have been selected according to the needs of analyzing each initiative
  - Potential performance measures have been identified and will be reviewed by the task force at their September 20 meeting



# Task Force Next Steps (continued)

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Later this year:

- Discussion about recommending a process by which the TPB will make a final decision
- Ongoing status reports on analysis
- Analysis results
- Discussion on other important factors such as financial and political feasibility
- Task force to present recommendations to TPB



# Task Force Next Steps (continued)

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- Should TPB act to endorse certain measures as a result of their performance in the sketch planning analysis, TPB “endorsement” could mean...
  - The endorsed initiatives could be included in the aspirational element of Visualize 2045, the 2018 update of the TPB’s long-range plan
  - TPB may encourage member jurisdictions to study the initiatives and champion them for adoption at local levels
  - Note: All regular planning and implementation regulations and requirements would still apply to all these projects. Endorsement by the TPB in this fashion will not technically bring any project closer to implementation.



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