

ITEM 8 - Action
September 17, 2014

Approval of a Resolution on Planning Representation by Public Transportation Providers on the TPB

Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution R4-2015 to respond to the MAP-21 requirement that providers of public transportation be represented on the TPB.

Issues: None

Background: At the June and July meetings, the Board was briefed on the implications for the TPB of the June 2 US DOT guidance on representation by transit agencies on the MPO board and the proposed rule on statewide and MPO planning under MAP-21.

**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002**

**RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE PROVIDER OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
REPRESENTATION ON THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING BOARD**

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington Metropolitan area, has the responsibility under the provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the TPB is responsible for the federally prescribed transportation planning process for the metropolitan planning area (MPA) pursuant to 23 CFR 450.312(a) and related sections and comprises the Washington DC-VA-MD urbanized area which is further designated as a Transportation Management Area (TMA); and

WHEREAS, 23 U.S.C 134[d] [2] [B] and 49 U.S.C 5303[d] [2] [B], as amended by sections 1201 and 20005 of MAP-21 (P.L. 112-141), requires that by October 1, 2014 each MPO that serves an area designated as a TMA consist of:

1. Local elected officials, and
2. Officials of public agencies that administer or operate major modes of transportation in the metropolitan area, including representation by providers of public transportation, and
3. Appropriate State officials; and

WHEREAS, this requirement is intended to formally include public transportation providers in the implementation of MAP-21's performance-based approach to transportation decision-making, which will include the TPB's coordination of transit-related performance targets relating to safety and state of good repair with the States and providers of public transportation, to the maximum extent practicable; and

WHEREAS, the TPB has long included representation by providers of public transportation through a Board structure which consists of voting membership including Board representatives from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), an agency that meets the above MAP-21 criteria and provides the vast majority of public transportation trips in the metropolitan area, and Board representatives from other local public transportation providers who directly fund public transportation, including commuter bus and rail services, thus complying with the MAP-21 requirements in this regard; and

WHEREAS, since 2007 the TPB's Regional Bus Subcommittee of the Technical Committee has provided an effective forum for the numerous local and commuter public

transit bus providers, the rail transit operator, the commuter rail operators, and other agencies involved in bus operations and who provide transit service connections to discuss and address transit planning and other regional transit issues, including but not limited to data sharing and technical project review; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2014, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published in the Federal Register a “Policy Guidance on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Representation” (FHWA-FTA Joint Guidance) to assist MPOs with compliance with the MAP-21 requirements in this matter; and

WHEREAS, the FHWA-FTA Joint Guidance states that this requirement is intended to ensure that providers of public transportation are represented on the MPO board; and includes suggestions on a process for public transportation provider representation to represent all eligible providers of public transportation in the metropolitan planning area and to identify transit-related issues for consideration by the MPO policy board and verify that transit priorities are considered in the planning process; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the foregoing longstanding TPB efforts involving providers of public transportation, a cooperative discussion has been initiated with representatives from the States, WMATA, and the local providers of public transportation on how the FHWA and FTA Joint Guidance may be used to enhance the existing representation and address the issues and interests of all eligible public transportation providers; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board hereby:

- determines that the current composition of the policy board, which includes WMATA as a voting member together with the local public transit and commuter bus and rail providers as represented by the respective jurisdiction that provides the funding satisfies the requirement of MAP-21 for inclusion of representation of providers of public transportation on the policy board; and
- changes the name of the TPB Regional Bus Subcommittee to the **Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee** and broadens its scope to include all eligible public transportation service providers; and
- commits to continuing a cooperative discussion with the providers of public transportation to determine respective responsibilities in carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process, and to consider procedures for representation of all eligible providers of public transportation, including the role and responsibilities of the public transportation representation, and to making any mutually agreed changes to the TPB’s Board membership and/or its committee process.