

TPB Begins Travel Survey of 10,000 Households

The Transportation Planning Board is launching the region's first large-scale household travel survey in more than a decade. At the TPB meeting on January 17, Bob Griffiths of the TPB staff explained that the survey will help guide future transportation planning.

Beginning this month, the TPB's Household Travel Survey will assess the travel behaviors of 10,000 randomly-selected area households. The survey will be used to develop new forecasting models for use in future transit and highway planning. As the region faces a predicted 1.6 million more residents by 2030, the survey will

also help local governments figure out which transportation improvement projects will benefit their growing communities most.

"The information we expect to gain from this survey will be invaluable in determining how to relieve future congestion on our roadways and transit systems," said TPB Chair Catherine Hudgins. "The individuals and families who

See **Travel Survey** on page 3

Discussing "What If" Scenarios



Participants at an outreach session in Rockville on January 30 discussed different opinions about allocating future growth and building new transportation facilities. The TPB is conducting a series of these meetings, called "What if the Washington Region Grew Differently," to get input on future stages of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Scenario Study.

Cathy Hudgins Assumes 2007 TPB Chairmanship

Fairfax County Supervisor Catherine Hudgins assumed the 2007 chairmanship of the Transportation Planning Board on January 17.

D.C. Councilmember Phil Mendelson was elected to the position of first vice chair, while Andrew Fellows, College Park Councilmember, was elected to serve as second vice chair.

According to the TPB bylaws, the three TPB officers are from D.C., Maryland and Virginia. The chairmanship rotates every year among the three jurisdictions.

Catherine M. Hudgins is currently serving her second term on the Fairfax County Board



Cathy Hudgins, the new TPB chair, is a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

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of Supervisors. As a member of the Board, she is the Chairman of the Human Services and the Housing and Community Development Committees, the Vice-Chair of Information Technology and Transportation Committees and is a member of the Economic Advisory Committee.

Supervisor Hudgins places a high priority on assisting constituents and organizations in obtaining services that are critical for maintaining more sustainable lives. She was honored by the ARC of Northern Virginia with its Human Rights Award for her support for people with disabilities and by the Housing Association of Non-Profit Developers (HAND) for her commitment to affordable housing.

Supervisor Hudgins represents the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on several regional and state boards including the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, Community and Criminal Justice Board, and the Virginia Association of Counties Board of Directors.

A graduate of George Mason University with a Masters in Public Administration, Supervisor Hudgins is also a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics Education.

Born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Supervisor Hudgins and her husband Willie L. Hudgins, Jr.

have lived in Reston, Virginia for more than 37 years. They are the parents of two adult sons.

Phil Mendelson has been an at-large member of the D.C. Council and a member of the TPB since 1998. He has been active in District politics since 1975, serving as a neighborhood activist and later as a staff member for the D.C. Council. As a councilmember, he has been active in a variety of issues, including education, public safety and the environment.



**D.C. Councilmember
Phil Mendelson**

Mr. Mendelson is a familiar face at the Council of Governments, having served as TPB chair in 2002 and 2005, chair of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality

Committee in 2001 and 2003, and chair of the Council of Governments board in 2004.

Andrew Fellows has served on the College Park City Council since 2001. Since 1999, Fellows has been the Chesapeake Program Director for Clean Water Action and the Clean Water Fund, and has over 25 years of grassroots organizing, lobbying, electoral,



**College Park
Councilmember
Andrew Fellows**

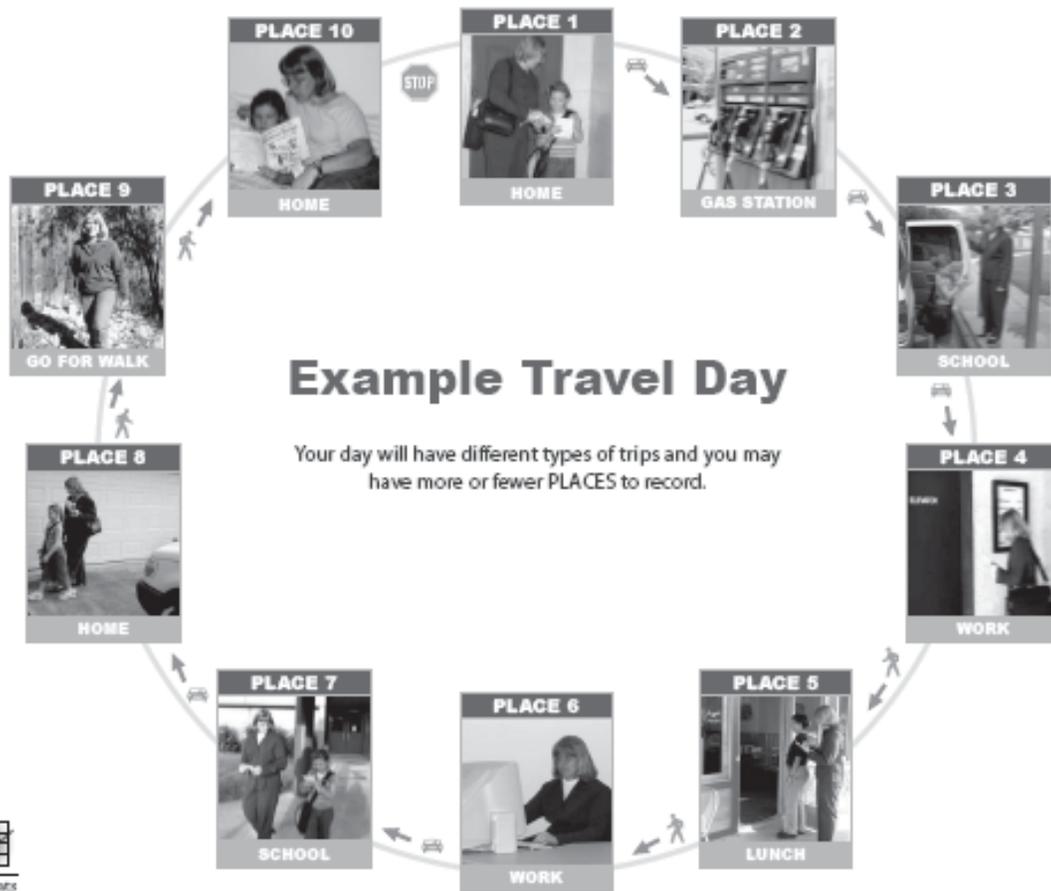
media, development, and management experience.

Mr. Fellows has represented College Park on the TPB since 2003. Fellows also serves on the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee (CPBC), and as an alternate on the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Planning Committee. In addition, he also serves on the Maryland Commission for Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities. He has been involved with COG as a citizen for a number of years, having participated in the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee and as a member of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee. ■

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The TPB's Household Travel Survey: Recording 24 Hours of Trips



Participants in the Household Travel Survey are receiving this and other illustrative graphics to help them complete travel records for a period of 24 hours.

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agree to take part will be providing us with essential information that we simply cannot obtain without their help.”

The TPB has contracted with transportation research firm NuStats to survey between 800 and 900 households each month through January 2008. Participants will be asked to keep a record of all travel made by family members, from commuting to work and school to trips to ATM machines, for a period of 24 hours. Participants will also be asked about personal activities such as online shopping that replace errands residents would otherwise be making by car.

Interviews will be conducted in both English and Spanish. Households will be selected at random from the TPB's member jurisdictions

and adjacent areas.

TPB member Kathy Porter emphasized that the Household Travel Survey affords regular citizens the opportunity to participate in an important process for transportation planning in the region. “Clearly traffic congestion and difficulties getting around are one of the big issues people are concerned about,” said Ms. Porter, who is mayor of Takoma Park. “People should know that this is the data that we are going to use to make future transportation plans, and this is an opportunity to assist in addressing some of those problems in getting around.”

A report containing initial findings will be completed by June, 2008. For more information, visit www.mwcog.org/hts. ■

Federal Policy Released on Transit Funding for Variably Priced Lanes

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on January 11 issued a final policy stating that transit formula funding under the “fixed-guideway miles” classification shall be available for HOV lanes that are converted to high-occupancy/toll (HOT) lanes. However, the policy statement stopped short of making those funds available to newly constructed HOT lanes or other variably priced lanes.

Last October, the TPB sent comments to FTA requesting that all variably priced lanes that provide for unimpeded transit service should be classified as “fixed guideway miles” in the FTA transit funding formulas. The TPB comments noted that “In this region, existing exclusive HOV lanes which can be used by transit, carpool and vanpool vehicles have been classified by FTA as ‘fixed guideway’ miles because they provide for unimpeded transit service. It is only logical that all variably-priced lanes which provide for unimpeded transit service should be classified as “fixed guideway” miles and be included in the federal transit funding formulas.”

FTA did not accept this recommendation, noting that the agency would defer to Congress for a determination of whether and how new facilities would be counted in the formula.

Under the new FTA policy, the “fixed guideway” formula funds would not apply to new variably priced facilities currently in the region’s long-range transportation plan, including new HOT lanes along 15 miles of the Capital Beltway and the InterCounty Connector in Maryland. In contrast, the formula funds could be available on sections of I-395 in Virginia where HOV lanes may be converted to HOT lanes.

For more information, including the FTA notice and TPB comments, go to

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“TPB News” at www.mwkog.org/transportation

www.mwkog.org/transportation/tpb, and see Item 5 (“Letters Sent/Received”) under the past meeting documents for January 17. ■

Other January Agenda Items

Other items on the TPB’s January 17 agenda included the following:

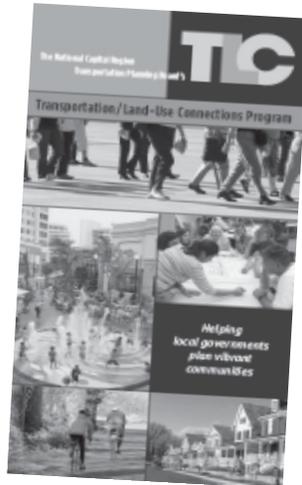
- **Approval of the establishment of a Regional Bus Subcommittee.** The mission of this new subcommittee, which will report to the TPB Technical Committee, is to “provide a permanent process for the coordination of bus planning throughout the Washington region, and for incorporating regional bus plans into the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).” The TPB’s current work program was amended to include \$50,000 for this new group. For more information, go to www.mwkog.org/transportation/tpb, and see Item 9 under the past meeting documents for January 17.
- **Briefing on the draft FY 2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).** Ron Kirby, Director of the Department of Transportation Planning, described the draft UPWP, which is the TPB’s annual work program. He said the UPWP totals \$11.75 million and reflects a number of key considerations, including new requirements of the 2005 federal transportation reauthorization (SAFETEA-LU), recommendations of the March 2006 federal certification review of the TPB planning process, and additional initiatives that have recently been put into the TPB’s work program. For more information, go to www.mwkog.org/transportation/tpb, and see Item 13 under the past meeting documents for January 17.
- **Approval of an amendment to the FY2007 UPWP to fund Phase I of the planning and funding of a bicycle route-finding website for the Washington region.** The board added \$33,000 to this year’s work program to initiate development of a website for bicyclists similar to that provided for motorists by Mapquest

and Google. For more information, go to www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb, and see Item 10 under the past meeting documents for January 17.

• **Extension of deadline for applications for Technical Assistance under the**

Transportation/Land Use Connections (TLC) program.

The board agreed to extend the deadline for TLC applications from January 31 to February 28. Any local jurisdiction in the region that is a member of the TPB is eligible to apply. For more information, including the application form, go to www.mwcog.org/tlc.



• **Approval of three appointments to the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee.**

The board approved three CAC appointments for Virginia: Steve Cerny, Jim Larsen and Alexandra Simpson. TPB Chairman Cathy Hudgins appointed Jim Larsen to be CAC chair for 2007.

• **Approval of revised schedule for the 2007 Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and the FY2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**

Under the new schedule the TPB will be asked on April 18 to approve the CLRP/TIP project submissions for inclusion in the air quality conformity analysis. Final approval of the CLRP and TIP is scheduled for November 21, 2007. For more information, go to www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb, and see Item 11 under the past meeting documents for January 17.

• **Update on the Washington Region Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) program.**

Andy Meese of the COG/TPB staff explained that in the coming weeks, the four major transportation agencies involved in MATOC are expected to sign a multi-state agreement that will permit the program to move forward. ■

Upcoming TPB Agenda

The TPB's February agenda will include the following items:

- Update on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) program.
- Briefing on the TPB Regional Value Pricing Study, and on potential Urban Partnership Agreements with the US Department of Transportation.
- Status Report on project submissions for the air quality assessment for the 2007 Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and FY 2008-2013. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Review of draft FY 2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- Review of draft FY 2008 Commuter Connections Work Program (CCWP).
- Approval of appointments to the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee for the Year 2007.
- Approval of letter to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) concerning review of new transportation measures under consideration for the region's 8-hour ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP), and the establishment of 2010 mobile emissions budgets to help meet contingency requirements for the SIP. ■

TPB Alphabet Soup	
CAC	- Citizens Advisory Committee
CLRP	- Constrained Long-Range 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
TIP	- Transportation Improvement Program
TPB	- Transportation Planning Board
VDOT	- Virginia Department of Transportation
WMATA	- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

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).

February 2007

- 2 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 2 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 15 TPB Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (noon)
- 15 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 21 TPB Value Pricing Task Force (10 am)
- 21 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 27 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)

March 2007

- 2 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 2 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 8 TPB Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (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)
- 16 Joint Technical Working Group for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (noon)
- 20 Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee (10 am)
- 20 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 20 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 20 Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Marketing Group (2 pm)
- 21 Task Force of Value Pricing for Transportation (10 am)
- 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 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 24 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 26 TPB Access for All Advisory Committee (time TBD)

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.

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