

ITEM 9 – Information

October 18, 2023

Intercity Bus and Rail Work Session Recap

Background:

Staff will review the work session held prior to the TPB meeting, noting highlights from the discussion.



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Eric Randall, TPB Transportation Engineer
SUBJECT: Intercity Bus and Rail Travel Work Session Arrangements
DATE: October 12, 2023

This memorandum provides an overview of the arrangements for the Transportation Planning Board work session on intercity bus and rail travel, which will take place on Wednesday morning prior to the board's October 18, 2023 meeting. The purpose of the work session is to bring to the board's attention key information on intercity bus and rail travel in the region, including use or ridership by travelers and visitors to the region, critical needs for operations and asset improvements, and future plans for improvement and expansion.

Work Session Format

For the work session, TPB staff invited representatives from the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, the Maryland Transit Administration, the National Passenger Rail Corporation (Amtrak), the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation, and the intercity bus sector. It should be acknowledged that this is not a comprehensive list of the agencies, organizations, and providers with a role in intercity bus and rail travel in the region but was selected in the interests of time and the range of responsibilities.

Work session panelists will each have approximately 10 minutes to make a short presentation following which there will be an open Q&A period for all. Presenters have been asked to describe their agency or organization's support for intercity rail and/or bus travel, including any available data on ridership/use, planned investments, and critical needs. In particular, panelists have been asked to highlight any actions the elected officials on the board or their jurisdictions can take to improve intercity travel for residents and visitors alike.

As materials for the work session become available, they will be posted on the event's website:
<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2023/10/18/intercity-rail-and-bus-travel-work-session/>

At the October 18 TPB meeting, a short recap of the work session highlights and questions asked will be provided to the board.

Background Information: June TPB Briefing

The board was previously briefed at its June 2023 meeting on an overview of current information on intercity bus and rail travel in the region as collected through online research. In addition, the briefing included information on the federal requirements for MPOs to consider intercity travel, the TPB's previous work in 2016 on intercity bus travel, and plans for data collection in FY 2024.

[June 2023 Intercity Travel Overview Presentation](#)
[June 2023 Intercity Travel Overview Memorandum](#)