



UPCOMING MEETINGS  
AND ITEMS OF  
INTEREST:

**TPB Meeting,  
January 18:**

- **Briefing on Project Submissions and Draft Scope of Work for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2012 CLRP**
- **Briefing on Proposed Performance Measures for the TPB Regional Transportation Priorities Plan**

More information may be found at:  
[www.mwcog.org/transportation](http://www.mwcog.org/transportation)

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# TPB news

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Transportation  
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Board

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## TPB APPOINTS 2012 TPB OFFICERS

At its meeting on December 21, the TPB elected Todd Turner, current First Vice Chair of the TPB and City of Bowie Councilmember, as its Chair for 2012. Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chairman Scott York and District of Columbia Councilmember Tommy Wells were elected as vice chairs of the TPB.

Outgoing 2011 TPB Chair Muriel Bowser, representing the District of Columbia Council, thanked the TPB for the opportunity to serve as Chair. She said, "we have dealt with a lot of challenges and priorities over the year. We started out talking about how we could have more citizen participation, the need to focus on environmental

**2012 TPB Chair Todd Turner presented 2011 TPB Chair Muriel Bowser with a plaque recognizing her service at Chair of the TPB.**

justice issues, and the need to make sure that we're really regional in our approaches to the things that we do. I think we've made a lot of progress over the year in all of those areas, including the Scope of Work for the Regional Transportation Priorities

*(Continued on page 2)*



## RESULTS FROM REGIONAL TRAFFIC CONGESTION ANALYSIS

The TPB received the results from its 2011 Aerial Traffic Congestion Survey, which is conducted every three years and highlights changes in congestion locations and durations in comparison to earlier surveys. The 2011 survey indicates that several areas of the region are experiencing increasing congestion. Overall, traffic congestion in the region increased significantly between 2008 and 2011, after decreasing between 2005 and

2008, likely due to the economic recession.

Ronald Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning, said the results represent a double-edged sword. "Congestion is worsening because the economy has improved since the last survey. Depending on which part you focus on, there's good news and there's bad news," he said.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# TPB 2012 OFFICERS

*(Continued from page 1)*

Plan, the FY 2011 TPB TIGER application, and the JARC and New Freedom programs. I know that we'll continue working together on how to make our region move efficiently, and support all of our goals as a growing region and a productive region."

## 2012 TPB OFFICERS



**Todd Turner**

TPB Chair  
Councilmember,  
Bowie, MD



**Scott York**

TPB First Vice Chair  
Board of Supervisors,  
Loudoun County, VA



**Tommy Wells**

TPB Second Vice Chair  
Councilmember,  
District of Columbia

Chair Turner was first elected to the City of Bowie Council in November 2005 as a representative of the 3rd Council District, and was reelected in 2007 and 2009. He was elected an At-Large Councilmember in 2011. He served as Mayor Pro Tem from 2007 through 2009, becoming the first African-American to hold the position in the City's history. He serves on the Planning and Development Board of the Prince George's County YMCA and on the Advisory Board of the Prince George's Progressive Institute. Chair Turner is a member of the Heather Hills Elementary School PTO, the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce, the Sons of the American Legion, Post 66 and has volunteered for the Bowie Emergency Aid Fund and the annual Christmas in April program. In November 2008, he participated in the TPB's Commu-

nity Leadership Institute program geared towards local elected officials.

First Vice Chair Scott York was elected as Chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors in November 1999 after serving one term on the Board as the Sterling District Representative. He was re-elected in 2003, 2007, and 2011. He currently serves on the Board of Supervisors' Transportation/Land Use Committee and Finance, Government Services and Operations Committee. He also represents the Board of Supervisors on the Loudoun County Economic Development Commission. Vice Chair York serves and has served in a variety of regional leadership positions. He represents Loudoun County on the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) and on the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. He also represents Loudoun on the Route 28 Transportation Improvement District Commission, the Virginia High-Growth Coalition, and the Virginia Association of Counties.

Second Vice Chair Tommy Wells joined the District of Columbia Council in January 2006. He serves as chairman of the Council's Committee on Libraries, Parks, Recreation, and Planning. He served as the former chairman of the Council's Committee on Human Services, leading housing policy reform through the innovative Housing First program, as well as improvements in oversight of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation. Vice Chair Wells served as an ANC Commissioner from 1994 to 2000 and a member of the D.C. Board of Education, representing Wards 5 and 6, from 2000 to 2006. ♦

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The 2011 TPB Officers presented 2011 TPB Technical Committee Chair Mark Kellogg of WMATA with a symbol of appreciation for his service. From left, Vice Chair Lori Waters, Vice Chair Todd Turner, Kellogg, TPB Chair Muriel Bowser.



The 2011 TPB Officers presented 2011 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee Chair Zach Dobelbower with a symbol of appreciation for his service.



TPB Freight Subcommittee Chair Vic Weissberg of Prince George's County was acknowledged for three years of service chairing the subcommittee.



The TPB honored Virginia State Senator Patsy Ticer with a symbol of appreciation for her service. Senator Ticer is retiring after 20 years of service on the TPB. Senator Ticer served as Chair of the TPB in 1995.

## UPCOMING JANUARY AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB's January 18 agenda is expected to include the following items:

- Approval of Funding and Transmittal Letter for TPB's 2012 Membership in the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations.
- Approval of Appointments to the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Year 2012.
- Briefing on Proposed Performance Measures for the TPB Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP).
- Briefing on an Assessment of Job Access Reverse Commute for Low Income Individuals (JARC)

Program and the New Freedom Program for Persons with Disabilities in the National Capital Region.

- Briefing on Project Submissions for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2012 CLRP.
- Briefing on Draft Scope of Work for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2012 CLRP.
- Review of Outline and Preliminary Budget for FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Information and materials for the monthly TPB meeting are posted on the TPB website one week prior to the meeting: [www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb](http://www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb). ♦

# TPB LAUNCHES REACH A RIDE

*“Access to transportation information is opportunity’s linchpin. Together we will continue to work to improve access to transportation information in the region.”*  
 – Nicholas Ramfos,  
 Director, Commuter Connections

On December 5, the TPB launched the Reach A Ride service and website, a new transportation information source for travelers with special needs in the region, in an ongoing effort to improve access to transportation information. This is the first website of its kind that makes information about specialized transportation options available in one place for the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia and Suburban Maryland.

From public transit curb-to-curb service to private taxi service, Reach A Ride’s web site and hotline database includes information on public and private transportation providers that accommodate specialized needs including wheelchairs, gurneys and escorted travel for people with severe mobility or cognitive limitations.

“Access to transportation information is opportunity’s linchpin,” said Nicholas Ramfos, Director of Commuter Con-

nections. “Together we will continue to work to improve access to transportation information in the region.”

Reach A Ride provides an important resource for social service agencies, friends, family members, clergy, healthcare providers and case managers seeking information on transportation options for transportation disadvantaged individuals.

“In this region alone, there are approximately 550,000 persons with a disability; 520,000 over the age of 65; 510,000 with limited English proficiency; and 810,000 living in low-income earning households, all considered ‘transportation disadvantaged,’” said TPB Chair Muriel Bowser. “Reach A Ride will provide these individuals with improved access to the transportation information they need to get to work, school, medical appointments or shopping.”

Patrick Wojahn of College Park, who serves as the TPB Human Service Transportation Task Force Chair, said, “As a disability rights advocate, I know there is a great need for a ‘one-click’ or ‘one-call’ transportation information resource. Reach A Ride was developed to serve those with visual, physical and cognitive disabilities as well as those who speak English as a second language. We are proud that it has earned a seal of approval from the American Foundation for the Blind’s Accessibility Assurance program.”

The Reach A Ride web site, [www.ReachARide.org](http://www.ReachARide.org), and toll-free hotline (855-732-2427) provide information about specialized transportation options for people with disabilities, older adults, those with limited English proficiency and low-income commuters, both in English and Spanish, along with links to programs and services. ♦

## TPB Alphabet Soup

<b>AFA</b>	Access for All Advisory Committee
<b>ARRA</b>	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
<b>CAC</b>	Citizens Advisory Committee
<b>CLRP</b>	Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan
<b>COG</b>	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
<b>DDOT</b>	District Department of Transportation
<b>FHWA</b>	Federal Highway Administration
<b>FTA</b>	Federal Transit Administration
<b>MDOT</b>	Maryland Department of Transportation
<b>MPO</b>	Metropolitan Planning Organization
<b>NVTA</b>	Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
<b>TIP</b>	Transportation Improvement Program
<b>TPB</b>	Transportation Planning Board
<b>VDOT</b>	Virginia Department of Transportation
<b>WMATA</b>	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

# REGIONAL TRAFFIC CONGESTION ANALYSIS

*(Continued from page 1)*

According to the 2011 Survey, the most congested locations in the region are:

1. Northbound I-395 (from VA 27/Washington Boulevard to VA 110/Jefferson Davis Highway)
  - *From 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., average speed is 5 miles per hour*
2. *(tie)* Inner Loop I-495 (from VA 193/Georgetown Pike to George Washington Memorial Parkway)
  - *From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., average speed is 5-10 miles per hour*
2. *(tie)* Southbound I-395/Southwest Freeway (from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to 12<sup>th</sup> Street)
  - *From 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., average speed is 5-10 miles per hour*
4. Eastbound I-66 (from VA 7/Leesburg Pike to Dulles Access Road)
  - *From 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., average speed is 7-10 miles per hour*
5. *(tie)* Inner Loop I-495 (from MD 355/I-270 to MD 185/Connecticut Avenue)
  - *From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., average speed is 10-15 miles per hour*
5. *(tie)* Outer Loop I-495 (from VA 267/Dulles Toll Road to VA 123/Chain Bridge Road)
  - *From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., average speed is 10-15 miles per hour*

TPB members discussed the impact of construction projects on the results of the survey, specifically related to how the improvements increase congestion in the short term. Some members also questioned the long-term benefits of adding new roadway capacity.

David Snyder of the City of Falls Church hypothesized, “if you put a new lane in, it may work well for the first couple of years. However, as development has followed that increased transportation capacity, you end up with poor levels of service again within five years.” He said that while improvements may have a positive impact on congestion in the short term, “over the long term the

record is exactly the opposite: you build it, you induce demand, and the level of service deteriorates.”

Cathy Hudgins of Fairfax County made a similar point, noting that “increased capacity is not reducing the congestion in peak travel periods, but rather the peak travel period continues to spread,” in the sense that the peak travel period is longer than it used to be.

Sam Zimbabwe of the District Department of Transportation linked the study of congestion on improved facilities to maximizing funding potential for the transportation system. He said he wondered if the data could be used to “assess the amount of capital spending that went into the infrastructure improvements, helping us weigh alternatives for how to spend that same money to make other types of improvements that might address congestion as well.”

Although congestion increased overall, several areas experienced congestion reduction since 2008. The biggest positive impact on congestion in the region was the opening of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. What was previously a location of hours-long congestion during the morning peak on the Inner Loop of the Capital Beltway (I-95/I-495) from St. Barnabas Road in Prince George’s County to Telegraph Road in Alexandria is now operating at a congestion-free level of service.

Other areas with significantly reduced congestion during the morning peak period include Eastbound Dulles Toll Road (VA 267) between Centreville Road and Hunter Mill Road in Fairfax County, Southbound MD 295/I-295 approaching and beyond the US 50 interchange in Prince George’s County, and Westbound and Southbound Southwest Freeway/I-395 across the District of Columbia.

This is the seventh edition of the Aerial Traffic Congestion Survey. The TPB has commissioned these surveys since 1993 to monitor congestion on the region’s freeways during morning and evening peak periods. More information may be found at <http://www.skycomp.com/MWCOG/index.html>. ♦

## TWO NEW WEB RESOURCES FOR REGIONAL INCIDENTS

Two new regional web resources have been launched to provide better information to the public during localized and regional transportation, weather, and other incidents.

### **MATOC website**

The Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program recently unveiled its public website, [www.matoc.org](http://www.matoc.org). The MATOC website provides real time traveler information to the general public, and is a simplified, user-friendly version of the database that is used for MATOC operations. The website provides links to other state information websites, and users can tap into the MATOC Twitter and Facebook pages to receive the latest messages.

This recent unveiling was a “soft launch” of the site, which has not yet been widely publicized. MATOC Program officials are seeking comments and feedback on how to provide information in the most user-friendly manner. To review the site, visit [www.matoc.org](http://www.matoc.org).

### **Bids and Solicitations**

For current COG solicitations available for bid/proposals, please visit “Doing Business with COG:” [www.mwcog.org/doingbusiness/cogbid/](http://www.mwcog.org/doingbusiness/cogbid/)

## FIND THE TPB ON FACEBOOK

### **Capital Region Updates**

Jurisdictions of the National Capital Region have a new web-based tool to communicate emergency information to residents of the region: [www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov](http://www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov). The site was unveiled on December 15 at a meeting of regional communicators, public safety officials and FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. Through this online resource, residents can stay connected to local jurisdictional news (through a combined RSS feed of local news releases), localized weather from the National Weather Service, traffic and transit alerts, tips on how to prepare for emergencies and much more.

Capital Region Updates features day-to-day news from the jurisdictions of the National Capital Region. During a regional emergency or major weather event across the NCR, the site will feature incident updates and life-safety news and instructions. It will serve as an online “one stop shop” for information and guidance during major emergencies. The website was launched in response to recommendations from the recent COG Incident Management Report as a tool to better communicate emergency information to the public. The TPB received a briefing on this report at its November meeting. ♦

Are you interested in getting up-to-date information about the TPB? Find us on Facebook!

Search *National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board* and “Like” our page. You can find links to a variety of relevant information on regional transportation planning. ♦

## “TPB WEEKLY REPORT” COMING SOON

On Tuesday, January 17, the TPB will launch a new weekly online publication that will highlight the findings of recent TPB research, analysis, outreach, and planning efforts for a better transportation future in the National Capital Region. This follows and responds to a recommendation in the May 2011 US DOT certification report on the region’s transportation planning process that the TPB “explore other methods and media to provide information to the public.”

“TPB Weekly Report”, which will provide brief, timely summaries of recent work, along with links to key documents and presentations, will be of interest to

anyone following regional transportation and planning issues in metropolitan Washington.

As part of the launch of the “TPB Weekly Report,” TPB News will experience a minor makeover. Next month, look for changes to the newsletter that will establish consistency between the publications.

All current subscribers to the electronic version of “TPB News” will automatically receive this weekly publication via email. Those who receive “TPB News” by mail and wish to receive “TPB Weekly Report” by email should contact Ben Hampton at [bhampton@mwkog.org](mailto:bhampton@mwkog.org) or 202-962-3275. ♦

## US DOT AWARDS 2011 TIGER FUNDING

On December 15, the United States Department of Transportation announced it had selected 46 transportation projects in 33 states and Puerto Rico to receive a total of \$511 million from the third round of the popular TIGER program. The announcement came months ahead of schedule, and will allow communities to move forward with critical, job-creating infrastructure projects including road and bridge improvements; transit upgrades; freight, port and rail expansions; and new options for bicyclists and pedestrians. All of the projects funded as part of the FY 2011 round of TIGER funding were under \$20 million.

The TPB submitted an application for funding for \$31 million to implement bicycle and pedestrian improvements around rail stations in the region. The seven proposed project components focused on pedestrian, bicycle, and streetscape improvements to 16 rail station areas throughout the region in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. The projects were designed to leverage rail station investments by making it easier for commuters to get to and use rail transit.

While the concept was not selected in the third round of TIGER funding, the TPB believes it is a prudent use of funding, and may revise and refine the project concept and components for inclusion in the anticipated fourth round of the TIGER competitive grant program. ♦

### Subscribe Online

Readers of the *TPB news* can now subscribe to get the newsletter and other TPB-related materials online.

Visit our website at [www.mwkog.org/subscribe](http://www.mwkog.org/subscribe) and enter your name and e-mail address to sign up. Monthly notifications are sent out directing readers to find the TPB news on the web.

In addition to the newsletter, readers can subscribe to other publications and TPB meeting materials. ♦

## OTHER DECEMBER AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB’s December 21 meeting also included the following item:

- Briefing on the Composition of the Vehicle Fleet in the Washington Region in 2011 (*reported in the December 2011 issue of TPB News*).

Information and materials for the monthly TPB meeting are posted on the TPB website one week prior to the meeting: [www.mwkog.org/transportation/tpb](http://www.mwkog.org/transportation/tpb). ♦



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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., N.E. (Enter from 1st St., N.E.).

## January 2012

- 6 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 6 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 10 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy Task Force and Technical Subcommittee Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 11 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 12 Freight Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 12 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 17 Employer Outreach Committee (10 am)
- 17 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 17 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 18 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 20 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 24 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 26 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 26 TPB Access for All Advisory Committee (noon)

## February 2012

- 3 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 3 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 8 Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force (1 pm)
- 9 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 14 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy Task Force and Technical Subcommittee Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 15 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 22 Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force (noon)
- 28 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)

## March 2012

- 2 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 2 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 8 Freight Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 13 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy Task Force and Technical Subcommittee Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 14 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 14 Car Free Day Steering Committee (11:30 am)
- 15 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 20 Ridematching Committee (10 am)
- 20 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 20 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 20 Regional TDM Marketing Group (2 pm)
- 21 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 23 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 27 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 29 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)



Dates and times subject to change.  
Please visit our website at [www.mwcog.org](http://www.mwcog.org) for up-to-date information.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Sarah Crawford at [scrawford@mwcog.org](mailto:scrawford@mwcog.org), (202) 962-3237 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Allow seven working days for preparation of material.

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