



## TPB REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

### Meeting Summary: March 27, 2018

#### ATTENDEES

David Koch, DDOT (Chair)	Michael Felschow, FCDOT	Michael Farrell, TPB
Steve Yaffe, Arlington Co.	Clinton Edwards, DRPT	Lyn Erickson, TPB (phone)
Kyeongsu Kim, Connetics Transp. Grp.	Bill Orleans, Citizen	James Li, TPB (phone)
William Jones, Arlington Co.	Tim Canan, TPB	Gary Erenrich, MCDOT (phone)
Kyle Nembhard, MDOT	Ken Joh, TPB	Barry Arata, Tripshot (phone)
Deanna Archey, MCDOT	Andy Meese, TPB	
Jacques Lerner, DFHV	Arianna Koudounas, TPB	
Randy White, FCDOT	Eric Randall, TPB	
	Matthew Gaskin, TPB	

#### AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS, *David Koch, Chair***
  - Call to order and introductions.
- 2. VISUALIZE 2045: TRAVEL AND TOURISM; INTERCITY BUSES, *Arianna Koudounas, TPB***
  - The purpose of this presentation was for an introduction of two new elements that will be added to the federally required long-range transportation plan for the National Capital Region, called Visualize 2045.
  - Items that were discussed where the timeline of the creation of Visualize 2045, federal planning factors, RTPP goals/ strategies, and the five endorsed aspirational initiatives.
  - Discussion was held on some potential considerations concerning intercity buses which included:
    - Capacity of existing stations
    - Addition of new stations
    - Multimodal connectivity to stations
    - Cross-jurisdictional coordination
  - Similar discussions were held concerning tourism and travel which included:
    - Multimodal connectivity
    - Marketing/Communications
    - Cross-jurisdictional coordination
    - Fully using regional assets

#### Questions

- Are these private intercity buses? Also, one suggestion would be to create a better repository

for easier location of these providers, improving information on operators and the range of destinations. *Mostly, however, both private and public providers could be considered.*

- Why the focus on intercity buses and not intercity rail services? *The new federal requirements only speak to intercity buses.*
- Recently, Montgomery County dedicated a bus stop at the Silver Spring Transit Center to intercity buses. Peter Pan tickets are also sold in the transit store at the station. *These modest actions are still indicative of support for intercity bus.*
- What are the implications for RFK and tour bus parking? *Plans are still in development.*
- This is an additional element to Visualize 2045? Yes.
- Suggestion: These new elements (intercity buses) should be mindful of station dwell times.

### 3. **UPDATE: REGIONAL BUS SERVICE DELIVERY STUDY**, Arianna Koudounas, TPB

- The purpose of this presentation was to provide an update on the regional bus service delivery study being conducted TPB as part of the UPWP Technical Assistance program. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is advising the work of the study, with the focus being to provide options for regional providers to coordinate and work more effectively to optimize the entire regional bus network.
- Items that were discussed included the scope of work, scheduled for deliverables, outreach efforts, and data collection/analysis.
- Many strategies were suggested and discussed including:
  - Schedule coordination
  - Shared passenger facilities
  - Regional fare structure
  - Merging of duplicative routes
  - Shared infrastructure
  - Joint staffing training
- Agency challenges and opportunities for the above- suggestions were also discussed, including:
  - Having subsidies such as free rides for school children, reduced fares for the elderly and disabled applicable regionwide.
  - Honoring fares regionwide, if for instance a MARC train runs late that fare is still honored on Metro if the rider takes the Metro as an alternative.
  - More standardized training, creating a standardized way of recording and sharing data.
  - Adding and sharing bus stops/shelters.

Questions:

- Has there been considerations on cross-jurisdictional coordination concerning security? Cyber security? *That is an aspect that can be considered.*

### 4. **MICRO TRANSIT: DFHV'S NEIGHBORHOOD RIDE SERVICE (NRS) PROGRAM**, Jacques Lerner, DFHV

- This presentation served as an introduction and overview of a new service launched last year by the District Department For Hire Vehicles, formerly known as the DC Taxicab Commission. The new service is called the Neighborhood Ride Service (NRS)
- The program initially began as a pilot in FY17 with a fleet of vans, trained drivers, and vouchers for riders to utilize.
- Four routes are currently operating in Wards 4, 7, and 8, with fixed pickup locations and a fare of \$3.25. Vans hold up to 8 persons.
- Service allows for drop-offs to be anywhere on the route with allowances to turn off route for drop-offs.



- The goals of this program are to provide affordable transit across the city as well as a new revenue source for some existing taxi drivers, help alleviate the first mile, last mile dilemma, and providing better service at a low price.
- Service plans on expanding city wide by this summer, what is being called NRS 2.0.
- The program is set on utilizing the latest innovations in technology, while still providing service to those riders without smartphone access.

Questions:

- Do you plan to use any type of livery, visual signage, or symbol? *Not sure yet.*
- You stated in your presentation that some earlier routes were underperforming? *Underperforming in the sense that those routes were not as successful as we'd hope, details about our performance can be found in a report on our website. These routes were pilots, and from those some important lessons have been learned.*
- Do you do any real-time tracking for customers? *No. From our side we watch and can see real time tracking of the drivers, however the customer does not have that ability.*
- Will "regular" cabs come into service for this program? *Yes, that is the plan. We plan to allow a small number of regular cabs into the service until we determine the optimized level.*
- Will TNCs be part of NRS 2.0? *They can certainly participate if they are willing to agree to the requirements. If they participate, they must provide data and information. To date, they have not citing proprietary control of their data.*
- Is this service competing with Transport DC? *It has different customer eligibility.*
- Will NRS offer rides outside of DC, such as to Southern Avenue metro station which is just across the Maryland state line? *At this time, service must be within the District.*
- Arlington has already identified a route that may provide a flex service to some riders.
- In Montgomery County, they are doing similar research to determine which routes would allow for drop-offs off route.
- Fairfax County is currently retooling their scope of work, and preparing for the potential impacts autonomous vehicles may have on providing this type of flexible service.

**5. DEMONSTRATION OF TRIPSHOT ON-DEMAND TRANSPORTATION SOFTWARE, Barry Arata, Tripshot, Inc**

- The Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee does not endorse any product that is presented during meetings. Allowing the Tripshot Company to demonstrate its software is only to bring attention to our members that technology in public transportation is ever evolving and there are new products available.
- Tripshot is a comprehensive transportation product, with customer and operations software that enables the user to launch on-demand solutions with minimal upfront costs. It provides real-time reporting, ride requests, and automated dispatching.
- Provides customers with an easier means of purchasing tickets via a smartphone.

Questions:

- Is the data collected confidential? *We keep all our data collected in house and it is not sold. Ridership information, route tracking, etc. is all private, to the public. However, we will release that information to the organization that is using Tripshot software.*
- Is cellphone GPS data tracked? *No, GPS information from personal rider cellphones is not tracked. However, if an organization requires its employees to use a badge to access Tripshot services, that information is tracked.*

**6. FEDERAL RULEMAKING AND WORK PROGRAM UPDATE, Eric Randall, TPB**

- Update to the Transportation Safety Rule, final release is set for May 3.



- LRPTF Endorsed Initiatives: BRT and Transitways was discussed, a survey was sent out last week and initial responses were shared.
- Future meetings will focus on ways to make these selected routes ready for implementation.
- State of Public Transportation Report is still in progress with information to share at the next meeting.
- For future meetings, an update on Transit Signal Priority activities was requested.

## 7. ADJOURN

- David Koch, RPTS chair for 2018 adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM.
- The next meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2018.

All meeting materials are available for download from the subcommittee's website:  
<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2018/3/27/tpb-regional-public-transportation-subcommittee/>

