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**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

December 16, 2020

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Kelly Russell, TPB Chair – City of Frederick  
Mark Rawlings – DC DOT  
Kristin Calkins - DC Office of Planning  
Charles Allen – DC Council  
Brandon Todd – DC Council  
Dolly Turner – DC Council  
R. Earl Lewis, Jr. – Maryland DOT  
Jeff Hirsch – Maryland DOT  
Adrian Boafo – Bowie  
Jason Groth – Charles County  
Patrick Wojahn – College Park  
Denise Mitchell – College Park  
Kai Hagen – Frederick County  
Neil Harris – Gaithersburg  
Dennis Enslinger – Gaithersburg  
Emmet V. Jordon – Greenbelt  
Bill Goddard - Laurel  
Gary Erenrich – Montgomery County Executive  
Evan Glass – Montgomery County Legislative  
Terry Bellamy – Prince George’s County Executive  
Victor Weissberg – Prince George’s County Executive  
Deni Taveras – Prince George’s County Legislative  
Bridget Donnell Newton – Rockville  
Kacy Kostiuk – Takoma Park  
Mark Korman – Maryland House of Delegates  
Carol Krimm – Maryland House of Delegates  
Maria Sinner – Virginia DOT  
Norman Whitaker – Virginia DOT  
Canek Aguirre – Alexandria  
Christian Dorsey – Arlington County  
Dan Malouff – Arlington County  
David Meyer – City of Fairfax  
Walter Alcorn – Fairfax County  
James Walkinshaw – Fairfax County  
David Snyder – Falls Church  
Robert Brown – Loudoun County  
Kristin Umstattd – Loudoun County  
Pamela J. Sebesky – Manassas  
Jeannette Rishell – Manassas Park  
Ann B. Wheeler – Prince William County  
Victor Angry – Prince William County  
Julia Koster – NCPC  
Shyam Kannan – WMATA

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Mark Phillips – WMATA  
Tammy Stidham – NPS

**MWCOG STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Kanti Srikanth  
Chuck Bean  
Lyn Erickson  
Mark Moran  
Tim Canan  
Andrew Meese  
Tom Gates  
Stephen Walz  
Stacy Cook  
Andrew Austin  
Bryan Hayes  
Sergio Ritacco  
John Swanson  
Dusan Vuksan  
Jon Schermann  
Deborah Etheridge  
Abigail Zenner  
Leo Pineda  
Karen Armendariz  
Erin Morrow  
Charlene Howard  
Feng Xi  
Kyle Nembhard – MTA  
Nancy Abeles – CAC

Materials referenced in the minutes and recordings of the meeting can be found here:  
<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2020/12/16/transportation-planning-board/>

**1. VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES, MEMBER ROLL CALL, AND VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Chair Russell reminded the board that the meeting was being recorded and broadcast. She said the process for asking questions and voting was the same as at past meetings. After each item members would be asked to comment or vote by jurisdiction.

Ms. Erickson conducted a roll call. Members that were present were listed on the first page of the minutes.

Ms. Erickson said three people submitted public comment. She said that the first two were from the Coalition of Smarter Growth. She summarized their comment and said that they shared research and recommended amendments to the TPB’s technical input solicitation. She said that this will be discussed during Item 9. She said the final comment was submitted by Mr. Kandasamy who asked that additional resources on slugging be made available on the Commuter Connections website. She said all three comments could be found with the meeting materials.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Sebesky made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 18 TPB meeting.

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Ms. Allen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by the board.

### **3. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Nembhard said that the Technical Committee met on November 6. During this meeting the committee was briefed on the 2017-2021 highway safety targets. He said that the committee discussed having targets that were more aspirational versus attainable. Mr. Nembhard said that the committee also reviewed the comments that were received about the Technical Input Solicitation and that there was general agreement about the comments that were received. Lastly, he said that the committee was briefed on the transportation impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the National Capital Region.

Chair Russell said that Mr. Nembhard had concluded his tenure as chair of the Technical Committee. She expressed her gratitude and presented him with a certificate of recognition.

### **4. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Abeles said that the Community Advisory Committee met on November 10. During the meeting, the committee was briefed on the 2017-2021 highway safety targets and the regional safety program. She said that the committee expressed interest in seeing projects that can help the region address equity challenges that existed before and during the pandemic. She said that the committee was also briefed on the transportation impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. She said that committee members concluded their terms last week.

Chair Russell that Ms. Abeles concluded her term as chair of the Community Advisory Committee. She expressed her appreciation and presented Ms. Abeles with a certification of recognition.

### **5. STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Srikanth said the Steering Committee met on December 4 and reported that there were no amendments to the Plan, TIP or UPWP reviewed or approved. Referring to additional documents in the Directors Report memorandum, he said that comments were received about the Technical Input Solicitation document including a letter from WMATA and three letters from the Coalition for Smarter Growth. These comments, on pages 7 thru 16, included requests for the TPB to conduct analysis on how future vehicle miles traveled would need to be reduced in order to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals. He informed the committee that the Transportation Land Use Connections program will begin receiving applications. Applicants can submit an optional abstract by January 26. The application deadline is March 8. He said that the update to Visualize 2045 had been officially kicked off earlier in the day at the TPB's special event just before the start of the board meeting. He said all of the animated infographics or videos premiered during the kick-off will be made available through social media and the Visualize 2045 website. He said that the Regional Safety Program will have two rounds of funding available in 2021. He explained that this funding will be used to provide technical assistance for projects or programs that help improve roadway safety in the region. He informed the board that 90 other regions in the country have joined the TPB in sending a letter to their congressional delegations urging the approval of federal funding for transit agencies as well as state departments of transportation to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

### **6. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Ms. Russell spoke in her remarks about the unusual year— dealing with the pandemic, working remotely and holding virtual meetings. She noted some accomplishments of the year including advancing the National Capital Trail and the Transit Access focus Areas. She also noted the interim target for Greenhouse Gases and the work to affirm the TPB's focus on equity in the region. Finally, she thanked her two vice chairs for working with her this year.

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## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **7. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE 2021 TPB OFFICERS**

Mr. Wojahn presented the slate of officers to nominate for 2021. He said that the Nominating Committee nominated District of Columbia Councilmember Charles Allen as TPB Chair. The committee nominated City of Manassas Vice Mayor Pamela Sebesky and Charles County Board of Commissioners President Reuben B. Collins II as Vice Chairs.

A motion was made to approve the slate of TPB officers for 2021.

The motion was seconded.

Mr. Allen thanked Ms. Russell for her leadership. He praised the work they had done together to affirm the policy on equity. He also thanked her for working with the board during the pandemic with the shift to virtual meetings. He said he was glad she was staying on the board and presented her with a plaque for her service.

### **8. PERFORMANCE BASED PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING – HIGHWAY SAFETY TARGETS**

Mr. Schermann presented the Highway Safety Targets. Referring to his presentation, he reviewed the targets and methodology and explained that as part of the federally required Performance Based Planning and Programming, states and metropolitan planning organizations like the TPB must set data-driven targets for fatalities and serious injury crashes on the region's roadways.

Mr. Angry made a motion to adopt Resolution R12-2021 to approve the regional highway safety targets.

Ms. Mitchell seconded the motion.

Mr. Snyder explained that he would abstain from voting to adopt the resolution. He said that he felt there is more that needs to be done in the region. However, he thanked the staff for their hard work on the targets and said his abstention was in no way a reflection on staff work.

Mr. Meyer also said he would abstain citing the same reason as Mr. Snyder. He said one death or one injury was too many.

Ms. Kostiuk said she would be voting for the resolution but also expressed concern about the rate of injuries and fatalities in the region. She noted that there is still work to be done and there needs to be a significant change.

Ms. Teveras said she would also be voting for the resolution but also expressed concerns about the rates of fatalities and injuries in the region. She said she would like to work with the TPB and bring some examples of initiatives that she has been working on in her jurisdiction.

Mr. Srikanth noted that in the next year, safety will continue to be a priority and that there will be opportunities to continue to work on the issue at the TPB.

Ms. Newton also noted her concerns and said though she was also voting for the resolution she agreed there is more work to be done. She said she looked forward to working on improving safety in the region with her colleagues.

The TPB approved Resolution R12-2021 to approve the regional highway safety targets.

### **9. VISUALIZE 2045 – TECHNICAL INPUTS SOLICITATION**

Ms. Cook said that the Technical Inputs Solicitation formally kicks off the process to update the region's long-range transportation plan, Visualize 2045. She said the solicitation is a document that provides

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instruction and guidance for TPB member agencies to submit the documentation accompanying projects, programs, and policies proposed for inclusion in the updated plan. The solicitation also provides background information and context of the TPB's policy priorities to inform the member agencies' project selection process. More information on Visualize 2045 can be found in the presentation for this item.

Ms. Cook said that members were provided with a final draft of the document in the meeting packet. She said it reflected changes to the draft the board has reviewed in November. She said that the board is scheduled to review the changes and approve the document authorizing staff to formally send it to members seeking inputs to update Visualize 2045. Ms. Cook noted that staff had received six proposed changes to the Technical Inputs Solicitation from a couple members of the board after the final draft document has been mailed. She noted that these changes also relate to comments the board had received and comments made by some of the board members last month. Ms. Cook said that she will review all six changes that have been proposed so the board can review and take action on the proposed changes as part of finalizing the Technical Input Solicitation document. She walked the board through each of the five changes and described where those changes will be made in the Technical Inputs Solicitation document. Specific details about the proposed changes can be found in the presentation and memo for this item.

Ms. Wheeler referred to one specific proposed modification, Change B, which would change the phrase "the TPB urges its member agencies to prioritize investments on projects, programs, and policies...." to "the TPB requires its member agencies to prioritize investments on projects, programs, and policies ...". She said that in a place like Prince William County where population is expected to increase and there is no Metrorail and little commuter rail, reducing VMT is difficult. She said this change would put her county at a disadvantage because they lack options.

Ms. Umstatted said amending the language from "urges" to "requires" would probably require her to vote no, which she did not want to do as she wanted to be supportive. She noted that she does not have any explicit or implicit direction from her board to support such a requirement. She said that electric vehicles do not create the same level of greenhouse gas emissions as gasoline powered cars, and that focusing on VMT does not capture that benefit.

Ms. Rishell said she agreed with Ms. Umstatted.

Mr. Kannan reminded the board that the transportation sector is the region's largest contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. He said he appreciates the work plan that TPB staff has developed for establishing targets for VMT. He said those targets will help the board understand how much GHG the region can absorb before it starts to violate the climate change commitments that the TPB recently approved.

Russell said she wants to make sure there is enough time to fully discuss the item. She asked if there were any objections or discussion about Proposed Change A. There was none. She asked if there were any objections or discussion about Proposed Change B.

Ms. Umstatted reiterated her concern that Proposed Change B changes the word "urges" to "requires."

Ms. Kostiuik said she strongly supports the amendment to change the wording to "requires." She said that reducing VMT not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, but it also makes the region safer and improves quality of life.

Ms. Wheeler said she agrees with the need to reduce greenhouse gases. She said she has concerns about climate change and appreciate calls for bike lanes and trails, and improvements in quality of life. She said that she understands the idea of reducing VMT and greenhouse gases, and that the county had recently done some mitigation work on greenhouse gases focusing more on electricity generation. However, she said that if the TPB wants to use VMT reductions as a heavy-duty evaluation criteria, that would put jurisdictions like Prince William County at a disadvantage because there often are no options

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to turn to when trying to address the growth that is coming, because they are still a massively growing county.

Ms. Newton said she supports the change. She said she interprets the language in Proposed Change B so that it reads that it is asking jurisdictions to prioritize reducing VMT. She said it does not cancel road projects. Rather it prioritizes support for Metro and other transit options.

Chair Russell said she was setting aside discussion on Proposed Change B to determine if the rest of the changes were acceptable. She asked if there was any discussion or objection to Proposed Changes C, D, E, and F. Hearing none, she turned the discussion back to Proposed Change B.

Mr. Brown suggested that the word “requires” be retained but he asked that the provision not include the additional text that has been suggested (“to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, prioritize the aspirational strategies, and achieve COG's land use and equity goals”). He suggested keeping the rest of the sentence as in the draft document. He said that he does not mind the word “requires” but feels that the added language goes further into a specific subset of projects and wonders how it would impact the jurisdictions.

Chair Russell thanked Mr. Brown for his comment and summarized by saying his suggestion is to change “urges” to “requires” and strike the other additional language. She asked Kanti for his thoughts.

Mr. Srikanth confirmed that his understanding of the change suggested by Mr. Brown was the same as noted by Chair Russell. He said that such a change would retain the focus on TPB's planning priorities while being broad enough that it could lessen the potential for misuse or misunderstanding of the TPB's intent.

Mr. Allen said he supported the proposed change to the word “requires” and he appreciated the concerns voiced by board members. He said that the change is clear in that it says that it would require members to prioritize investments. It does not say that they can only move forward with certain projects or somehow exclude other projects.

Ms. Umstatted made a motion to change the language in Proposed Change B to read: “Through this project technical input solicitation process, the TPB urges its member agencies to prioritize the aspirational strategies, and achieve COG's land-use and equity goals as they submit their input for inclusion in the TPB's LRTP and TIP.”

Ms. Rishell seconded the motion.

Mr. Allen asked for clarification that the motion uses “urges” instead of “requires.”

Ms. Umstatted said that is correct. It accepts the change but with the use of “urges.”

Mr. Hagen said he supports the change with “urges” but strongly prefers “requires.”

Mr. Glass said he supports use of “requires” instead of “urges.”

Mr. Snyder asked if this motion covers all the proposed changes.

Ms. Umstatted said that this motion is only for Proposed Change B.

Chair Russell called for a roll call vote on Ms. Umstatted's motion.

The following board members voted yes on the motion to use “urges” instead of “requires” in Proposed Change B: Mr. Rawlings (DDOT), Mr. Hirsch (MDOT), Mr. Groth (Charles County), Chair Russell (City of Frederick), Mr. Goddard (City of Laurel), Ms. Sinner (VDOT), Mr. Alcorn (Fairfax County), Mr. Walkinshaw (Fairfax County), Ms. Umstatted (Loudoun County), Mr. Brown (Loudoun County), Ms. Sebesky (City of Manassas), Ms. Rishell (City of Manassas Park), Ms. Wheeler (Prince William County), and Mr. Angry (Prince William County).

The following board members voted no on the motion to use “urges” instead of “requires” in Proposed Change B: Ms. Calkins (DC Office of Planning), Mr. Allen (District of Columbia), Ms. Mitchell (City of

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College Park), Mr. Hagen (Frederick County), Mr. Jordan (City of Greenbelt), Mr. Erenrich (Montgomery County), Mr. Glass (Montgomery County), Ms. Taveras (Prince George's County), Ms. Newton (City of Rockville), Ms. Kostiuik (City of Takoma Park), Ms. Krimm (Maryland House of Delegates), Mr. Aguirre (City of Alexandria), Mr. Dorsey (Arlington County), Mr. Meyer (City of Fairfax), Mr. Snyder (City of Falls Church), and Mr. Kannan (WMATA).

The motion to retain the word "requires" was not passed, with 14 members voting yes and 16 voting no.

A question was asked about the weighted vote.

Mr. Srikanth described the process for a weighted vote. He said that the vote would proceed like normal, but then the weighted outcome would be calculated. The weighting is done in proportion to the population of the jurisdiction. Next, all of the votes from each state are added up and made equal to five votes.

Chair Russell said that the proposed change to the text in Change B stands.

Mr. Srikanth said that the board now needs a motion to vote to approve the document with Proposed Changes A, B, C, D, E, and F.

Ms. Newton made a motion to approve the Technical Inputs Solicitation for the Constrained Element of the LRTP, the TIP, and the Air Quality conformity Analysis with all six changes reviewed and discussed.

Mr. Allen second the motion.

The following board members voted to approve the motion: Ms. Calkins (DC Office of Planning), Mr. Allen (District of Columbia), Mr. Hirsch (MDOT), Ms. Mitchell (City of College Park), Mr. Hagen (Frederick County), Chair Russell (City of Frederick), Mr. Jordan (City of Greenbelt), Mr. Goddard (City of Laurel), Mr. Erenrich (Montgomery County), Mr. Glass (Montgomery County), Mr. Weissburg (Prince George's County), Ms. Taveras (Prince George's County), Ms. Newton (City of Rockville), Ms. Kostiuik (City of Takoma Park), Ms. Krimm (Maryland House of Delegates), Mr. Aguirre (City of Alexandria), Ms. Dorsey (Arlington County), Mr. Meyer (City of Fairfax), Mr. Alcorn (Fairfax County), Mr. Walkinshaw (Fairfax County), Mr. Snyder (City of Falls Church), and Mr. Kannan (WAMTA).

The following board members voted against the motion: Ms. Sinner (VDOT).

The following board members abstained: Mr. Rawlings (DDOT), Mr. Brown (Loudoun County), Ms. Umstadd (Loudoun County), Ms. Rishell (City of Manassas Park), Ms. Wheeler (Prince William County), and Mr. Angry (Prince William County).

The motion to approve the Technical Inputs Solicitation was approved by the board.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **10. TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Chair Russell postponed the briefing on the transportation impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to the January 2021 TPB meeting.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### **11. ADJOURN**

No other business was brought to the board. The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.