



TPB RELEASES TRANSPORTATION HUB WEBSITE

In October, the TPB launched a new website, called the Transportation Planning Information Hub for the National Capital Region. The site, designed for residents who are interested in better understanding how transportation decisions are made and how to get involved, is a one-stop-shop of information pertaining to the regional planning process, significant transportation projects, and regional planning documents and resources.

The website brings together in one place contact information for all TPB-member governments and planning agencies, as well as a comprehensive library of the planning documents in which projects often appear before

they enter the regional plan and move ahead to implementation. In addition, the website contains a section on High Profile Projects that highlights many of the regionally significant projects that are already included in the TPB's Constrained Long-Range Plan, or CLRP.

The site also provides references to opportunities for public involvement in the various planning processes of the TPB's member jurisdictions. This information is included throughout the site in the form of green arrows that link to outside resources, such as a specific county's public meeting calendar, where residents can access important information that will allow them to effectively interact with and be heard in the various
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FALL STREET SMART CAMPAIGN RAISES AWARENESS OF PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY

Last month law enforcement personnel, elected leaders, and transportation officials from across the Washington region gathered at a park near the Capitol to kick off the semi-annual "Street Smart" Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Campaign.

Started in 2002 by local, state, and federal agencies, Street Smart is an advertising campaign that aims to reduce the number of pedestrians and cyclists injured or killed each year by using mass media and other outreach strategies to raise public awareness of bicycle and pedestrian safety laws and practices.

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The "Tired Faces" of the Streetsmart Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Campaign feature images like this one to draw attention to the importance of pedestrian safety.

Upcoming meetings and items of interest:

TPB Meeting: November 20, 2013

- Approval of Final Call for Projects and Schedule for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2014 CLRP and FY 2015-2020 TIP
- Briefing on Draft 2013 CLRP Brochure

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SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR CLRP



During its October 16 meeting, the TPB received a briefing on the draft call for projects document and schedule for the air quality conformity assessment for the 2014 Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and FY 2015-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The currently proposed schedule is as follows:

- November 20, 2013: TPB releases Final Call for Projects.
- December 13, 2013 (deadline): Transportation agencies complete on-line submission of draft project Inputs.
- January 3, 2014: Technical Committee reviews Draft CLRP project submissions and draft Scope of Work for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment.
- January 9, 2014: CLRP project submissions and draft Scope of Work released for public comment.
- January 15, 2014: TPB is briefed on project submissions and draft Scope of Work.
- February 8, 2014: Public comment period ends.
- February 19, 2014: TPB reviews public comments and is asked to approve project submissions and draft Scope of Work.
- May 2, 2014 (deadline): Transportation agencies finalize CLRP forms and inputs to the FY 2015-2020 TIP.
- June 12, 2014: Draft CLRP, TIP, and Conformity Assessment released for public comment at Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).
- June 18, 2014: TPB briefed on the draft CLRP, TIP, and Conformity Assessment.
- July 12, 2014: Public comment period ends.
- July 16, 2014: TPB reviews public comments and responses to comments, and

is presented the draft CLRP, TIP, and Conformity Assessment for adoption.

Gary Erenrich of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation asked how the fiscal constraint of the CLRP would be reviewed in light of the jurisdictions and states working to fund projects through a larger variety of funding opportunities. Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning at MWCOG, responded that work is currently underway to update the financial forecasts for the region. Kirby noted that the 2014 CLRP schedule could be revised if necessary.

Harriet Tregoning of the District of Columbia Office of Planning noted that the 2013 call for projects included “an explicit acknowledgment of Region Forward, a document that had been voted on and approved by all 22 jurisdictions, and specifically mentioned climate goals.” Staff said the documentation was shifted towards focusing on the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan. She asked that language also be included in the Policy Framework again to call attention to Region Forward. It was agreed that the Region Forward language will be added back into the documentation.

The TPB will be asked to approve the final call for projects document at its November 20 meeting. ♦

FIND TPB ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

If you're interested in getting up-to-date information about the TPB, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter! Search **National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board** on Facebook and “like” our page. Follow us on Twitter at **@NatCapRegTPB**.

We announce upcoming meetings; release of key studies; presentations; reports and publications; public comment periods; and other relevant information. ♦

BOARD DISCUSSES DRAFT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES PLAN

At its October 16 meeting, the TPB dedicated nearly an hour to discussing the latest draft of the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan, the culmination of a three-year effort to identify the region's most pressing transportation challenges and the top strategies for addressing them.

Following a brief presentation by staff, Board members each had an opportunity to provide feedback on the latest draft, which was released for comment from the general public on October 10.

Board members' comments were wide-ranging, but focused on a handful of key issues. Among them was a desire for greater specificity regarding how the priorities identified in the Plan would be implemented - especially as part of the upcoming four-year update to the region's Constrained Long-Range Plan, or CLRP - and specific identification of the elements in Metro's Momentum strategic plan as transportation priorities for the region.

Todd Turner, who chaired the scoping task force for the Priorities Plan in 2010 and 2011, said, "I'm hoping this plan is an implementation plan for how the TPB is going to look at project submissions from the states and the local departments of transportation and ask, 'How do they address the regional priorities?'"

Shyam Kannan, who represents the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority on the Board, thanked staff for including Metro's comments relating to initiatives called for in Metro's strategic plan. "The more specificity we can give to the actions that need to be taken to make Momentum a reality, the more powerful this document will become," Kannan said.

Board members also said they hoped the Plan could be more visionary and move beyond short-term funding and policy constraints, like a restriction in MAP-21, the latest federal law governing surface transportation, which generally prohibits tolling of existing lanes on highways.

"While I think we need to be mindful of what the federal legislation currently gives us to work with," said Sam Zimbabwe, of the District Department of Transportation, "I think that we don't want to use that as a foregone conclusion for the next 25 or 30 years."

Commuter rail was also a focus of several Board members' comments. Phil Mendelson, who represents the District of Columbia on the Board, called attention to a number of comments that the Plan understates the role that commuter rail can play in the region's future. "I think these comments highlight that there needs to be more attention to commuter rail playing a role in our regional transportation system. The Plan needs to address that more distinctly," Mendelson said.

Other comments during the Board meeting stressed the importance of regional coordination in carrying out the priority strategies in the Plan, as well as ensuring accessibility to the region's transportation system for persons with disabilities, low-income individuals, and people with limited English proficiency.

Ron Kirby, who gave the staff presentation, told Board members that their comments would be transcribed and addressed in the next draft of the Plan, due out in November.

The Regional Transportation Priorities Plan got its start in 2010 after the TPB's Citizens Advisory Committee urged the TPB to develop a method for identifying priority projects to include in the CLRP.

Following a May 2010 TPB event, known as the Conversation on Setting Regional Transportation Priorities, the TPB set up a task force to establish a work plan for developing the Plan. Since that time, staff have been working to identify the most significant challenges standing in the way of meeting the region's long-term transportation goals, along with strategies with the greatest potential for addressing those challenges. That work has included several rounds of public outreach, including a public opinion survey carried out in the spring of 2013.

For more information on the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan or to view the latest draft, visit: www.mwcog.org/transportation/priorities. ♦

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FIRST EVER SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL REGIONAL MEETING HELD IN OCTOBER

On October 29, the TPB Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, in conjunction with the Greater Washington DC Region Safe Routes to School Network, jointly hosted the first ever Safe Routes to School Regional Meeting. More than 70 participants from a variety of disciplines gathered to network and discuss ways to implement Safe Routes to School, a former federal program that has become a movement aimed to increase physical activity and improve safety among students through policy, systems, and environmental changes.

Because the education and awareness activities sponsored by Safe Routes to School programs vary by jurisdiction based on program structure and the needs of each area, this regional meeting served an important function of bringing together stakeholders to share information and identify actionable next steps to maintain the movement's momentum.

More than 12 speakers spoke about a variety of relevant programmatic information. Discussion topics ranged from describing best practices for implementing Safe Routes to Schools in several jurisdictions and school



GREATER WASHINGTON DC

districts to demonstrating the usefulness of Safe Routes to School as a health, traffic reduction, and air quality improvement program. Speakers also addressed ways to fund Safe Routes to School and other related transportation projects.

Participants left with an invigorated sense about the importance of the Safe Routes to School movement, and with actionable ideas and next steps. Meeting attendees will be added to an ever-growing network of Safe Routes to School advocates and supporters.

To view the meeting materials, including Case Studies and fact sheets, visit the Greater Washington DC Region Safe Routes to School website at <http://saferoutespartnership.org/local/rnp/greaterwashington>. ♦

TPB INFORMATION HUB WEBSITE

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stages of the planning process.

The development of the Hub represents an effort by the TPB to reach out to the public to explain how and where transportation decisions are made in the region, and the role that the TPB plays in coordinating that process.

The TPB hopes this site will be a widely used resource.

The Transportation Planning Information Hub may be accessed by visiting: <http://www.transportationplanninghub.org/>. ♦



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
INFORMATION HUB
FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

www.transportationplanninghub.org

FALL STREET SMART CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

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This fall's campaign, set to run through November 24, features the same outdoor advertising as was used in the spring campaign earlier in the year.

The ads, which recently won a national advertising award, are placed in bus shelters and on the sides of buses, and feature images of individuals whose faces have been symbolically blemished by a tire tread as a way to call attention to the dangers confronting pedestrians and bicyclists.



Jeff Duncel, Pedestrian Safety Coordinator for Montgomery County, speaks at the Street Smart Campaign Fall Kickoff event outside the Capitol in October.

The images are accompanied by key safety messages aimed at reminding travelers to be on the lookout for one another and to take steps to reduce the likelihood of collisions. These messages are also broadcast on area radio stations, through sponsorships of traffic reports.

On October 16, the TPB was briefed on an annual report for the FY 2012-2013 Street Smart campaign. The report included an evaluation of the April 2013 campaign and showed that 50% of people who primarily walk report

having seen or heard the Street Smart safety messages, while 27% of drivers reported familiarity with the campaign. The report also highlighted Street Smart's ability to leverage relationships with transit agencies, radio stations, and other partners to increase the impact of the campaign's \$534,000 budget, resulting on an estimated campaign value of \$2.5 million.

For more information and publicity materials, visit www.beststreetmart.net. ♦

UPCOMING NOVEMBER AGENDA ITEMS

The November 20 TPB meeting is expected to include the following items:

- Appointment of Nominating Committee for year 2014 TPB Officers.
- Approval of Final Call for Projects and Schedule for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2014 Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and FY2015-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Approval of an Amendment to the FY2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to Revise the Budget and Work Elements.
- Briefing on the Final Report of the TPB Bus on Shoulder (BOS) Task Force.
- Briefing on the Draft 2013 CLRP Brochure.
- Discussion of Revised Draft TPB Regional Transportation Priorities Plan Document. ♦

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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 North Capitol St., NE (Enter from First St., NE).

November 2013

- 1 Technical Committee (9 am)
- 1 Steering Committee (noon)
- 12 Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation System (MOITS) Technical Subcommittee (12:30 pm)
- 13 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 14 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 14 Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 19 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 19 Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 20 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 22 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 26 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)

December 2013

- 6 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 6 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 11 Regional Taxicab Regulators (1 pm)
- 12 Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 17 Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee (10 am)
- 17 Regional TDM Marketing Group (noon)
- 18 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**

January 2014

- 3 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 3 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 8 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 9 Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 15 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 17 Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee (10 am)
- 17 Regional TDM Marketing Group (noon)
- 23 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 24 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 28 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 30 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 or scrawford@mwcog.org, or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Please allow seven working days for preparation of material.

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