

TPB Work Program Responds to New Federal Regulations

The Transportation Planning Board is scheduled on March 21 to approve a work program that reflects new federal requirements, including activities related to public participation, freight and safety planning, and a revamped congestion management process.

Federal law requires metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) like the TPB to approve a new Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) every year. The new work program was designed to ensure compliance with federal metropolitan planning regulations, published on February 14. Those regulations provide for the implementation of planning provisions in the 2005 federal surface transportation act, known as SAFETEA-LU.

The draft fiscal year 2008 budget presented to the TPB at its February 21 meeting was \$11,749,000, the same as in FY2007. The FY2008 UPWP will begin July 1, 2007.

"A lot of what's in this work program is aimed at SAFETEA-LU,"

explained Ronald Kirby, Director of the Department of Transportation Planning. "This is the first time that the federal planning regulations

have been updated since 1993. SAFETEA-LU and the new regulations have broadened the things we need to do as an MPO."

The new federal regulations require the TPB to develop a Participation Plan and ensure the usage of "visualization" techniques and consultation procedures. The regulations also require enhanced freight planning, human services coordination and safety planning activities.

The TPB is funding a number of other new activities not required by federal law, including the new Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) program, new supplemental traffic counts, and new regional transit planning activities, including the new Regional Bus Subcommittee.

To see a draft of the work program, go to www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb/ and see Item 12 under the TPB meeting of February 21. ■

The new project submissions for this year's long-range plan update will be released for public comment on March 15. For details go to: www.mwcog.org/clrp.



Focusing on Bus Safety



Mr. Jack Requa, Metro's Chief Operating Officer for Metrobus, spoke to the TPB on February 21 about steps the agency is taking to prevent future bus accidents, especially those involving pedestrians.

Upcoming TPB Agenda

The TPB's March 21 agenda will include the following items:

- Approval of the FY 2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- Approval of FY 2008 Commuter Connections Work Program (CCWP).
- Approval of technical assistance recipients under the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Pilot Program.
- Approval of amendments to the FY 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to realign project funding, as requested by the departments of transportation of Virginia and the District of Columbia.
- Briefing on project submissions and draft scope of work for the air quality conformity assessment for the 2007 Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and the FY 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Briefing on the draft Coordinated Plan for Human Service Transportation for the National Capital Region.
- Update on the development of the region's 8-hour ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP), and the establishment of 2008, 2009, and 2010 mobile emissions budgets.
- Briefing on staff responses to the CAC recommendations on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study presented at the February 21 TPB meeting (see box on page 3). ■

Other February Agenda Items

The TPB's February 21 agenda also included the following items:

- *Briefing on the FY 2008 Commuter Connections Work Program (CCWP).*

Background: Commuter Connections includes a number of programs that assist and encourage people in the region to use alternatives to the single-occupant automobile. The CCWP budget for FY 2008 is \$4.99 million, compared to \$5.95 million in the current year. New or recent

Pourciau Receives TPB's Thanks



Michelle Pourciau, former director of the District Department of Transportation and former TPB vice chair, was honored by the TPB at its meeting on February 21 for her years of service to the board and to the region.

additions to the CCWP include the Live Near Your Work campaign, new Transportation Demand Management software, and additional monitoring and evaluation activities. The TPB is scheduled to approve the CCWP on March 21. The draft CCWP is available at www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb/. See Item 13 under the meeting of February 21.

- *Approval of a letter to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) concerning issues related to the region's 8-hour ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP).*

Background: Whenever the TPB updates or amends the region's transportation plans or programs, the board must also approve an air quality "conformity determination" showing that forecasted emissions will conform to mobile emissions budgets (ceilings on transportation-related emissions levels) that are established in the regional air quality plan, known as the SIP. On March 15, MWAQC is planning to release a new SIP that will show how the region will meet new, more stringent, federal standards (the 8-hour standard) for ground-level ozone. The TPB has worked closely with MWAQC in establishing mobile emissions budgets for the new SIP.

The TPB's letter to MWAQC, along with background information and data, is available at www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb/. See Item 8 under the meeting of February 21.

Citizens Committee Makes Recommendations on Scenario Study

At the TPB meeting of February 21, Emmet Tydings, 2006 CAC chair, presented a series of recommendations on the future of the TPB's land use and transportation scenario study, known as the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study. Following the presentation, TPB members asked staff to prepare an action plan for addressing the recommendations. The full text of the recommendations can be found at www.mwcog.org/transportation/committee/cac.

GOALS

- The scenario study should be used as a tool to influence project selection and local land use decisions.
- The scenario study should be used to raise awareness with decision-makers and citizens about regional challenges.
- The scenario study should effectively use public outreach to inform future scenario planning activities, including the development of regional priorities and identification of implementation strategies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Make available the study findings, including the brochure and "What If" presentation, to elected officials and local planning efforts.
2. Support and expand the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) program.
3. Expand outreach to educate the public and raise awareness of regional challenges.
4. Establish a process for gathering public input and feeding it back to the TPB for the development of refined, new or composite scenarios.
5. Provide public-friendly information on the TPB's variably priced lane scenario as quickly as possible.
6. Move forward with developing and refining scenarios.
7. Use the RMAS scenarios to develop a plan of regional priorities.
8. Develop useful analysis of existing scenarios ("drill down") to provide more detail on which actions could be most effective.
9. Analyze a scenario or scenarios that assume the conversion of existing general purpose lanes to variably priced lanes.
10. The TPB should establish a working group to look at future phases of and steps to implement the study.

• *Approval of new Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) members* for the District of Columbia: Grace Malakoff, Robin Marlin, Merle Van Horne, Vera Abbot (alternate) and Joseph Bowser (alternate).

• *Update on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) program.* Staff reported that they were proceeding with the finalization of the interagency agreements needed to implement the MATOC program.

• *Briefing on the TPB Regional Value Pricing Study*, and on potential Urban Partnership Agreements with the US Department of Transportation. The briefing material is available at www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb/. See Item 10 under the meeting of February 21. ■

TPB News, 777 North Capitol St, NE, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239
202-962-3295; jswanson@mwcog.org
"TPB News" at www.mwcog.org/transportation

Calendar of Events

Dates and times subject to change. All meetings are at COG unless otherwise indicated. If you are in need of special assistance to participate in meetings, please call (202) 962-3315 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Bicycle racks are located in the parking garage at 777 N. Capitol St., NE (Enter from 1st Street).

March 2007

- 2 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 2 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 8 TPB Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (noon)
- 9 Joint Technical Working Group for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (noon)
- 13 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 14 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 15 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 20 Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee (10 am)
- 20 Street Smart Kick-Off (10:30 am)
- 20 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 20 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 20 Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Marketing Group (2 pm)
- 21 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 22 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 23 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 27 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)

April 2007

- 6 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 6 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 10 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 12 TPB Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (noon)
- 12 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 17 Employer Outreach Committee (10 am)
- 18 Task Force on Value Pricing for Transportation (10 am)
- 18 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 24 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 26 TPB Access for All Advisory Committee (time TBD)

May 2007

- 4 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 4 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 8 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 9 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 10 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 11 Joint Technical Working Group for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (noon)
- 15 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 15 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 16 Task Force on Value Pricing for Transportation (10 am)
- 16 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 18 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 22 18th Annual Public Transit Forum (11 am)
- 24 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)

This document is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact John Swanson at jswanson@mwkog.org, (202) 962-3295 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Allow seven working days for preparation of material.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239

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