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**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

June 21, 2023

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT *IN-PERSON*

Reuben Collins, TPB Chair – Charles County  
Marc Korman – Maryland House  
Takis Karantonis – Arlington County  
James Walkinshaw – Fairfax County  
John Lynch – VDOT  
Bill Cuttler – VDOT

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT *VIRTUALLY*

Charles Allen – DC Council  
Christina Henderson – DC Council  
Heather Edelman – DC Council  
Sandra Marks – DDOT  
Anna Chamberlin – DDOT  
Kelly Russell – City of Frederick  
Dennis Enslinger – Gaithersburg  
Emmett V. Jordan - Greenbelt  
Marilyn Balcombe – Montgomery County  
Gary Erenrich – Montgomery County Executive  
Eric Olson – Prince George’s County  
Oluseyi Olugbenie – Prince George’s County Executive  
Cindy Dyballa – Takoma Park  
Heather Murphy – MDOT  
Kris Fair – Maryland House  
Canek Aguirre - Alexandria  
Dan Malouff – Arlington County  
Tom Ross – City of Fairfax  
Walter Alcorn – Fairfax County  
David Snyder – Falls Church  
Adam Shellenberger – Fauquier County  
Kristen Umstattd – Loudoun County  
Pamela Sebesky – City of Manassas  
Jeanette Rishell – City of Manassas Park  
Paolo Belita – Prince William County  
Maria Sinner - VDOT  
Amir Shahpar - VDOT  
Mark Phillips - WMATA  
Sandra Jackson – FHWA  
Daniel Koenig – FTA  
Julia Koster – NCPD

MWCOG STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT

Kanti Srikanth  
Lyn Erickson  
Kim Sutton

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Leo Pineda  
Allison Schnur  
Nick Ramfos  
Jamie Bufkin  
Mark Moran  
Steve Kania  
Lindsey Martin  
Amanda Lau  
Andrew Meese  
Jeff King  
Paul DesJardin  
Andrew Austin  
Marcela Moreno  
Sergio Ritacco  
Cristina Finch  
Rachel Beyerle  
Katherine Rainone  
Richard A. Wallace - CAC Chair  
Joy Schaefer – Frederick County  
Steve Pittard – VPRA  
Peggy Tadej – Northern Virginia Regional Commission  
Chris Landgraf – Northern Virginia Regional Commission  
Christine Fix - VPRA  
Malcolm Watson – Fairfax County  
Sam Brooks – DDOT  
Kari Snyder – MDOT  
Bill Orleans  
Bill Pugh  
Mahmoud Arafat

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

Chair Reuben Collins called the meeting to order. He said the meeting was being conducted in a hybrid format. He described the procedures for conducting the meeting.

Lyn Erickson conducted a roll call. Attendance for the meeting can be found on the first pages of the minutes. She confirmed there was a quorum.

Bill Pugh from the Coalition for Smarter Growth provided comments in person. He noted the urgency of the climate crisis and he highlighted two items on the agenda – items 9 and 10 – that were relevant to this concern. He said he hoped the TPB would prioritize climate strategies that TPB member agencies have control over and that require regional coordination, including parking cash-out programs, increasing housing near transit and activity centers, faster buses, improving access to transit from walking and biking, and equitable road pricing.

Lyn Erickson said that between noon Tuesday, May 16 and noon June 20, the TPB received 225 individual project comments from the Visualize 2050 initial project list feedback forum and six comments submitted via email. She reiterated that staff has created a project list feedback forum on the TPB comment page to help share specific project comments with project sponsors. She said that staff is sharing the comments twice a month, at the Technical Committee and at TPB. She said these comments were attached to the memo. She said a short summary of them was provided at the front of the memo and then provided in full.

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Lyn Erickson summarized the rest of the comments. She said Arlene Montemarano provided five comments, including invitation to meetings of the Action Committee and three articles. She said that George Aburn, a resident of Delaware, followed up on his previous comments, and expressed his own concern that environmental justice and climate change are not being adequately addressed in transportation plans.

## **2. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 17, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes was moved by Takis Karantonis and seconded by James Walkinshaw. The minutes were approved with two abstentions from Tom Ross and Cindy Dyballa.

## **3. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Lyn Erickson delivered the Technical Committee report because the chair of the committee was not present. Referring to the posted meeting summary, she said the committee met on June 2 and reviewed three items on the TPB agenda: the intercity bus and rail travel overview; the Northern Virginia Regional Commission Military Installation Resiliency review; and the update on projects in the UPWP. She said other items were presented for information and discussion, including the following: a monthly Visualize 2050 report; a presentation on state of the practice recommendations for household surveys; a presentation on the Commuter Connections Bike to Work Day Survey results; and follow-up on an evaluation of public participation activities.

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

Referring to the posted report, Richard Wallace said the CAC met on June 15. He said the committee received a presentation from the District Department of Transportation staff about their funding and project prioritization process. The committee discussed DDOT's public involvement process and DDOT's equity assessment tool. The committee also asked about the zero-based budgeting process and the potential impact it will have on DDOT's project list. He said the committee also received a presentation from TPB staff on their work on intercity travel. Members asked how intercity providers are addressing public safety and accessibility issues, as well as equity concerns.

## **5. STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

Referring to the posted material, Kanti Srikanth said the Steering Committee met on June 9. He said the committee approved two amendments, which were included in the posted material. He said the material also includes letters of support provided by the TPB for grant applications. He also called attention to three grant opportunities that were announced in the materials: the Enhanced Mobility grant program, the Transit Within Reach program, and Virginia's pre-application period for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside program.

Kanti Srikanth noted a couple of items not in the posted report. He noted that the TPB had just received a copy of the federal certification review report, which found that the TPB completely complies with all of the federal regulations for metropolitan planning. There were no corrective actions. There were three recommendations and seven commendations. He thanked everyone who participated in the review process.

Kanti Srikanth thanked Ms. Henderson for agreeing to participate in the Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards ceremony on June 30.

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## 6. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Collins emphasized the importance of the grant opportunities that Kanti Srikanth highlighted in his report. He also noted that the recent Code Red days had highlighted importance of air quality.

### ACTION ITEM

#### 7. APPROVAL TO AMEND THE FY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO INCLUDE FUNDING UPDATES FOR TWO TRANSIT PROJECTS REQUESTED BY THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (VDOT) ON BEHALF OF THE VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAILWAY AUTHORITY (VPRA)

Referring to the agenda materials, Andrew Austin stated that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is requesting a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment for two projects. He said that the Alexandria 4<sup>th</sup> Track will add \$25.5 million to the TIP with a total of \$210 million total for the project. He said that the Long Bridge Virginia to D.C. project will be adding approximately \$2 billion, for a total of \$2.27 billion for that project. He noted that both projects (the service on the track, not the bridge itself) have been included in the Air Quality Conformity analysis of Visualize 2045, and the 2023-2026 TIP and that full funding for both projects was also included in the financial analysis of the long-range plan and the TIP. Austin recommended approval of the amendment, stating that the amendment was reviewed by the TPB Steering Committee at its meeting on June 2, and the Steering Committee also recommended its approval.

John Lynch moved adoption of Resolution R12-2023 to amend the FY 2023-2026 TIP as requested by VDOT. Pamela Sebesky seconded.

Chair Reuben Collins asked if there were comments on the item.

Takis Karantonis said that both investments are foundational and transformational, and the importance of the 4<sup>th</sup> Track should not be underestimated. He said that the 4<sup>th</sup> Track will allow more capacity on the line and connect to critical assets like National Airport.

Kanti Srikanth said that although the project is for a rail bridge, the project also includes a new pedestrian bridge across the Potomac River connecting trails from Virginia into D.C. and Maryland. He said that the project is a critical element of the TPB National Capital Trail Network.

John Lynch said that these projects are just two that are part of the larger Northern Virginia core capacity improvements included.

Resolution R12-2023 was approved unanimously.

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

#### 8. INTERCITY BUS AND RAIL TRAVEL OVERVIEW

Andrew Meese and Pierre Gaunard referred to the presentation materials to provide an overview of intercity bus and rail travel for the National Capital region. Meese stated that the TPB studies intercity travel as part of a federal requirement and also to understand the economic impacts, connectivity, business travel and how it overlaps with commuter transit, and equity.

Pierre Gaunard explained that TPB staff compiled updated information on intercity bus and rail

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operations using a variety of different sources including online news articles, social media posts, and open source data, such as the published schedules that providers have online on their websites as well as the travel aggregator websites.

Pierre Gaunard said that the key findings show similar trends seen in the previous 2016 intercity study. He stated that Northeast corridor routes continue to make up the majority of trips for intercity bus and rail travel from the region, and Fridays continue to be the busiest travel day on average. He said that Amtrak's ridership is recovering quickly compared to local transit. He noted that intercity bus companies have had to reorganize their routes, close, and bus lines are dealing with workforce issues and shortages to offer the same amount of service they did before the pandemic.

Andrew Meese said that the TPB plans to complete a detailed study in FY 2024 to get more information and put together a report to find out about traveler behavior and not just about providers. He said that the federal requirements ask MPOs to look at intermodal facilities, and TPB staff plans to bring the topic back in the fall to include several presenters representing intermodal facilities, providers, and the intercity bus association to that the board can have a more direct discussion about their plan investments and activities.

Eric Olson stated that New Carrollton is going to see an uptick when Union Station goes through its renovation and asked if the TPB has data or projections on the ridership expected to be happening in other places during the renovations.

Kanti Srikanth said that the TPB plans to have a panel discussion in the fall with a focus on Union Station by inviting the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation along with Amtrak, and the American Bus Association to talk about expanding services into and through the region with a particular focus on the plan for Union Station expansion. He said that the NEPA study has been released for Union Station's plans.

Takis Karantonis said he found the overview extremely interesting and that a very important element has to do with a business model of intercity travel. He asked whether the TPB has thought about looking at the fare structure of intercity travel. He stated that companies such as Amtrak have a structure where the fare is more expensive closer to the travel date and asked if this would be part of the analysis at some point.

Andrew Meese said that TPB staff can look into pricing in the detailed study next year.

Gary Erenrich said the Silver Spring Transit Center was built with a bus bay for intercity bus and Montgomery County has worked with Peter Pan and Metro for years for services at Silver Spring. He asked whether the TPB could focus a future study on how to better coordinate services at Metrorail stations for intercity bus.

Andrew Meese said that the TPB can also look into that topic.

## **9. MILITARY INSTALLATION RESILIENCE REVIEW (MIRR) OVERVIEW: NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION AND MWCOG**

Jeff King, referring to the presentation materials, provided an overview of COG's work related to the Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) for Joint Base Anacostia Bolling, Washington Navy Yard, and the Naval Research Laboratory in Fort McNair. He said that additional MIRR sites being looked at in the region are Fort Belvoir, Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall, and Quantico in Virginia, Indianhead in Charles County, Walter Reed National Medical Center in Montgomery County, and Prince George's County's Andrews Air Force Base.

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Chris Landgraf provided an overview of NVRC's work with three installations. He said that NVRC's MIRR project included an asset inventory and vulnerability analysis of over 100,000 assets, divided into the 11 asset categories. He said that 129 strategies across the region were developed with 46 being primarily regional focused, and prioritization criteria was used in the process to weight strategies into low, medium, and high tiers.

Chris Landgraf said that the next steps are to socialize the MIRR report and identify funding sources for project planning.

Chair Reuben Collins commented that the presentation made reference to Joint Base Andrews and the lack of rail accessibility. He stated that one of the earlier projected stations for Southern Maryland Rapid Transit, the light rail project being touted in Charles County, along with partners in Prince George's County, includes within its alignment a station for Joint Base Andrews. He said that NVRC might want to consider this station when looking at future projections.

## **10. FY 2024 UPWP PROJECTS UPDATE**

Item 11 was deferred until another TPB board meeting.

## **NOTICE ITEM**

### **11. VDOT REQUEST TO AMEND THE FY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

Andrew Austin said that the VDOT has requested an amendment to update the Virginia section of the FY 2023 - 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He said that VDOT will be modifying approximately 83 records, which will increase the program total for VDOT's projects from \$1.96 billion to about \$8.8 billion, an increase of approximately \$6.9 billion. John Lynch stated that the changes will be done to align VDOT's draft FY 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) with the TPB's TIP.

Andrew Austin said that the projects are included in the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and that there are no new projects entered into the TIP with this request.

### **12. ADJOURN**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:51 P.M. The next meeting will be on July 19.