



UPCOMING MEETINGS
AND ITEMS OF
INTEREST:

**TPB Meeting,
September 21:**

- **Approval of TPB
Application for FY
2011 TIGER Grant
Program**

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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SEPTEMBER 2011

TPB APPROVES SCOPE AND PROCESS FOR REGIONAL PRIORITIES PLAN

On July 20, the TPB approved an updated Scope and Process for development of a Regional Transportation Priorities Plan, due to be completed by 2013. The approval comes a month after TPB members raised questions about the specificity of the project schedule and timing of deliverables as described in the original proposal presented at the TPB's June meeting.

Ron Kirby, director of Transportation Planning for the TPB, described the revisions that he and TPB staff had made to the proposed Scope and Process. The main addition was new language calling for five interim reports to be submitted to the TPB

and to the public for comment during the two-year effort.

The first report, due in December of this year, will build on existing work to establish regional goals and set appropriate performance measures, as called for in Task 1 of the proposed Scope. Kirby explained: "The goals are well established through our visioning process in Region Forward. We have a list of performance measures that are based on work to date. I We can probably refine those some, and by December of this year we should be ready to say we want to put this work to date out for public comment."

(Continued on page 4)

\$350,000 IN TLC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE APPROVED BY TPB

Since its creation, the TLC Program has generated and shared information on best practices for coordination of transportation and land-use, providing \$1.3 million in technical assistance to local jurisdictions in the Washington region. In recent years, the TPB has emphasized funding projects that take an innovative approach to transportation and land-use planning and help jurisdictions get closer to implementing projects exemplifying sustainability and livability throughout the region.



Source: Rhoadside & Harwell

The graphic above, from an FY 2011 TLC Technical assistance project, demonstrates low-impact design streetscape enhancements along Connecticut Avenue.

(Continued on page 5)

CAR FREE DAY: SEPTEMBER 22, 2011



At the TPB meeting on July 20, TPB Chair Muriel Bowser signed a proclamation designating Thursday, September 22, 2011 as Car Free Day throughout the Washington Metropolitan Region. Last year, about 7,000 people took the pledge to go Car Free or Car-Lite, and contributed to improving the region's air quality and reducing their carbon footprint. Many won raffle prizes.

Car Free Day is a world-wide event that challenges everyone who drives a car, not just commuters. Event participants have an opportunity to explore alternative

transportation modes or more efficient uses of their cars like sharing a ride to the shopping center, grocery store, school, and other daily activities. By taking the pledge to go Car Free or Car-Lite on September 22, participants will be eligible to win great prizes such as an Apple iPad, a bicycle, SmarTrip Cards and more.

"Car Free Day is a great catalyst for families to discuss how they can reduce their reliance on cars. Each member of the family can contribute, from children taking the bus, carpooling or bicycling to school, or sharing a ride to soccer practice with neighbors, everyone can contribute to helping reduce the region's carbon footprint and decrease traffic congestion," said Nicholas Ramfos, Commuter Connections Director.

With the high cost of gasoline, Car Free Day is a great opportunity for commuters to try Car Free and Car-Lite alternatives and see the positive impact on their daily commute. For more information and to pledge to go Car Free or Car-Lite on September 22, visit www.CarFreeMetroDC.com. ♦



TPB Chair Muriel Bowser signs the Car Free Day Proclamation issued by the TPB as Commuter Connections Director Nicholas Ramfos looks on.

OTHER JULY AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB's July 20 meeting also included the following items:

- Approval of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and an Amendment to the 2010 CLRP to Modify the I-95/I-395 HOV/HOT Lanes Project, Widen I-66 between US 29 and Route 15, and Add a Ramp from the HOV Lanes of I-395 to Seminary Road as Requested by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).
- Update on COG's Regional Incident Management and Response Action Plan.
- Briefing on Amendments to the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to Revise the Budget and Respond to the Federal Transportation Planning Certification Review.

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. ♦

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TPB APPROVES I-95/I-395 HOV/HOT LANES PROJECT AMENDMENT

On July 20, the TPB approved an amendment to the 2010 Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) to modify the I-95/I-395 HOV/HOT Lanes Project and to add a ramp from the HOV lanes on I-395 to Seminary Road in Alexandria. Part of this action also included approving the air quality conformity determination, which showed slight changes to air quality, as reported in the July/August Issue of TPB News.

TPB members have expressed concern about various components of this project, including the level of commitment to transit along the tolled facility and auto and transit access to the new Department of Defense Mark Center facility at I-395 and Seminary Road, which will bring an additional 6,500 workers to that location starting this month.

Garrett Moore of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) confirmed that VDOT would be expanding park and ride lots to accommodate more transit ridership in the corridor. He also confirmed that VDOT would conduct a TDM study for the corridor that is largely going to be directed at areas south of the Capital Beltway, but will also include activity centers, such as the Pentagon, Crystal City, and the Mark Center.

Kerry Donley of the City of Alexandria expressed appreciation for VDOT's commitment to transit improvements along the corridor by noting that "one of the critical projects for everybody...that travels the I-95 corridor is going to be the transit infrastructure at the Mark Center. We need to have a transit facility at this particular [employment] center." Moore responded that VDOT "thinks that there has to be a piece that also services [the Mark Center] with...transit as well."

Several other members echoed Donley's sentiments and, while pleased with VDOT's commitments, also expressed apprehension. Linda Smyth of Fairfax County spoke firmly about the transit component to the new HOV/HOT facility and said, "I think everyone understands that transit isn't optional. This corridor will not work without it."

Lori Waters of Loudoun County acknowledged the importance of transit, but spoke favorably about the new opportunities the facility will provide for all commuters: "We have to come up with transportation solutions in this region that work for all modes, and I think this helps achieve that." ♦

UPCOMING SEPTEMBER AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB's September 21 agenda is expected to include the following items:

- Approval of Recommended Local Projects and Pre-Application for Funding Under the FY 2011 Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Competitive Grant Program.
- Update on the Rail~volution Conference in Washington, DC: October 16-19, 2011.
- Briefing on the Transforming Governance of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority: Phase 1 Recommendations Report by the Governance Work Group (GWG) appointed by the Governors of Maryland and Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia.
- Briefing on Housing and Transportation Cost Study for the Washington Metropolitan Area.
- Briefing on Household Travel Survey in Fourteen Geographic Subareas of the Region.
- Status Report on Study of Public Attitudes toward Road-Use Pricing.
- Briefing on the Draft Call for Projects and Schedule for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2012 CLRP and FY 2013-2018 TIP.

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. ♦

TPB APPROVES PRIORITIES PLAN PROCESS AND SCOPE

(Continued from page 1)

The other four reports will describe work done to complete Tasks 2 and 3 in the proposed Scope, which include determining regional challenges and strategies to address them (Task 2), and developing both funded and unfunded regional transportation priorities (Task 3). Reports for each task will be divided into two parts, one each for “near-term” and “longer-term” challenges, strategies, and priorities.

Kirby explained to the Board that the interim reports will provide the opportunity

for more feedback about the priority-setting effort to the TPB from the public. The interim reports “will show expeditious progress, and will provide an opportunity for people on the Board and also our interested citizens and stakeholders to see some immediate outputs and become engaged in the process right away,” Kirby said.

TPB Member Harriet Tregoning, who had earlier expressed concern about the scope and timeline of the project, echoed Kirby’s sentiment, saying: “I am pleased that there will be interim products as soon as December of this year, so that members and member jurisdictions and the public can begin to weigh in.”

TPB approval of the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan Scope and Process is the culmination of nearly 14 months of discussion and work by TPB staff and the TPB Priorities Plan Scoping Task Force, established as a result of the TPB’s May 2010 “Conversation on Setting Regional Transportation Priorities.” The Scoping Task Force was chaired by TPB Vice Chair Todd Turner, and included representation from the TPB membership as well as the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and the TPB Access for All (AFA) Advisory Committee.

Work to carry out the approved Scope and Process is set to begin immediately. ♦

Timeline for Interim Reports in Development of the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan

December 2011	<u>Report on Task 1</u> Establishing regional goals and performance measures <u>First Report on Task 2</u> Identifying “near-term” challenges and strategies to address them
June 2012	<u>Second Report on Task 2</u> Identifying “longer-term” challenges and strategies to address them <u>First Report on Task 3</u> Developing “near-term” priorities and projects
June 2013	<u>Second Report on Task 3</u> Developing “longer-term” priorities and projects

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FY 2012 TLC PROGRAM

(Continued from page 1)

On July 20, the TPB approved eight projects totaling \$350,000 in TLC technical assistance funding for 2012. Several projects focused on fast-changing areas such as Tysons Corner in Fairfax County and New Hampshire Avenue in Takoma Park. Two of the applications will study topics new to the program—one focusing on transportation access for people with disabilities and the other on affordable housing.

A project in Arlington will conduct an evaluation of pedestrian transportation facilities around transit and develop recommendations to bring these facilities into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A multijurisdictional project proposed by Alexandria, the District of Columbia, and Prince George's

County will study housing affordability around transit-oriented development in these jurisdictions, and provide recommendations for how best to preserve and provide affordable housing in close proximity to transit. Brief summaries of the eight projects are provided below.

The TPB will add a new component to the TLC Program in FY 2012: the Regional Peer Exchange Network, the purpose of which is to better communicate information about the many innovative projects the TLC Program has funded over the years, as well as to provide for a mechanism to discuss TLC topics in greater depth. The Kickoff Forum will be held on September 16. One of the goals of the forum is to generate ideas and topics for subsequent Peer Exchange Network events. ♦

FY 2012 TLC Technical Assistance Projects

Arlington County: Arlington ADA Evaluation (\$50,000)

The study will evaluate the County's right-of-way according to the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), in order to identify deficiencies near transit access.

District of Columbia: Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility Study in the Farragut Square Area (\$30,000)

The Golden Triangle Business Improvement District requested technical assistance to complete a pedestrian safety and accessibility study of the area surrounding Farragut Square.

Fairfax County: Development and Implementation of Multimodal Transportation Hubs in Tysons Corner (\$60,000)

This study will determine where Multi-Modal Transportation Hubs should be located in Tysons, what services should be offered and what space requirements will be needed to implement them, taking advantage of four new Metrorail stations in Tysons Corner.

Montgomery County: Glenmont Community Visioning Workshop Plan (\$30,000)

The project will develop a creative, comprehensive vision for the Glenmont Metro Station area through a community visioning workshop.

Prince George's County: Transitway Systems Study (\$60,000)

This project will provide a comprehensive study of transitway alignment and modal options in the county, developing and evaluating ways to integrate the countywide transitway network.

Prince George's County, District of Columbia, City of Alexandria: Transit-Oriented Development Housing Needs Analysis (\$60,000)

The analysis will evaluate housing supply and demand in areas surrounding Metro rail stations in the three jurisdictions to prioritize locations most in need of transit-oriented affordable housing investment.

City of Rockville: Bikeway Master Plan Update (\$30,000)

This study will update the City's Bikeway Master Plan and refocus the plan from an emphasis on recreation towards the goal of improving Rockville's multimodal transportation network.

City of Takoma Park: New Hampshire Avenue Streetscape Design Standards (\$30,000)

The streetscape design standards will provide specifications that address public realm elements while incorporating green technology to create an urban corridor that is safe, attractive, and sustainable.

Bids and Solicitations

For current COG solicitations available for bids and proposals, please visit "Doing Business with COG:" www.mwcog.org/doingbusiness/cogbid/ ♦

RAIL~VOLUTION ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, DC

The Rail~Volution Annual Conference will be held in Washington, DC, October 16-19, 2011.



The goal of Rail~Volution is to create a national movement to develop livable communities with transit.

Livable communities are those that are healthy, economically vibrant, socially equitable, and environmentally sustainable.

This year's conference brings participants close to policy and decision makers who will shape the dialogue in the coming election year. The conference will explore the latest on transportation reauthorization

activities, as well as successful local and regional efforts to create livable communities in and around the nation's capital.

Rail~Volution started in 1989 as a series of outreach and advocacy events geared towards developing advocates for the Portland metropolitan region's MAX Light Rail System. In 1995, Rail~Volution became a national conference.

For more information about Rail~Volution, visit www.railvolution.org. ♦

TLC REGIONAL PEER EXCHANGE NETWORK

On September 16, the TPB will host the first event in showcasing a new component of the TLC Program: the Regional Peer Exchange Network.

The Regional Peer Exchange Network Kickoff Forum will be held on September 16, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC).

The Forum will provide an opportunity to share information on TLC topics generated through the technical assistance program. A portion of the program will be dedicated to a lively discussion on current TLC issues and challenges.

Prior to the TLC Event, at 9:00 a.m., NCPC will host Ana Gelbert-Sanchez, Planning Director for the City of Miami, to discuss a form-based zoning code that takes a holistic approach to land use and urban planning.

For more information on the event and to RSVP, please visit www.mwcog.org/tlc. ♦

TPB Alphabet Soup

AFA	Access for All Committee
ARRA	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
CAC	Citizen's Advisory Committee
CLRP	Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan
COG	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
DDOT	District Department of Transportation
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
MDOT	Maryland Department of Transportation
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
NVTA	Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
RMAS	Regional Mobility and Accessibility Scenario Study
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
TLC	Transportation/Land-Use Connections Program
TPB	Transportation Planning Board
VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
WMATA	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

TPB TO SUBMIT REGIONAL APPLICATION FOR FY 2011 TIGER GRANT PROGRAM

Capital projects to promote better pedestrian and bicycle access to rail stations throughout the region will be the focus of the TPB's upcoming application for a third round of funding from US DOT under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program. The Board approved the concept at its July 20 meeting, and preliminary project selection and development was underway throughout August. Final grant applications are due October 31, 2011.

The FY 2011 round of TIGER grant funding will prioritize projects that support "multimodal, multi-jurisdictional" connections and are the result of coordi-

nated transportation and land use planning processes and robust community participation.

At the July meeting, TPB staff suggested including about six projects in a \$20 million application package, with each project incorporating "complete streets" improvements that would help to promote mixed-use development around rail stations in the region.

TPB staff will present specific projects for Board approval at the September 21 meeting for inclusion in the pre-application due to US DOT on October 3. TPB staff will ask the Board to approve a final application at its October 19 meeting, prior to the final submission deadline on October 31. ♦

TPB SUPPORTS COG APPLICATION FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT FUNDING

The TPB will support the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in applying for Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to plan for and promote equitable transit-oriented development in the region.

At its July 20 meeting, the TPB agreed to contribute up to \$300,000 in local matching funds over three years should HUD select the regional application for federal funding. In total, as much as \$3 to \$4 million could flow to the region over the next few years to support the program.

In a presentation to the TPB, COG executive director David Robertson explained that the overarching goal of the application centers on equitable transit-oriented development, and access to affordable housing, jobs, and services.

"We want to support mixed-income communities [and] equitable development around our transit stations before growth pressures can further erode affordable housing for low-income families," Robertson explained. "This is intended to be an integrator across disciplines. We want this to support our local and regional economy."

The HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program is intended to support metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments. The program is one product of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities between HUD, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the US Department of Transportation (DOT). ♦



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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.).

September 2011

- 8 Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (noon)
- 9 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 9 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 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 Freight Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 15 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 16 TLC Regional Peer Exchange Network Forum (10 am)
- 20 Regional TDM Marketing Group (10 am)
- 20 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 20 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 20 Ridematching Committee (2 pm)
- 21 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 21 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 23 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 27 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)

October 2011

- 7 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 7 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 11 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy Task Force and Technical Subcommittee Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 13 Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (noon)
- 13 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 18 Employer Outreach Committee (10 am)
- 18 TDM Evaluation Group (noon)
- 19 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 25 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 27 TPB Access for All Advisory Committee (noon)

November 2011

- 4 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 4 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 8 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy Task Force and Technical Subcommittee Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 9 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 10 Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (noon)
- 10 Freight Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 10 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 15 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 15 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 16 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 17 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 18 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 22 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)



Dates and times subject to change. Please visit our website at www.mwcog.org for up-to-date information.

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

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