

ITEM 13 - Information

September 19, 2007

Review of Draft Call for Projects and Schedule for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2008 Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and FY 2009-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Staff

Recommendation: Receive briefing on the draft call for projects document and proposed schedule for the air quality conformity assessment for the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009-2014 TIP.

Issues: None

Background: The state DOTs have requested that the annual cycle for the development of the CLRP update and new TIP be changed to better align TPB and state approvals with the funding cycle of the federal fiscal year. This change would result in the TPB approvals being scheduled for July of each year rather than the Fall. The TPB will be asked to approve the final document and schedule at the October 17 meeting.

**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING BOARD (TPB)**

DRAFT

Call for Projects

**For the 2008 Financially Constrained Long Range
Transportation Plan (CLRP) and Fiscal Year 2009 –
2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**



Draft of September 19, 2007



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INTRODUCTION

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Washington region, has responsibilities for both long-term transportation planning covering the next two to three decades (the Financially Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan or CLRP) and short-term programming of projects covering the next six years (the Transportation Improvement Program or TIP). The planning horizon for the plan is from 2008 to 2030. The plan identifies transportation projects, programs and strategies that can be implemented by 2030, within financial resources “reasonably expected to be available.”

Purpose of Document

This document is a broad solicitation for projects and programs to be included in the 2008 Plan and the FY 2009-2014 TIP. Individual counties, municipalities and state and federal agencies with the fiscal authority to fund transportation projects are invited to submit projects in response to the solicitation. The purpose of this document is to:

- 1) Describe the policy framework and priorities that should guide project selections;
- 2) Review federal regulations related to the Plan and TIP; and
- 3) Explain the project submission process for the Plan and the TIP.

Overview of the Policy Framework and Federal Requirements

The Plan and TIP must address the policy framework, the TPB Vision, and federal requirements, which together comprise the key criteria for the development of the Plan and TIP, summarized in Figure 1 below. The eight policy goals in the TPB Vision can be found on page 10.

The Plan and TIP must meet federal requirements involving financial constraint, air quality conformity, public participation, Title VI and environmental justice, and other requirements including a Congestion Management Process (CMP). A financial plan must show how the updated long-range plan can be implemented with expected revenues. The plan and TIP need to demonstrate conformity with national air quality standards.

Final Planning Regulations

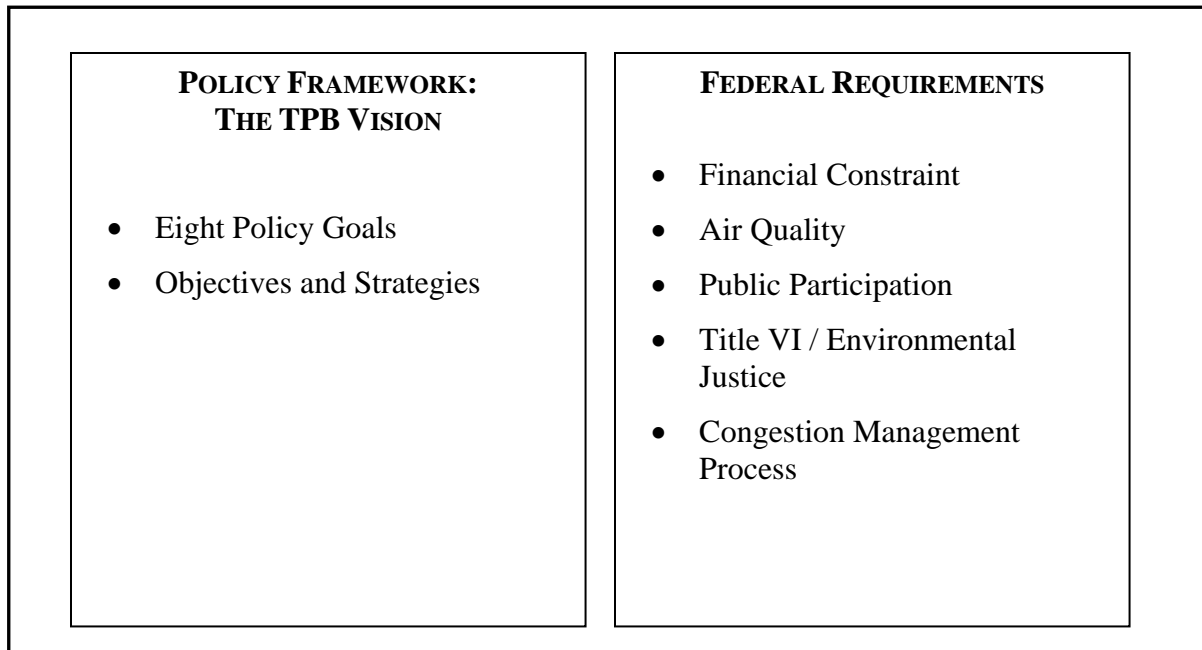
The U.S Department of Transportation issued final regulations for Metropolitan Transportation Planning on February 14, 2007¹. All plans adopted after July 1, 2007 must comply with these planning regulations and some of the new requirements include:

- The Plan and TIP must be updated every 4 years instead of 3 and 2 respectively. This means that the TPB’s next major Plan update with a new financial plan will occur in 2010 (instead of 2009).

¹ Part II. Department of Transportation. Federal Highway Administration, 23 CFR Parts 450 and 500, Federal Transit Administration, 49 CFR Part 613, Statewide Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning; Final Rule. Federal Register, February 14, 2007.

- A Congestion Management Process (CMP) is now required, instead of a Congestion Management System. The Congestion Management Process is a systematic set of actions to provide information on transportation system performance, and to consider alternative strategies to alleviate congestion, enhancing the mobility of persons and goods.
- Eight planning factors to consider during Plan and TIP development (instead of seven). The TPB Vision incorporates the eight planning factors; security is addressed implicitly. The new factors are:
 - Safety;
 - Security; and
 - Consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
- During the development of the long-range plan, the TPB and state implementing agencies will have to consult with agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, historic preservation, airport operations and freight movements on projects in the Plan. The Plan must include a discussion of potential environmental mitigation activities along with potential sites to carry out the activities to be included.
- A participation plan has to be developed in consultation with interested parties that provides reasonable opportunities for all parties to comment.

**Figure 1:
Key Criteria for Developing the Plan and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**



Relationship between the Plan and TIP

Every year the TPB prepares a program for implementing the plan using federal, state, and local funds. This document, known as the TIP, provides detailed information showing what projects are eligible for funding and implementation over a six-year period. Like the Plan, the TIP needs to address the TPB Vision and federal requirements. The TIP includes portions, or phases, of projects selected for implementation from the Plan. While the entire project is described in the Plan, in many instances only a portion of the project is included in the six-year TIP. The Plan is reviewed every year and under federal requirements must be updated at least every four years. The TIP must be updated every four years as well.

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Proposed Schedule for the 2008 Financially Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and FY 2009 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

*September 19, 2007	TPB Reviews Draft Call for Projects
*October 17, 2007	TPB Releases Final Call for Projects-- Transportation Agencies Begin Submitting Project Information through On-Line Database
December 7, 2007	TPB Technical Committee receives report on status of project submissions
January 4, 2008	<u>DEADLINE</u> : Transportation Agencies Complete On-Line Project Submissions. Technical Committee reviews Plan and TIP Project Submissions and draft Scope of Work for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment
*January 16, 2008	Plan and TIP Project Submissions and draft Scope of Work Released for Public Comment
February 15, 2008	Public Comment Period Ends
*February 20, 2008	TPB Reviews Public Comments and is asked to Approve Project Submissions and draft Scope of Work
April 25, 2008	<u>DEADLINE</u> : Transportation Agencies Complete TIP Project Submissions (Submissions must not impact conformity inputs; note that the deadline for conformity inputs was January 4, 2008)
May 15, 2008	TPB Citizen Advisory Committee hosts a public meeting on the Draft TIP.
*May 21, 2008	TPB Receives Status Report on the Draft Plan, TIP and Conformity Assessment
June 12, 2008	Draft Plan, TIP and Conformity Assessment Released for Public Comment at Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
*June 18, 2008	TPB Briefed on the Draft Plan, TIP and Conformity Assessment
July 12, 2008	Public Comment Period Ends
*July 16, 2008	TPB Reviews Public Comments and Responses to Comments, and is Presented the Draft Plan, TIP and Conformity Assessment for Adoption

*TPB Meeting

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SECTION 1: POLICY FRAMEWORK

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THE TPB VISION

To guide the planning and implementation of transportation strategies, actions, and projects for the National Capital Region the TPB adopted a Vision in October 1998 that is a comprehensive set of policy goals, objectives, and strategies. The TPB Vision incorporates the eight planning factors specified in SAFETEA-LU; security is addressed implicitly. The eight planning factors are provided in Section 2.

The TPB Vision will be used to review and assess the strategies and projects under consideration for inclusion in the Plan and TIP. **In developing proposed projects and strategies in the Plan or TIP, each agency must consider their contributions to meeting the eight planning factors.** In this way, the TPB will be able to ensure and document that consideration of the required planning factors has taken place. Consideration of regional goals and objectives may also prove useful to agencies in selecting among proposed projects or actions when the desired level of investment exceeds the projected available revenues. Especially important are projects and strategies that contribute to meeting the required emission reductions and achieving air quality conformity.

The Vision policy goals, objectives, and strategies are provided in the following pages.

Vision Statement

In the 21st Century, the Washington metropolitan region remains a vibrant world capital, with a transportation system that provides efficient movement of people and goods. This system promotes the region's economy and environmental quality, and operates in an attractive and safe setting—it is a system that serves everyone. The system is fiscally sustainable, promotes areas of concentrated growth, manages both demand and capacity, employs the best technology, and joins rail, roadway, bus, air, water, pedestrian and bicycle facilities into a fully interconnected network.

The Vision Goals

1. The Washington metropolitan region's transportation system will provide **reasonable access at reasonable cost** to everyone in the region.
2. The Washington metropolitan region will develop, implement, and maintain an interconnected transportation system that enhances quality of life and promotes a strong and growing economy throughout the entire region, including a **healthy regional core and dynamic regional activity centers** with a mix of jobs, housing and services in a walkable environment.
3. The Washington metropolitan region's transportation system will **give priority to management, performance, maintenance, and safety** of all modes and facilities.
4. The Washington metropolitan region will use the **best available technology** to maximize system effectiveness.
5. The Washington metropolitan region will plan and develop a transportation system that enhances and **protects the region's natural environmental quality, cultural and historic resources**, and communities.
6. The Washington metropolitan region will achieve better **inter-jurisdictional coordination of transportation and land use** planning.
7. The Washington metropolitan region will achieve an **enhanced funding mechanism(s) for regional and local transportation system priorities** that cannot be implemented with current and forecasted federal, state, and local funding.
8. The Washington metropolitan region will **support options for international and interregional travel** and commerce.

SECTION 2: FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

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AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY REQUIREMENTS

The Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) of 1990 require that the transportation actions and projects in the CLRP and TIP support the attainment of the federal health standards. The Washington area is currently in a nonattainment status for the 8-hour ozone standard and for fine particles standards (PM_{2.5}, or particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers in diameter). The CLRP and the TIP have to meet air quality conformity requirements as specified in the amended Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations issued in March 2006.

Background

Ozone

Since EPA designated the Washington area (the metropolitan statistical area, or MSA, at that time) as nonattainment for the 1-hour ozone standard in the 1990 CAAA, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the state air management agencies have developed state air quality implementation plans (SIP)s to achieve EPA's emissions reduction requirements and demonstrate attainment. These work efforts included the development and submittal to EPA of a final 'severe' area ozone attainment SIP in 2004, which, following EPA's approval in May 2005, established revised mobile source emissions budgets for volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x). On April 15, 2004 EPA designated the Washington, DC – MD – VA (MSA less Stafford County) area as 'moderate' nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone standard, which replaced the 1-hour ozone standard.

Following regional efforts to prepare an attainment plan to address 8-hour ozone requirements, the state air management agencies submitted the SIP to EPA in June 2007. Once approved by EPA for use in conformity, VOC and NO_x mobile source emissions budgets contained in that SIP will be applicable for the TPB's use in assessing conformity. The initial use of the new VOC and NO_x budgets is scheduled to be in the conformity assessment of the 2007 CLRP and the FY2008-2013 TIP in Fall 2007; the budgets will subsequently be used to assess conformity of the 2008 CLRP and FY2009 – 2014 TIP.

Fine Particles Standards (PM_{2.5})

On December 17, 2004 EPA designated the DC – MD – VA area (consisting of the 8-hour ozone area excluding Calvert County) as nonattainment for PM_{2.5}. As published in the January 5, 2005 Federal Register, these PM_{2.5} nonattainment designations became effective on April 5, 2005. Areas were given a 1 year grace period starting April 5, 2005 in which to demonstrate conformity of transportation plans and programs to the new standards. The primary conformity assessment criterion for PM_{2.5} in the Washington area, in this interim period until emissions budgets are set in the SIP in 2008, is to show that forecast year emissions are no greater than base year 2002 emissions. TPB staff conducted a conformity assessment for PM_{2.5} in the Fall of 2005. It was adopted by the TPB on December 21, 2005 and received federal approval on February 21, 2006. A second conformity assessment during this interim period occurred with the TPB's adoption of the 2006 CLRP and FY2007 – 12 TIP in October 2006, with federal approval occurring in April 2007.

The current schedule for the PM2.5 SIP involves submittal to EPA by April 5, 2008. Following EPA's 90 day adequacy review, the mobile emissions budgets (for direct PM2.5 and for precursor NOx emissions) contained within the SIP should be available for use in this upcoming conformity assessment of the 2008 CLRP and FY2009 – 14 TIP.

Current Status

As part of the conformity assessment of the 2008 CLRP and FY2009-2014 TIP, projected emissions for the actions and projects expected to be completed in the 2008, 2009, 2010, 2020 and 2030 analysis years will need to be estimated. If the analysis of mobile source emissions for any of these years shows an increase in NOx or VOC above what is allowed in the emissions budgets, or if PM2.5 emissions exceed the budgets to be developed in the forthcoming PM2.5 SIP, it will be necessary for the TPB to define and program transportation emission reduction measures (TERMs) to mitigate the excess emissions, as has been done in the past. The TPB Technical Committee's Travel Management Subcommittee is developing a schedule for submittal and analysis of candidate TERM proposals for potential inclusion in the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009-2014 TIP for the purpose of NOx, VOC, or PM2.5 emissions mitigation. Should emissions analysis for any forecast year estimate excess emissions which cannot be mitigated, TPB's programming actions would become limited to those projects which are exempt from conformity.

FINANCIAL CONSTRAINT

Updating the Plan

The following financial requirements for the Plan are based upon the recent federal planning regulations² that became effective July 1, 2007.

The long-range Plan must include a financial plan that demonstrates the consistency between reasonably available and projected sources of Federal, State, local, and private revenues and the cost of implementing proposed transportation system improvements. The plan must compare the estimated revenue from existing and proposed funding sources that can reasonably be expected to be available for transportation use, and the estimated costs of constructing, maintaining and operating the total (existing plus planned) transportation system over the period of the plan.

The estimated revenue by existing revenue source (Federal, State, local and private) available for transportation projects must be determined and any shortfalls shall be identified. Proposed new revenue and/or revenue sources to cover shortfalls must be identified, including strategies for ensuring their availability for proposed investments. Existing and proposed revenues shall cover all forecasted capital, operating, and maintenance costs. All revenue and cost estimates must use an inflation rate(s) to reflect “year of expenditure dollars” based upon reasonable financial principles and information developed cooperatively by the MPO, States and public transportation operators.

The 2006 financial plan for the Plan and TIP was adopted by the TPB in October 2006. This financial analysis produced the same financial “big picture” as in the 2003 analysis; the majority of currently anticipated future transportation revenues will continue to be devoted to the maintenance and operation of the current transit and highway systems. Because no significant sources of new revenues are anticipated, all new expansion projects to be considered for inclusion in the Plan will require a project specific funding plan with identified revenue sources. In December 2007 this financial plan was updated to include the revenue and cost estimates in year of expenditure dollars. More information about the current financial plan is available at www.regionaltransportationplan.org.

Agencies should review the timing, costs and funding for the actions and projects in the Plan, ensuring that they are consistent with the “already available and projected sources of revenues.” Significant changes to the projects or actions in the current plan should be identified. New projects and strategies, specifically addressing regional air quality conformity needs also should be identified. If new funding sources are to be utilized for a project or action, agencies should describe the strategies for ensuring that the funding will be available.

If new funding sources are to be utilized for a project or action, agencies should describe the strategies for ensuring that the funding will be available. Other projects or actions above and beyond those for which funds are available or committed may be submitted to the Plan under

² “Part III Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration 23 CFR Parts 450 and 500. Federal Transit Administration 49 CFR Part 613. “Statewide Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning; Final Rule” Federal Register, February 14, 2007.
Draft of September 19, 2007

illustrative status. A change in project status from illustrative to full status would require a Plan amendment. Illustrative projects will not be assumed in the air quality conformity determination of the Plan.

Developing Inputs for the TIP

The following financial requirements for the TIP are based upon the recent federal planning regulations that became effective July 1, 2007.

The TIP must be financially constrained by year and include a financial plan that demonstrates which projects can be implemented using current revenue sources and which projects are to be implemented using proposed revenue sources (while the existing transportation system is being adequately operated and maintained).

In developing the TIP, the MPO, the States and the public transportation operators must cooperatively develop estimates of funds that are reasonably expected to be available to support TIP implementation. The TIP shall include a project, or a phase of a project only if full funding can reasonably be anticipated to be available for the project within the time period contemplated for completion of the project.

Only projects for which construction and operating funds can reasonably be expected to be available may be included under full status in the plan. In the case of new funding sources, strategies for ensuring their availability shall be identified. In developing the financial analysis, the MPO shall take into account all projects and strategies funded under Title 23, USC and the Federal Transit Act, other Federal funds, local sources, state assistance, and private participation. All revenue and cost estimates must use an inflation rate(s) to reflect "year of expenditure dollars" based upon reasonable financial principles and information developed cooperatively by the MPO, States and public transportation operators.

In non-attainment areas, projects included for the first two years of the current TIP shall be limited to those for which funds are available or committed.

To develop a financially constrained TIP, agencies should begin with the projects and actions committed in the previous TIP. After reviewing the estimates of available state and federal funds for the period, agencies can identify the actions and projects as inputs for the TIP, ensuring that projects for the first two years are "limited to those for which funds are available or committed."

TITLE VI AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations, dated February 11, 1994, requires Federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including interrelated social and economic effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

In December of 1998 the US Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration released Order 6640.23 "FHWA Actions to Address Environmental Justice In Minority and Low-Income Populations." Order 6640.23 "establishes policies and procedures for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to use in complying with Executive Order 12898". The document states that Executive Order 12898 is "primarily a reaffirmation of the principles of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) and related statutes, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 23 U.S.C. 109(h), and other Federal environmental laws, emphasizing the incorporation of those provisions with the environmental and transportation decision-making processes."

Furthermore, "these requirements will be administered to identify the risk of discrimination, early in the development of FHWA's programs, policies, and activities so that positive corrective action can be taken. In implementing these requirements, the following information should be obtained where relevant, appropriate, and practical:

- (1) population served and/or affected by race, or national origin, and income level;
- (2) proposed steps to guard against disproportionately high and adverse effects on persons on the basis of race, or national origin; and,
- (3) present and proposed membership by race, or national origin, in any planning or advisory body that is part of the program."

The TPB addresses these requirements in several ways. First, to ensure on-going input from transportation disadvantaged population groups, the TPB established the Access for All Advisory Committee to advise on issues, projects and programs important to low-income communities, minority communities and persons with disabilities. Second, each time the Plan is updated, the AFA committee reviews maps of proposed major projects and locations of transportation disadvantaged populations from the Census. Third, an analysis of travel characteristics and accessibility to jobs is conducted to ensure that disadvantaged groups are not disproportionately impacted by the long-range plan. The latest analysis and AFA report can be found at the TPB website: <http://www.mwcog.org/transportation/>.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTATION

The Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a systematic set of actions to provide information on transportation system performance, and to consider alternative strategies to alleviate congestion, enhancing the mobility of persons and goods. The CMP impacts many aspects of the CLRP, including problem identification, analysis of possible actions, project prioritization and selection, and post-implementation monitoring. With the CMP, TPB aims to use existing and future transportation facilities efficiently and effectively, reducing the need for highway capacity increases for single-occupant vehicles (SOVs).

In accordance with federal law and regulations, the regional CMP must look a number of separate components of congestion. The CMP must identify the location, extent, and severity of congestion in the region. Within the TPB work program, the CMP considers information and trend analysis on overall regional transportation system conditions, and undertakes a number of associated travel monitoring and analysis activities. A data collection and analysis program compiles transportation systems usage information, uses that information in its travel forecasting computer models, and publishes the information in reports. TPB's periodic aerial surveys³ of the region's freeways show the most congested locations and associated planning or project activities occurring at that location. Since there is no similar source of information at the regional level for non-freeway arterials, agencies or jurisdictions should use their own data sources to characterize congestion on those facilities.

The following additional CMP components should be addressed through this Call for Projects as follows.

1. The CMP must consider congestion and congestion management strategies directly associated with Plan projects. Requested in this Call for Projects is documentation of any project-specific information available on congestion that necessitates or impacts the proposed project. If the submitted project is intended to address a congestion problem, the Level of Service (LOS) on the impacted facility is to be indicated. Submitting agencies may cite TPB-published congestion information (if available), use internal or other directly measured information, or provide an engineering estimate of the LOS. TPB will compile and analyze project-specific CMP information submitted with projects in conjunction with other CMP information sources.
2. **For any project providing a significant increase to SOV capacity, it must be documented that the implementing agency considered all appropriate systems and demand management alternatives to the SOV capacity.** This requirement and its associated questions are substantially unchanged from what has been requested in recent years. A special set of SOV congestion management documentation questions must be answered for any project to be included in the Plan or TIP that significantly increases the single occupant vehicle carrying capacity of a highway. A copy of the Congestion Management Documentation Form is included in this Call for Projects document for reference. Note that this form is not required to be filled out for all projects, only for projects meeting certain criteria. Non-highway projects do not need a form.

³ See "Traffic Quality on the Metropolitan Washington Area Freeway System". 6/1/2003.
Publication Number: 20036228. http://www.mwcog.org/store/item.asp?PUBLICATION_ID=228
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Certain highway projects may also be exempt from needing a form. The detailed instructions later in this Call for Projects document provide further instructions and exemption criteria. It is recommended to complete a form in association with all submitted, non-exempt projects to ensure compliance with federal regulations and with regional goals.

OTHER FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

The Final Planning Rule adds several other federal requirements in addition to air quality conformity and financial constraint which are described briefly here.

Planning Factors

The Final Rule specified eight planning factors to consider while developing the Plan and TIP, listed below, and **emphasizes safety, security and consistency between transportation and economic development**. The TPB vision incorporates all of the planning factors specified in SAFETEA-LU, except for explicitly addressing security. However, the TPB and the region have been very active in addressing security since 9/11 and have incorporated security and safety into the TPB's planning framework through a series of on-going planning activities. Implementing agencies will be asked to identify how each project addresses the eight planning factors in the project submission forms.

- (1) Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
- (2) Increase the safety of the transportation system for all motorized and non-motorized users;
- (3) Increase the ability of the transportation system to support homeland security and to safeguard the personal security of all motorized and non-motorized users;
- (4) Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight;
- (5) Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
- (6) Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
- (7) Promote efficient system management and operation; and
- (8) Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

Public Participation

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are required to do the following based on the final planning regulations:

- Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways, bicycle transportation facilities, the disabled are specifically added as parties to be provided with the opportunity to participate in the planning process;
- The MPO is to develop a participation plan in consultation with interested parties that provides reasonable opportunities for all parties to comment; and

- To carry out the participation plan, public meetings are to be: conducted at convenient and accessible locations at convenient times; employ visualization techniques to describe plans; and make public information available in an electronically accessible format, such as on the Web.

Consultation

During the development of the long-range plan, the TPB and state implementing agencies will have to consult with agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, historic preservation, airport operations and freight movements on projects in the Plan. Consultation may involve comparison of a map of transportation improvements to conservation plans or maps and natural or historic resources inventories.

Environmental Mitigation Discussion

The Plan must include a discussion of potential environmental mitigation activities along with potential sites to carry out the activities to be included. The discussion is to be developed in consultation with Federal, State, and tribal wildlife, land management, and regulatory agencies. Implementing agencies will be asked to identify on the project description forms “types of potential mitigation activities” for major projects. Implementing agencies will be asked to identify on the project description forms “types of potential mitigation activities” for major projects.

Freight Planning

The ability to move freight and goods is a critical element of the Washington region's economy. All businesses and residences rely on freight. The SAFETEA-LU legislation reaffirmed the federal emphasis on freight movement considerations in metropolitan transportation planning.

In 2007, a study was completed to examine the state of freight movement in the Washington region and identify ways to improve consideration of freight movement and stakeholders in the regional transportation planning process⁴. Among the key findings of this study were:

- The region lies at the crossroads of several important national freight corridors; while the region is not a large freight generator, its large population and vibrant economy demand a responsive freight system
- Movement of goods is adversely affected by mounting congestion, not only on the region's highways, but also on the railroads
- Truck stops and parking facilities are in short supply
- Both local freight movement (approximately 30% by weight) and through movement (approximately 70%) are significant, and substantial growth is expected

⁴ Enhancing Consideration of Freight in Regional Transportation Planning. Final Report. May 2007. Prepared for National Capital Transportation Planning Board of the Metropolitan. Washington Council of Governments. Prepared by Cambridge Systematics, Inc. <http://www.mwcog.org/uploads/committee-documents/tFdXVI020070629142844.pdf>

- Air cargo is the fastest growing segment – airports and airport ground access will remain critical
- Approximately 222 million tons of goods worth over \$200 billion are transportation to, from, or within the region annually, including construction materials (e.g., gravel), waste/scrap, coal products (top commodities by weight) and machinery and textiles (top commodities by value)
- It is also estimated that an additional 314 million tons of goods pass through the region annually (through traffic)
- Approximately three-quarters of the freight traveling to, from, or within the region is by truck, with specialized freight movement by other modes such as coal transportation by railroad or petroleum through pipelines.

TPB continues to work to enhance consideration of freight in the regional process, especially outreach to freight stakeholders for their input.

Questions 22 through 29 on the Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan Project Description Form addresses a number of SAFETEA-LU factors, including economic competitiveness, truck and freight safety, accessibility and mobility of people and freight, and integration and connectivity of the transportation system for people and freight. Strong consideration should be given to projects that support these goals for freight.

Annual Listing of Projects

Both TEA-21 and SAFETEA-LU require that the TPB must publish or otherwise make available an annual listing of projects, consistent with the categories in the TIP, for which federal funds have been obligated in the preceding year. With the assistance of and in cooperation with the transportation implementing agencies in the region, the TPB has prepared a listing of projects for which federal funds have been obligated each year since 2001.

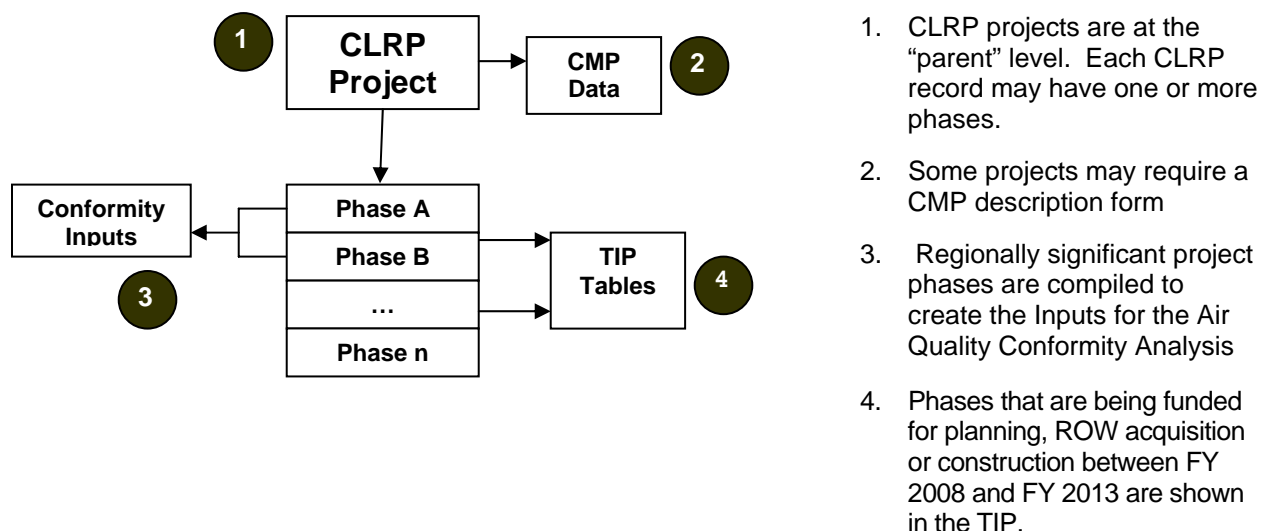
SECTION 3: PROJECT SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

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INTRODUCTION

This section describes the process to be used by transportation implementing agencies when updating project information for the CLRP as well as the Air Quality Conformity inputs, the Transportation Improvement Program and the Congestion Management Process. The project description forms are designed to elicit information to enable policy makers, citizens and other interested parties and segments of the community affected by projects in the plan to understand and review them. Description forms must be completed for all projects to be included in the Plan and the TIP. All regionally significant projects, *regardless of funding source*, must be included in the Plan for Air Quality Conformity information purposes. A Congestion Management Process Form must be completed for all projects meeting the requirements described on page 3-3 of these instructions. The relationship between the Plan, TIP, Conformity, and CMP is shown in Figure 3. The remainder of this section describes how to update Plan, TIP and Conformity project information using an online database application. TERM analysis and reporting procedures are not addressed here; see Section 4 for those instructions.

Figure 3: Relationship Between CLRP, TIP, CMP, and Conformity Information



1. CLRP projects are at the “parent” level. Each CLRP record may have one or more phases.
2. Some projects may require a CMP description form
3. Regionally significant project phases are compiled to create the Inputs for the Air Quality Conformity Analysis
4. Phases that are being funded for planning, ROW acquisition or construction between FY 2008 and FY 2013 are shown in the TIP.

The iTIP Online Database

An online database application is used to gather project information from each agency. Staff from implementing agencies will be assigned an account with a user name and password. There are two levels of access to the database; editors and reviewers. Each agency should decide which person on their staff should assume these roles. Once logged into the application users will have access to the most recent version of the Plan and TIP information that was approved by the TPB.

A user manual with complete instructions will be provided to agency staff when the application is complete. TPB staff will also offer multiple training sessions to assist staff with the new format. The remainder of this section will cover the purpose of the forms and changes in the new version.

CLRP Project Description Forms

Projects should be described in sufficient detail to facilitate review by the TPB and the public. Specific information is needed on the project location and physical characteristics, purpose, projected completion date, total estimated costs, proposed sources of revenues, and other characteristics. Submissions for studies should indicate those cases where the design concept and scope (mode and alignment) have not been fully determined and will require further analysis. TERM projects or actions should also be identified. Project Description Forms should be used to describe the full scope of a facility's improvements.

Basic Project Information

1. Secondary Agency.....Any other agencies working in conjunction with primary agency
2. Agency Project IDAgencies can use this field to track projects with their own ID systems.
3. Project Type
 - a.Identify the functional class or category on which projects will be grouped in reports. Options include: *Interstate, Primary, Secondary, Urban, Transit, Bike/Ped, Bridge, Enhancement, ITS, Maintenance, CMAQ, Other.*
 - b.Identify the nature of the project: *System Expansion* (adding capacity to a road or transit system), *System Preservation* (any work on the road or transit system that does not add capacity), *Management, Operations and Maintenance, Study, Other.*
4. Project NameA very brief, user-friendly description of the project; e.g. "East Market Street Widening" or "Downtown Circulator Bus System"
5. Facility.....These fields should be used to describe actual infrastructure or transit routes. Any of these fields may be left blank and there is no need for redundant entries. If a project can be described adequately in the *Project Title* field, it is not necessary to fill in these fields.
 - a. Prefix.....Interstate or State abbreviation for route type, e.g. I, VA, MD, US. Combinations such as VA/US are acceptable, but discouraged.
 - b. Number.....The route number that corresponds with the above prefix. Again, combinations are acceptable, but discouraged.
 - c. NameFull name of facility; e.g. "Capital Beltway," "East Street" or "Red Line". To the extent possible, this field should be limited to actual street names or transit routes.
 - d. Modifier.....Any term that needs to be used to further describe a facility, such as "extended", "relocated" or "interchange".

6. *From (At)*.....The beginning project limit or location of a spot improvement. Use the *(At)* checkbox to indicate a spot or interchange improvement. Follow the conventions above for *Prefix, Number, Name* and *Modifier*.
7. *To*.....Terminal project limit. Follow conventions above for *Prefix, Number, Name* and *Modifier*.
8. *Description*Describe the project as clearly as possible. Use public-friendly phrasing and avoid technical jargon where possible.
9. *Projected Completion Year*Estimated year that the project will be open to traffic or implemented.
10. *Project Manager*.....Name of project manager or point-of-contact for information
11. *E-mail*E-mail address for project manager or point-of-contact for information
12. *Web Site*.....URL for further project information from implementing agency
13. *Total Mileage*If available, enter the total length of the project to the closest tenth of a mile.
14. *Map Image*.....If available, upload an image file to assist
15. *Documentation*If necessary, upload any extra documentation for the project. This could include financial plans or supplemental information materials.
16. *Bike/Ped Accommodations*Indicate using the pull-down menu whether the project is: a) *Primarily a bicycle/pedestrian project*, b) *Includes accommodations for bicycle/pedestrian users*, or c) *Does not include accommodations for bicycles and pedestrians*.
17. *Jurisdiction*Select the appropriate jurisdictions for the project. Multiple jurisdictions can be selected by pressing the **CTRL** key while clicking.
18. *Total Estimated Cost*If available, enter the cost of the project from start to finish
19. *Remaining Cost*Estimated cost remaining to be spent on project.
20. *Sources*Indicate the sources of funds: Federal, State, Local, Private, Bonds, Other. Hold the **CTRL** key down to select multiple

sources.

21. *Actual Completion Year*Use this field to indicate that the full scope of the project has been opened to traffic or implemented.
- a. *Ongoing*.....Use this checkbox to indicate that this is an ongoing program or similar action. If this box is checked, this field is interpreted as the year in which the program was implemented. This should not be checked for studies, or any construction projects unless they are non-site specific, such as “Citywide Road Surface Improvements.”
22. *Project Withdrawn*Use this checkbox to indicate that a project is being withdrawn from the Plan. Provide an approximate date for the withdrawal.
23. *Comments*.....General notes for agency or TPB staff to use.

SAFETEA-LU Planning Factors

The following section is new. The questions here replace the memo/text field that asked how the project supported regional goals as outlined in the TPB’s Vision. This new set of questions is intended to be easier to respond to and to show how the project is addressing the eight planning factors outlined in SAFETEA-LU. Particular attention should be paid to Question 28b as it pertains to safety.

24. *Please identify any and all planning factors that are addressed by this project:*

Use the checkboxes to select all that apply:

- a. *Supports the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.*
- b. *Increases the safety of the transportation system for all motorized and non-motorized users.*
- i. *Is this project being proposed specifically to address a safety issue?*

It is presumed that all new projects being constructed include safety considerations. Select “Yes” only if the primary reason the project is being proposed is to address a safety issue.

- ii. *If so, please indicate the safety issues identified:*

Use the checkboxes to indicate a) *High Accident Location*, b) *Pedestrian Safety*, c) *Engineer Identified Problem*, d) *Truck or Freight Safety*, e) *Other*

Briefly describe (in quantifiable terms, where possible) the nature of the safety

problem:

- c. *Increases the ability of the transportation system to support homeland security and to safeguard the personal security of all motorized and non-motorized users.*
- d. *Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight*
- e. *Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.*
- f. *Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.*
- g. *Promote efficient system management and operation.*
- h. *Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.*

Environmental Mitigation

The following section is new. The questions here address a new emphasis in SAFETEA-LU on environmental impacts, both short and long term and strategies for mitigating those impacts.

25. *Have any potential mitigation activities been identified for this project? If so, identify the types of activities below.*

Use the checkboxes to select “Yes” or “No” and to identify any mitigation activities being planned for this project.

- *Air Quality,*
- *Energy,*
- *Floodplains,*
- *Geology, Soils and Groundwater,*
- *Hazardous and Contaminated Materials,*
- *Noise,*
- *Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species,*
- *Socioeconomics,*
- *Surface Water,*
- *Vibrations,*
- *Visual and Aesthetic Conditions,*
- *Wetlands,*
- *Wildlife and Habitat*

Congestion Management Process Documentation

The following section has been revised to address the new SAFETEA-LU component called the Congestion Management Process. Please see the discussion on Congestion Management

Documentation in Section 2 of this document for more information. Questions 24 and 25 should be answered for every project. Questions 26 through 28 still apply to any new projects that propose an increase in SOV capacity. In addition, a Congestion Management Documentation Form should be completed for each project or action proposing an increase in SOV capacity.

26. *Do traffic congestion conditions on this or another facility necessitate the proposed project or program?*

Check “Yes” if this project is being planned specifically to address congestion conditions.

a. *If so, is the congestion recurring or incident-related non-recurring in nature?*

Use the checkboxes to identify either option.

b. *If the congestion is on a different facility, please identify it here:*

Identify the name of the congested parallel or adjacent route that this project is intended to relieve.

c. *What is the measured or estimated 2007 Level of Service on this facility?*

Use the drop-down menu to select the level of service (LOS) and indicate whether this is a measured LOS

27. *Is this a capacity-increasing project on a limited access highway or other arterial highway of a functional class higher than minor arterial?*

Check “Yes” if the project will increase capacity on a SOV facility of functional class 1, 2 or 5.

a. *If yes, does this project require a Congestion Management Documentation form under the given criteria?*

The following categories of projects require a congestion management form, except if they fall under one or more of the exemption criteria listed under Question 28:

- *New limited access or other principal arterial roadways on new rights-of-way*
- *Additional through lanes on existing limited access or other principal arterial roadways*
- *Construction of grade-separated interchanges on limited access highways where previously there had not been an interchange.*

If a Congestion Management Documentation Form is required, contact TPB staff.

b. *If no, please identify the criteria that exempt the project from CMP requirements:*

Use the checkboxes to identify the exemption criteria:

- *The number of lane-miles added to the highway system by the project totals less than 1 lane-mile*
- *The project is an intersection reconstruction or other traffic engineering improvements, including replacement of an at-grade intersection with an interchange*
- *The project will not allow motor vehicles, such as bicycle or pedestrian facilities*
- *The project consists of preliminary studies or engineering only, and is not funded for construction*
- *Any project that received NEPA approval on or before April 6, 1992*
- *Any project that was already under construction on or before September 30, 1997, or for which construction funds were committed in the FY98-03 TIP. Note that funds being committed in the FY99-04 TIP does not exempt a project.*
- *Any project whose construction cost is less than \$5 million.*

Intelligent Transportation Systems

The following section is new. The questions here address a new emphasis in SAFETEA-LU on environmental impacts, both short and long term and strategies for mitigating those impacts.

28. *Is this an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) project as defined in federal law and regulation, and therefore subject to federal Rule 940 requirements?*

Use the checkboxes to select “Yes” or “No”.

a. *If yes, what is the status of the systems engineering analysis compliant with federal Rule 940 for the project?*

Use the checkboxes to select: *Not Started, Ongoing, not complete, or Completed*

b. *Under which Architecture: DC, Maryland, or Virginia State Architecture, WMATA Architecture, COG/TPB Regional ITS Architecture or Other; Please specify _____*

c. *Comments: Provide any additional comments which may better describe the Architecture of the project.*

Record Tracking

This section is used to keep track of modifications to records. These fields are automated and are not editable.

- 29. CreatorRecorded ID of the user that created the record
- 30. Created On.....Date record was originally created on (will not work for original imported data)

- 31. Last Updated On.....Recorded date and time of last modifications to record
- 32. Last UpdaterRecorded ID of last person to make modifications to record

Project Phasing For TIP and Conformity Inputs

Each phase of the project (even if there is only one) should be described under the "Project Phases". The Air Quality Conformity Analysis is based on the information in these listings, so all regionally significant phases of all projects in the plan need to be included.

TIP funding information should be completed for each project intended for programming in the current TIP. The TIP should show all funds (federal and non-federal) that are expected to be obligated between FY 2008 and FY 2013. Previous fiscal years are shown for historical purposes only and have no bearing on the current fiscal years.

- 1. *Submitting Agency*Automatically displayed based on user’s agency.
- 2. *Project Name*Automatically filled in based on parent project.
- 3. *Phase Name*A very brief, user-friendly description of the project phase; e.g. “East Market Street Widening” or “Downtown Circulator Bus.” This can be the same as the project name.
- 4. *Facility*These fields should be used to describe actual infrastructure or transit routes. Any of these fields may be left blank and there is no need for redundant entries. If a project can be described adequately in the *Project Title* field, it is not necessary to fill in these fields.
 - a. *Prefix*.....Interstate or State abbreviation for route type, e.g. I, VA, MD, US. Combinations such as VA/US are acceptable, but discouraged.
 - b. *Number*.....The route number that corresponds with the above prefix. Again, combinations are acceptable, but discouraged.
 - c. *Name*Full name of facility; e.g. “Capital Beltway,” “East Street” or “Red Line”. To the extent possible, this field should be limited to actual street names or transit routes.
 - d. *Modifier*.....Any term that needs to be used to further describe a facility, such as “extended”, “relocated” or “interchange”.
- 5. *From (At)*The beginning project limit or location of a spot improvement. Use the *(At)* checkbox to indicate a spot or interchange improvement. Follow the conventions above for *Prefix, Number, Name* and *Modifier*.
- 6. *To*Terminal project limit. Follow conventions above for *Prefix, Number, Name* and *Modifier*.
- 7. *Description*.....Describe the project as clearly as possible. Use public-friendly phrasing and avoid technical jargon where possible.

- 8. *Agency Project ID*.....Agencies can use this field to track projects with their own ID systems.
- 9. *Environmental Review*.....Type of NEPA documentation required, if any
- 10. *Review Status*.....Current status of any required NEPA documentation

Questions 11 – 15 only need to be completed for projects that have conformity impacts.

- 11. *Improvement*.....Pull-down field to identify type of improvement being made to the facility (e.g. construct, widen, upgrade, etc.)
- 12. *Facility Type From/To*
 - a. *Facility Type From*Functional class of facility before improvement
 - b. *Facility Type To*Functional class of facility after improvement
- 13. *Lanes From/To*
 - a. *Lanes From*Number of lanes on facility before improvement
 - b. *Lanes To*.....Number of lanes on facility after improvement
- 14. *R.O.W. Acquired*.....Right-of-way has been acquired for the facility
- 15. *Under Construction?*Construction has begun on the facility
- 16. *Projected Completion Year*Estimated year that the project will be open to traffic or implemented.
- 17. *Completed*.....Date the project was completed (open to traffic) or implemented
- 18. *TIP Project Status*Project is delayed, reprogrammed, complete, withdrawn, or ongoing
- 19. *Capital Costs*
 - a. *Amount*Funds shown in \$1,000s
 - b. *Phase*.....Funds obligated for: a) Planning and Engineering, b) R.O.W. acquisition, c) Construction, d) Studies and e) Other
 - c. *Fiscal Year*Fiscal year in which funds are expected to be obligated
 - d. *Source*Federally recognized source of funds
 - e. *Fed/State/Local Share*.....Percentage distribution of federal, state and local funds
- 20. *Creator*.....Recorded ID of the user that created the record
- 21. *Created On*.....Date record was originally created on
- 22. *Last Updated On*.....Recorded date and time of last modifications to record
- 23. *Last Updater*Recorded ID of last person to make modifications to record

Congestion Management Documentation Form for SOV Projects

A Congestion Management Documentation Form should be completed for each project or action intended for the Plan that involves a significant increase in single-occupant vehicle (SOV) carrying capacity of a highway.

Brief and complete answers to all questions are recommended. A reference to an external document or an attachment without further explanation on the form itself is not recommended; findings of studies, Major Investment Studies, for example, should be summarized on the form itself. References to other documents can be made if desired *in addition to* the answer provided on the form.

As a rule of thumb, the scale and detail in the responses to the questions should be in proportion to the scale of the project. For example, a relatively minor project needs less information than a major, multi-lane-mile roadway construction project.

The form can summarize the results of EISs or other studies completed in association with the project, and can also summarize the impact or regional studies or programs. It allows the submitting agency to explain the context of the project in the region's already-adopted and implemented programs, such as the Commuter Connections program, and to go on to explain what new and additional strategies were considered for the project or corridor in question.

Sample Forms

The following pages are samples for the CLRP Project Description Form, TIP Project Description Form, and Congestion Management Documentation Form.