



UPCOMING MEETINGS
AND ITEMS OF
INTEREST:

TPB Meeting, February 18:

- Approval of Project Submissions for Air Quality Assessment for the 2009 CLRP and FY 2010-2015 TIP
- Approval of Technical Assistance Projects for the FY 2009 Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program
- After-action Briefing on MATOC Program Activities for the Presidential Inauguration

More information may be found at:
www.mwcog.org/transportation

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TPB news

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TPB WEIGHS IN ON PROPOSED FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE

With Congress debating an economic stimulus package that could bring millions of transportation dollars to a region in dire need of revenue, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) has sought to provide some guidance to federal lawmakers and officials, and the state departments of transportation, as to how that money should be allocated and spent.

At the January 28, 2009, TPB meeting, Director of Transportation Planning Ronald Kirby briefed the TPB on the latest news on stimulus proposals in Congress, and asked representatives of the state departments of transportation and WMATA to share any knowledge they might have about what could be expected to come the way of the Washington Region. Brian Glenn of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) also gave a report

on how stimulus funds might be directed toward transit projects and agencies in the region.

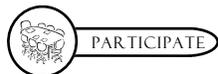
State officials estimated that Virginia would receive \$700 million to \$800 million,

(Continued on page 2)



Source: John Deamond

The federal stimulus package is intended to provide funding for projects that will jump-start the economy, including new transit, road, and infrastructure projects.



TPB APPOINTS 2009

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At the January 28 meeting, the TPB approved 15 members and two alternates to serve on the 2009 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to the TPB is a group of 15 people from throughout the Washington metropolitan region who represent diverse viewpoints on long-term transportation policy.

The mission of the CAC is:

- 1) to *promote public involvement* in transportation planning for the region, and
- 2) to *provide independent, region-oriented citizen advice to the TPB* on transportation plans and issues.

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FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE

(Continued from page 1)

Maryland \$600 to \$700 million, and the District of Columbia at least \$120 million. Mr. Glenn estimated that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) would receive \$315 million under the proposed bill. These figures would make a dent in the projected budgetary shortfalls of the implementing agencies, but the scale of the stimulus package is still far smaller than that of the overall regional need. WMATA, for example, recently identified more than \$530 million in un-funded capital needs.

At its December 17, 2008, meeting, the TPB decided to send a letter to the region's Congressional Delegation and state leadership conveying the Board's hopes for the outcome of the stimulus debate. In particular, the letter emphasized the need to ensure that funds are distributed equitably, with metropolitan areas receiving at least the share they get under existing federal allocation structures.

TPB members reiterated that theme at the January 28 meeting, discussing ways in which the Board could exert influence on where stimulus funds are directed. Mr. Kirby noted that because projects must be "shovel-ready" in order to meet federal criteria for stimulus funding, the Board's focus should be on the region's CLRP and TIP. He suggested a set of criteria that the

TPB could use to evaluate projects on the basis of their impact on meeting regional goals, and which could be forwarded to the state departments of transportation and transit agencies as they develop project lists for stimulus funding.

The TPB voted to also forward these criteria in a second letter to the region's Congressional delegation, as well as urging again that Congress allocate to metropolitan areas a percentage of the transportation funding in the stimulus package that is equal to or greater than what such areas typically receive through federal funding formulas. These criteria included:

- Maintenance and rehabilitation of existing systems,
- Safety programs, particularly pedestrian and bicycle safety,
- Efficient operation of the existing system, including traffic operations and incident management,
- Bus transit improvements recommended by the TPB Regional Bus Subcommittee,
- Bicycle and trail projects recommended by the TPB Bicycle Subcommittee.

Many TPB members expressed some frustration with the stimulus process, citing the obvious need for quick action but also disappointment that there seemingly will not

(Continued on the next page)

"I think it's the obligation of this board to look a bit further out than just the immediate circumstances that we're in. We ought to use the authority that this board has, cooperatively with our constituent members, to try to get a maximum value for this region."

- TPB Vice-Chair David Snyder, Falls Church City Council

OTHER JANUARY AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB's January 28 agenda included the following items in addition to topics covered elsewhere in this newsletter:

- Briefing on the Draft Scope of Work for Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2009 Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and FY 2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Briefing on Project Submissions for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2009 CLRP and FY 2010-2015 TIP.
- Review of Outline and Preliminary Budget for FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Information and materials for the January 28 TPB meeting are posted on the TPB website: www.mwc.org/transportation/tpb. ♦

be an opportunity to advance new project ideas or revisit past project prioritization decisions. Chris Zimmerman of the Arlington County Board said, “it looks like there's going to be a very narrow window through which any of these projects can move forward if they aren't already in the works.”

TPB member Harriet Tregoning of the D.C. Office of Planning said she had hoped that the TPB could come up with at least one new major transportation project or initiative to advocate for inclusion in a stimulus package, and called on the TPB's Scenario Study Task Force to “redouble its efforts” to identify at least one “game-changing” project for the region. Ms. Tregoning's request was incorporated into the resolution adopted by the Board.

At its February 18, 2009 meeting, the TPB will receive a briefing on the status of the Federal Transportation Stimulus Package. Should President Obama sign the package prior to the TPB meeting, the TPB will review potential amendments to the FY 2009-2014 TIP that would be necessary for the inclusion of the Stimulus-Funded Transportation Projects. ♦

TPB Alphabet Soup

AFA	Access for All Committee
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

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE WHO FACE MOBILITY CONSTRAINTS

Do you have a great idea about how to improve access to transportation for people who face mobility constraints?

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board is pleased to announce the 2009 project solicitation under the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs. Funds are available for collaborative projects that improve transportation options for those who face mobility constraints. The following priorities have been established for the 2009 solicitation:

JARC Priority Projects

- Transportation vouchers for low-income workers, such as SmarTrip cards.
- Expanded transit in underserved neighborhoods (e.g., Anacostia, Route 1 corridor).
- Shuttles/vanpools to suburban employment sites (e.g., Dulles Corridor).

New Freedom Priority Projects

- Travel training to teach people with disabilities how to use bus and rail systems.

Please note that applicants **must** attend a pre-application conference. Pre-application conferences will be held on February 4, 2009 in Fairfax County, February 19, 2009 at MWCOG, February 24, 2009 in Silver Spring, and March 10, 2009 at MWCOG.

Applications are due April 29, 2009. Additional information about the solicitation and application requirements is available at www.tpbcoordination.org. If you have any questions or require technical assistance, please contact Beth Newman at (202) 962-3253 or at bnewman@mwkog.org. ♦

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2009 CAC MEMBERS

District of Columbia

Paul DeMaio	Shirley Williams
Harold Foster	Patrick Coonan (<i>alternate</i>)
Larry Martin	Bernard Hill (<i>alternate</i>)
Gertrude Reeves	

Maryland

Farrell Keough, Chair
William Klenke
Derrick Richardson
John Lynn Shanton
Emmet Tydings

Virginia

Maureen Budetti
Roland Gunn
Jim Larsen
Allen Muchnick
Glenda Gail Parker

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The TPB Participation Plan, approved by the TPB in December 2007, calls for the appointment of 15 members of the CAC for each calendar year. Nine members of the CAC are nominated by the TPB and the other six members are designated by the previous year's CAC. The membership is evenly divided between the District of Columbia, Suburban Maryland and

Northern Virginia.

The 2008 CAC addressed a number of regional transportation issues during their monthly meetings, including climate change as it pertains to transportation, regional bus, bicycle and pedestrian priorities, and extensive work related to the TPB Scenario Study.

In September 2008, the CAC presented to the TPB and the TPB's Scenario Study Task Force its recommendations on the conduct of the Scenario Study.

The 2009 CAC will continue discussion on many of these issues, as well as focus on topics of recent interest in the transportation area. As funding becomes more tenuous for future transportation projects, the TPB may face many difficult decisions, on which the CAC will likely comment.

CAC meetings are held on Thursdays preceding the regular meetings of the TPB, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Special outreach meetings are also held throughout the year at different locations across the region. ♦

2007/2008 HOUSEHOLD TRAVEL SURVEY RESULTS

Phased release of the much-anticipated results of the TPB Household Travel Survey began with an initial briefing by TPB staff at the January 28, 2009 TPB meeting.

Data collected in the Household Travel Survey will be used to update the region's transportation forecasting model, which predicts future demand on area roads, trains, and buses. This in turn helps transportation decision-makers in the region plan timely and cost-effective improvements.

Survey interviews were conducted

between February 2007 and March 2008 by NuStats, a nationally recognized transportation survey research firm that was awarded the survey contract. The survey includes 11,000 randomly selected households in the TPB member jurisdictions and adjacent areas.

Intensive work by TPB staff to process the data and mine it for insights on travel behavior in the Washington Region is ongoing. Keep an eye out for further information on survey findings in future issues of this newsletter, as well as at www.mwcog.org/hts. ♦

The TPB accepts applications for the CAC each year in November. For information about the CAC and to read the 2008 End-of-the-Year Report, visit the Committee's web page at: www.mwcog.org/transportation/committee/cac

TPB SEEKS TO AVOID NONATTAINMENT GEOGRAPHY COMPLICATION

A seemingly innocuous action by the EPA has the potential to cause a major complication for transportation officials in the Washington and Baltimore metropolitan areas, according to a letter authorized by the TPB for transmission to the EPA.

The EPA has proposed inclusion of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland in the designation of the Baltimore Metropolitan Area as being in non-attainment of the 2006 24-hour PM 2.5 standard. This standard applies to fine particulates that are released into the air by various activities, including transportation emissions. Currently, both the air quality plans developed by the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Air Quality Conformity Assessments performed by the TPB for the CLRP and TIP in compliance with federal regulations include Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in the analysis of air quality for the Washington region.

At the January 28, 2009 TPB meeting, MWAQC and TPB staff explained to TPB members the potential implications of the designation, saying that it would significantly complicate transportation conformity in the Washington region by linking its conformity process to that of the Baltimore region. Including Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, both of which are members of the TPB and the MWCOG, in the Baltimore region would cause an overlap in planning and analysis responsibilities.

All three major regional boards housed at MWCOG – the COG Board, the TPB, and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – signed on to a joint letter to EPA strongly opposing EPA's proposed action. ♦

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UPCOMING FEBRUARY AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Approval of the Draft Scope of Work for Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2009 Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and FY 2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Approval of Project Submissions for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2009 CLRP and FY 2010-2015 TIP.
- Approval of Proposed Recipients of Technical Assistance Under the FY 2009 Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program.
- Status Report on the Federal Transportation Stimulus Package and Review of Potential Amendments to the FY 2009-2014 TIP to Include Stimulus-Funded Transportation Projects.
- Briefing on Findings from the 2007/2008 Household Travel Survey.

- After-action Briefing on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program Activities for the Presidential Inauguration.
- Briefing on the Draft FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- Briefing on the Draft FY 2010 Commuter Connections Work Program (CCWP).

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. ♦

Bids and Solicitations

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



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.).

February 2009

- 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)
- 12 Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (noon)
- 12 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 18 TPB Scenario Study Task Force (10 am)
- 18 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 24 Travel Management Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 24 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 26 Access for All (AFA) Advisory Committee (2 pm)

March 2009

- 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 Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (12:30 pm)
- 12 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 17 Ridematching Committee (10 am)
- 17 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 17 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 17 Regional TDM Marketing Group (2 pm)
- 18 TPB Scenario Study Task Force (10 am)
- 18 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 19 Freight Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 20 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 24 Travel Management Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 24 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 25 Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force (noon)
- 26 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)

April 2009

- 3 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 3 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 9 Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (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 TPB Scenario Study Task Force (10 am)
- 15 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 21 Travel Management Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 21 Employer Outreach Committee (10 am)
- 28 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@mwcog.org, (202) 962-3237 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Allow seven working days for preparation of material.

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