



UPCOMING MEETINGS  
AND ITEMS OF  
INTEREST:

TPB Meeting, April 20:

- Approval of Regional Bike to Work Day 2011 Proclamation
- Update on the US DOT Budget and the Reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Program
- Briefing on Regional Bus Priority and Rapid Bus Projects

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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Board

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## TPB APPROVES CLRP INPUTS FOR AIR QUALITY TESTING

On March 16, the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved the inputs to the Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) for the federally-required air quality conformity analysis. Details on these project inputs may be found in the March Issue of TPB News.

The TPB discussed at length the proposed project limit changes to the I-395/I-95 HOV/HOT lanes project Virginia. The project spans Arlington County, Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Prince William County. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is proposing to

reconfigure the project to eliminate previously planned HOT lanes on I-395 inside the Capital Beltway (I-495).

David Snyder of Falls Church spoke at length about the financial arrangements that will be used to fund the project. He said "I don't think this is the most responsible way to fund infrastructure. Virginia hasn't raised the gas tax since 1988. We get what appears to be a free gift to the public, only to have the public pay more in user fees over time; frankly, far more than had it been taxed up front." He referenced the approach taken by

*(Continued on page 4)*

## TPB TO CONDUCT LITERATURE AND PEER REVIEW OF TRANSIT AGENCIES

The TPB approved an amendment to the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) on March 16 to include research support to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Governance Work Group, which was created by the Virginia and Maryland Governors and District of Columbia Mayor.

The Secretaries of Transportation from Virginia and Maryland and the Acting Director of the District Department of Transportation requested research support

from TPB staff to assist the Work Group by providing a review of relevant literature and the practices of peer transit agencies. The FY 2011 Technical Assistance Programs of the each of the three DOTs were amended to provide research support to the Work Group with a total budget of \$60,000 (\$20,000 from each of the District, Maryland and Virginia technical assistance accounts).

Andy Scott of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) said TPB staff is

*(Continued on page 5)*

# COMMUTER CONNECTIONS WEBSITE TRAFFIC INCREASING

On March 16, the TPB approved the Commuter Connections Work Program and reviewed the effectiveness of the Commuter Connections Program during the recent gasoline price surge.

the gasoline prices increased dramatically into February, there were over 20,000 visits to the website, a 106 percent increase.”

The chart at left demonstrates another piece of evidence that gas prices impact behavior: the increase in the number of ride-matching applications received and processed between January 2010 and February 2011 compared to retail gasoline prices in the United States. There was a 70 percent increase in applications received when comparing January 2011 to January 2010, and a 95 percent increase in applications when comparing February 2011 to February 2010.

Montgomery County Executive Office Representative Edgar Gonzalez reported that some of his

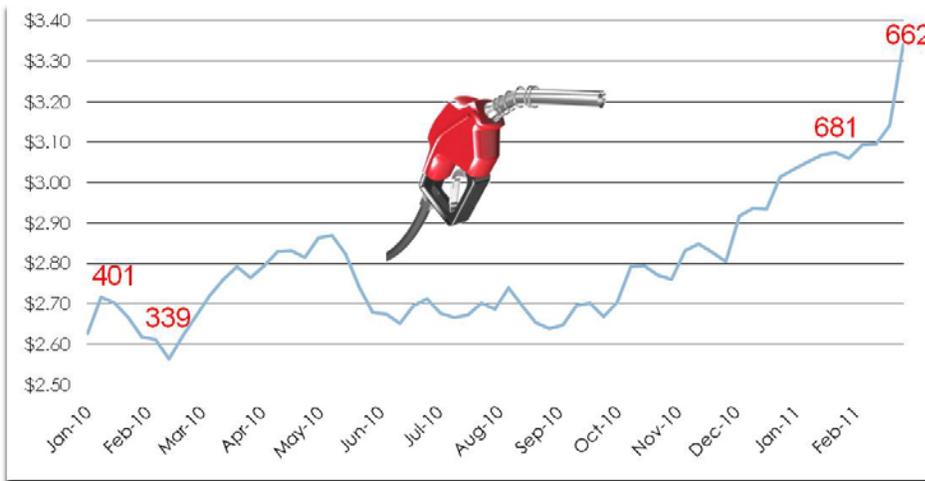
colleagues have been having problems navigating the website and added that, as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decision by the Department of Defense, “26,000 more people will be commuting to Fort Belvoir, and 2,500 commuting to the Navy Medical Center. We have a great opportunity to improve carpooling.”

Ramfos said staff is working on improvements to the website and is also developing a mobile application that individuals will be able to use on their Smart phones. ♦

Nick Ramfos, Director of Commuter Connections at COG, said that “based on past experience with gasoline price spikes, there's a definite correlation between the increase in price and the public's interest in changing their travel behavior to save money.” He said that Commuter Connections is addressing high gasoline prices through marketing campaigns, and will be issuing additional public service announcements to remind commuters that there are alternative travel choices.

Ramfos provided several examples of this phenomenon, including visits to the Commuter Connections website, “in January 2011, there were over 9,800 Commuter Connections website visits. As

### U.S. Retail Gasoline Prices



# of ride-matching applications denoted in red

Gas Prices Source: Energy Information Administration

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# TPB RECEIVES BRIEFING ON PRIORITY REGIONAL FREIGHT PROJECTS

With a population of over five million residents, the National Capital Region consumes a wide variety of goods. Reliable freight delivery and movement of goods is one key ingredient to maintaining the National Capital Region as an active consumer economy.

At its March meeting, the TPB received a briefing on a draft of ten Freight Transportation Highlighted Projects, which together comprise a list of priority investments that would facilitate goods movement throughout the metropolitan Washington region. Some of these projects are already committed in the CLRP. All projects were selected based on the following criteria:

- Beneficial to Freight Movement in the National Capital Region,
- Included in State or Jurisdictional Plans or Identified by a Freight Subcommittee Member,
- Mode Representation,

- Regional Representation, and
- Time-Span Representation.

The identification and selection of the ten Freight Highlighted projects continues work under the National Capital Region Freight Plan, which was adopted by the TPB in July of 2010. The Freight Plan provides information on current and forecasted freight conditions, identifies regional freight challenges and concerns, and presents a National Capital Region Freight Project Database. The development of the Freight Plan and the selection of the ten Highlighted Projects were overseen by the Freight Subcommittee, which was formed in April of 2008.

For a complete list of the ten Freight Transportation Highlighted Projects, please see the Freight Plan at: <http://www.mwcog.org/freightplan>. ♦



## STREET SMART KICKS OFF SPRING CAMPAIGN

The Washington region has an average of approximately 2,700 pedestrian injuries and 84 fatalities each year. With the goal of raising public awareness of pedestrian and bicycle safety, the TPB sponsors the Street Smart Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Campaign, an educational, region-wide campaign that is directed at motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists.

The Street Smart Campaign was first initiated in 2002, and consists of radio and Internet ads, as well as advertising outdoors and on public transit. All materials are available in Spanish and in English. Since 2007, the Street Smart Campaign has run twice annually.

The theme for the Spring 2011 Street Smart Campaign is a “Giant Pedestrian Safety Problem,” and features newly developed materials and images. As part of the Campaign, a before-and-after survey of area motorists will measure public recognition of campaign themes, and a behavioral study involving traffic cameras will

observe motorist, pedestrian, and bicyclist behavior in selected locations in the District of Columbia. The total budget for the FY 2011 Campaign is \$597,800, of which \$430,000 is allocated to the spring portion of the campaign.

More information about the Street Smart Campaign may be found online at: [www.bestreetsmart.net](http://www.bestreetsmart.net)



**LOOK LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT.**

PRIMERO MIRE A LA  
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**STREET SMART**  
BeStreetSmart.net

A public safety program of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia

## 2011 CLRP INPUTS

*(Continued from page 1)*

President Eisenhower to fund the interstate highway network, a sentiment which Snyder paraphrased, "We're going to create a funding mechanism to pay for it, because we're responsible enough to face the public directly with what things cost and charge them directly."

Virginia State Senator Patsy Ticer provided her perspective on Snyder's comments, saying "over a period of years, I've learned that politics is the art of the possible, and we let an awful lot of possibilities go by in looking for the perfect." She added that addressing the region's transportation issues has been "highly frustrating, because there has been absolutely no movement in the General Assembly toward solving our transportation problems. But it does not look to me as if that is going to change, and so looking for pragmatic possibilities of better change, of positive change, is something that I think is a step away from the perfection which we all desire, but I think it's something in this field that we have to be looking for."

Chris Zimmerman of Arlington County echoed some of Snyder's sentiments and said, "It isn't going to be a VDOT highway. It's going to be turned over to a private company for a very long time. We had better get it right, because we will live with the consequences." Zimmerman added that I-395 was "built with tax dollars for the purpose of running buses, later allowing carpools and vanpools, and then reducing the carpool requirement from four to three." However, he went on to say that this is "the most essential piece of highway in the region in terms of the percentage of folks it moves, because it is that much more efficient when you're moving people in truly high-occupancy vehicles, which mostly means buses and large vanpools. If we jeopardize that, we could have a major transportation problem in all of Northern Virginia."

TPB members also discussed the proposal by VDOT to remove the Transit Service Plan elements of the HOV/HOT lanes project from the CLRP. VDOT is working with local jurisdictions and transit agencies to develop a revised set of transit and transportation demand management (TDM) improvements for the corridor, which will be proposed as a separate project for inclusion in the CLRP at a later date. Members expressed hesitation at the proposal, but were receptive to working with VDOT on the development of the transit plan.

Linda Smyth of Fairfax County said she would like to "thank VDOT for putting in the additional comment that they will be willing to work with localities on the improvements to park and ride or transit within the corridor." Zimmerman added that "we're all counting on that commitment because we're not going to be successful in moving people here unless we expand the commitment to transit as well."

Kerry Donley of the City of Alexandria spoke in support of the reversible HOV ramp at Seminary Road and I-395, which is designed to serve the Department of Defense building that is currently under construction near the interchange and will house 6,500 new jobs. He expressed frustration that the area lacks basic transit infrastructure and added that the HOV ramp will at the very least provide the opportunity for some transit infrastructure improvements.

TPB staff will use the new Version 2.3 Travel Demand Model and the Round 8.0a Cooperative Forecast to conduct the air quality conformity analysis. On October 13, the TPB will release the Draft CLRP and the results of the conformity analysis for public comment. The TPB will be asked to approve the 2011 update to the CLRP on November 16, 2011. ♦

**"I drive [I-395/I-95] enough to know that improvements are needed. I have some concerns about the financing infrastructure supporting this particular project because, over time, the public will pay significantly more than if it were funded in a more traditional way."**

**- David Snyder,  
City of Falls Church**

# TPB REVIEW OF TRANSIT AGENCIES

*(Continued from page 1)*

being asked to provide technical assistance and research on only four specific topics:

- The roles and responsibilities of the board and chair.
- Public input processes in board decision-making.
- The board's focus on high-level policy and its capacity to act as a regional body.
- The appointment of board members. (The Work Group is tasked with recommending a coordinated process for appointing board members with an appropriate mix of attributes and qualifications, including staggered terms and a uniform compensation policy.)

Scott said the research is focused on non-compact action items that would not need an amendment to the WMATA Compact, and that there will be no recommendations outlined in the research summary. He said the Work Group will take up the compact and legislative activities after the Government Accountability Office review of WMATA governance issues is complete.

## UPCOMING APRIL AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB's April 20 agenda is expected to include the following items:

- Approval of Regional Bike to Work Day 2011 Proclamation.
- Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2011-2016 TIP to Include the WMATA FY 2012 Capital Improvement Program.
- Update on the FY 2011 US Department of Transportation (DOT) Budget and the Reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Program.
- Briefing on COG's Proposed Regional Major Incident Response Action Plan.
- Briefing on Regional Bus Priority and Rapid Bus Projects.

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). ♦

David Snyder of Falls Church said that a literature review could also shed light on how other transit systems are funded. He added that "if we address the governance issue without the funding issue, this system is not going to improve." Snyder then offered an amendment to the work plan that, in addition to the four points that were requested by the Work Group, the TPB add a fifth item to address the funding needs of Metro.

Patrick Wojahn of College Park added that he hopes that the amended work plan on the analysis of funding needs will be a comprehensive analysis that includes things like paratransit and other items outside of traditional bus and rail.

Kerry Donley of Alexandria asked that the TPB request that the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) be engaged in soliciting public input and comment on WMATA governance matters relating to the UPWP. He said the CAC been engaged on this topic over the past year and believes it appropriate that the CAC continues to impact this process.

Cathy Hudgins of Fairfax County and Chair of the WMATA Board reiterated that she looks forward to the results of TPB staff informational review and "that the WMATA Board will work collaboratively with the Work Group in terms of addressing the governance that we're doing."

Snyder's amendment was included in the TPB's approval of this work activity. ♦

## OTHER MARCH AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB's March 16 meeting also included the following items:

- Approval of Scope of Work for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2011 CLRP.
- Approval of FY 2012 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). ♦



# 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.).

## April 2011

- 1 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 1 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 12 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy Task Force and Technical Subcommittee Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 14 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 19 Employer Outreach Committee (10 am)
- 20 TPB Priorities Plan Scoping Task Force (10 am)
- 20 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 26 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 27 TPB Regional Freight Forum (*registration is required*)
- 28 TPB Access for All Advisory Committee (noon)
- 29 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)

## May 2011

- 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)
- 11 Car Free Day Steering Committee (11:30 am)
- 12 Freight Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 12 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 17 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 17 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 18 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 19 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 20 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 24 Annual Public Transit Forum (11 am)

## June 2011

- 3 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 3 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 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)**
- 21 Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee (10 am)
- 21 Regional TDM Marketing Group (noon)
- 22 Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force (1 pm)
- 28 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)



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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