



MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee
FROM: Erin Morrow, COG Transportation Engineer
SUBJECT: Briefing on the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI)
DATE: July 12, 2019

TPB Staff have been following the work of the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), a regional collaboration of Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to which Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia belong.

After hosting a series of public listening sessions in 2018, TCI released a statement on December 18, 2018 of its intention to design a regional transportation policy proposal to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector through a cap-and-invest program or other pricing mechanism. TCI plans to complete the policy design process within a year. A program such as this could be modeled after the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which is a mandatory, market-based program to cap and reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector, and would be up to the individual states to decide whether to participate.

Kanti Srikanth, TPB Staff Director, briefed the TPB on TCI's statement in his Director's Report at the December 19, 2018 meeting.

WHAT IS THE TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE INITIATIVE (TCI)?

The Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) is a regional collaboration of 12 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia that seeks to improve transportation, develop the clean energy economy, and reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector. The participating states are: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia.

The TCI is directed by state and district agencies located within the 13 TCI jurisdictions. Each agency is free to determine whether and how they will participate in individual projects and working groups. The initiative is facilitated by the Georgetown Climate Center with support from its funders, including the Barr Foundation, Energy Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, John Merck Fund, New York Community Trust, Town Creek Foundation, and its core funder, Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Source: <https://www.transportationandclimate.org/content/about-us>

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE TCI?

Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) states are developing a regional policy for low-carbon transportation following the December 18, 2018 statement by nine states and the District of Columbia committing to:

“...design a regional low-carbon transportation policy proposal that would cap and reduce carbon emissions from the combustion of transportation fuels through a cap-and-invest program or other pricing mechanism... [and]... to complete the policy development process within one year, after which each jurisdiction will decide whether to adopt and implement the policy.”

Link to the full TCI statement:

https://www.georgetownclimate.org/files/Final_TCI-statement_20181218_formatted.pdf

HOW IS THE TCI DEVELOPING A REGIONAL POLICY FOR LOW-CARBON TRANSPORTATION?

TCI jurisdictions have designed a workplan with the goal of developing a policy that accelerates the transition to a low-carbon transportation future and delivers a better, cleaner, more resilient transportation system that benefits all our communities, particularly those underserved by current transportation options and disproportionately burdened by pollution, while making significant reductions in greenhouse gases and other harmful air pollution across the region. With ongoing facilitation support from the Georgetown Climate Center, TCI states are planning and beginning to implement a range of activities to ensure that the final proposed policy reflects further input from stakeholders, rigorous technical analysis, and consultation with leading experts.

2019 TCI Regional Policy Design Overview

Phase 1 (January-March 2019)

- Identify milestones and finalize workplan schedule and processes

Phase 2 (April-July 2019)

- Conduct modeling and policy analysis
- Conduct further stakeholder engagement
 - Webinars and workshops (Attachment 1)
- Coordinate activities to inform decision-making

Phase 3 (August-November 2019)

- TCI state leadership reviews input from stakeholders and expert analysis to develop specific regional policy options to share with the public, inviting feedback.

Phase 4 (December 2019)

- Public release of a finalized regional low-carbon transportation policy proposal.

Source: <https://www.transportationandclimate.org/main-menu/tcis-regional-policy-design-process-2019>

TCI is soliciting stakeholder input on its work. The stakeholder feedback form can be found here:

<https://www.transportationandclimate.org/main-menu/tci-regional-policy-design-stakeholder-input-form>

IS THERE A ROLE FOR COGS AND MPOS?

TCI is a state-driven initiative, led by departments of transportation or environmental departments. In April 2019, Marc Draisen, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the regional planning agency for the Metropolitan Boston area, reached out to executive directors at COGs and MPOs in the states participating in the TCI and suggested that COGs and MPOs convene to discuss what TCI's work on a cap-and-invest or other pricing mechanism could mean for them.

A COG/MPO Transportation & Climate Initiative Convening held at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) in Philadelphia on Monday, June 24, 2019. Jane Posey, COG Transportation Engineer, and Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director, attended.

The goals of the convening were:

- Provide COGs and MPOs background information on TCI program and policy design process
- Learn about existing transportation climate mitigation efforts underway at COGs and MPOs, and understand how TCI could assist regional councils in beginning or expanding this work
- Discuss role COGs and MPOs can play in advancing TCI, particularly through engagement of municipal and regional officials, and understand what additional materials, resources, and research may assist these efforts
- Determine how COGs and MPOs can continue to work collectively to advance TCI within their respective jurisdictions

At this point in time, TPB staff plan to continue in an observer role by participating in TCI workshops and webinars and any future COG/MPO convenings on the topic.

ATTACHMENT 1: 2019 TCI WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS

Information about all workshops and webinars (including presenter slides and recordings) can be found at the following link:

<https://www.transportationandclimate.org/main-menu/tcis-regional-policy-design-process-2019>

UPCOMING TCI WORKSHOP

Low-Carbon Transportation Investments, Strategies, and Outcomes

Tuesday, July 30, 2019 • 9 am - 4 pm

University of Maryland, Baltimore • SMC Campus Center (Elm Rooms A & B)
621 W Lombard St., Baltimore, MD 21201

PAST TCI WORKSHOPS

Technical Workshop: Regional Cap and Invest for Transportation, Key Design Elements

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Boston, Massachusetts

Workshop and Roundtable Discussion: Advancing Equity & Creating Opportunities for All Communities

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Newark, New Jersey

PAST TCI WEBINARS

Cap-and-Invest 101

Friday, April 12, 2019

Reference Case Assumptions for Policy Program Design

Thursday, May 23, 2019

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