



UPCOMING MEETINGS
AND ITEMS OF
INTEREST:

**TPB Meeting,
March 19:**

- Approval of the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Approval of the FY 2009 Commuter Connections Work Program (CCWP)

**TPB Annual Transit
Forum, May 20**

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
OF *TPB news*:

TLC Project Descriptions	2
Other February Agenda Items	4
Priority Unfunded Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects	5
Report on Regional Bus Service	6
Upcoming March Agenda Items	7
Calendar of Events	8

TPB news

A Publication of the
National Capital Region
Transportation
Planning
Board

VOLUME XV, ISSUE 8

MARCH 2008



ELEVEN TLC PROJECTS APPROVED BY TPB

On February 20, the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved eleven new technical assistance projects as part of the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program.

The TLC Program, launched at the end of 2006, provides support to jurisdictions in the metropolitan region in integrating land-use and transportation planning at the local level. In addition to providing information on regional and national

projects through an online clearinghouse, the TLC Program offers local jurisdictions consultant support to help work on creative and sustainable plans and projects. Among other things, the TLC program strives to meet challenges resulting from transit-oriented development and compact development, including new demands on local roads and transit, and an increased need for pedestrian facilities.

(Continued on page 2)

PRIORITY PROJECTS IDENTIFIED FOR BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN NETWORK

The TPB's Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee reported to the TPB in February on its priority projects for 2007. Kristen Haldeman of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the current chair of the subcommittee, said many of the trails listed as priority projects are crucial to creating linkages in the region's trail system. The Metropolitan Branch Trail in the District of Columbia was selected as the top priority because it will serve as a link to the planned Prince George's Connector Trail and will connect to the Georgetown Branch Trail in Montgomery County.

Each year, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee recommends a list of projects as priorities for consideration in the FY 2009-2014 Transportation Improve-



Bicyclists use one of the many regional trail facilities for a variety of purposes including commuting and recreation.

ment Program (TIP). The subcommittee's last priority list was submitted in December 2006. Three of the projects on that list have received full funding totaling \$19,482,000 and four more have been partially funded.

(Continued on page 4)

NEW TLC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS FOR FY 2008

Find out more about the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program at www.mwcog.org/tlc

(Continued from page 1)

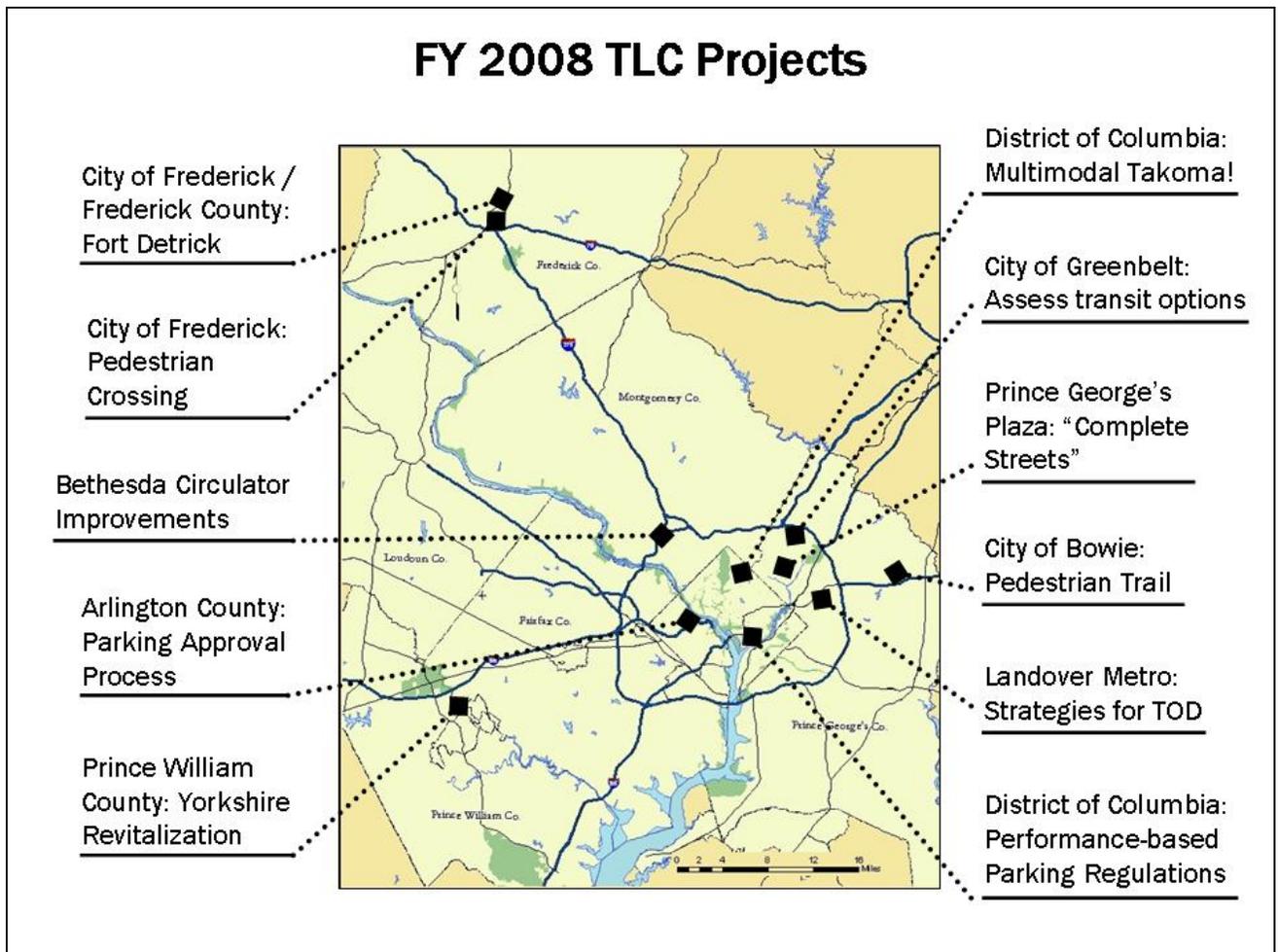
In November 2007 the TPB issued a call for projects inviting member jurisdictions to apply for technical assistance to advance local efforts that coordinate transportation and land-use activities. The TPB received 21 applications for technical assistance: three from the District of Columbia, fourteen from Maryland, and four from Virginia.

Funding was originally available to fund six projects this spring. Funding for five additional Maryland projects was made available from a TPB technical assistance account reserved for the Maryland

Department of Transportation (MDOT). Each of the eleven new projects will receive technical assistance worth \$20,000 provided through consultants. The projects, to be completed by June 30, will address regional issues such as pedestrian safety, multimodal access to transit stations, parking, and transit capacity and service among and within activity centers.

The eleven approved projects—seven in Maryland, two in Virginia, and two in D.C.—vary in complexity and scope. The projects are as follows:

(Continued on the next page)



District of Columbia

Multimodal Takoma!

This District of Columbia project, submitted by the District of Columbia Office of Planning, will evaluate multimodal access and potential improvements through a scorecard tool developed by the consultant for the area surrounding the Takoma Metrorail Station.

Performance-based Parking Pilot Program

The District Department of Transportation requested consultant services to analyze data on parking management for the new ballpark area and provide recommendations for performance-based parking regulations near the new baseball stadium.

Maryland

City of Bowie: Community Charrette on Pedestrian Trail Feasibility

The City of Bowie requested consultant assistance to conduct a charrette to gather feedback on a pedestrian link between the City revitalization area, Old Town Bowie, and the MARC Commuter Rail Station, where a mixed-use center is planned near Bowie State University.

City of Frederick: East Street Crossing Options at Carroll Creek

The City of Frederick is using the TLC technical assistance to exploring alternatives for a pedestrian crossing in downtown Frederick at Carroll Creek linear urban park and East Street, which become the new gateway to the City in fall 2009.

City of Frederick / Frederick County: Fort Detrick Transit and Non-motorized Transportation Access Study

This project represents a collaborative effort between the City of Frederick and Frederick County to determine needs for transit, bicycle, pedestrian and intersection improvements for transportation facilities around Fort Detrick, responding to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) changes.

City of Greenbelt: Maximizing Transit Opportunities in Greenbelt

Greenbelt requested consultant services to assess

existing transit options and future transit opportunities in Greenbelt and make recommendations to ensure maximum use and efficiency of transit.

Montgomery County / Bethesda Urban Partnership: Bethesda Circulator

Montgomery County endorsed the Bethesda Urban Partnership's request for technical assistance to study the current service and route of the Bethesda Circulator to identify possible improvements and future expansion.

Prince George's County: Landover Metro Station Area Study

The Prince George's County Planning Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) requested consultant services to recommend strategies for future development around the Landover Metro Station.

Prince George's County: Prince George's Plaza

The Prince George's County Planning Department of the M-NCPPC requested technical assistance to identify pedestrian and bicycle needs for the Prince George's Plaza Transit District.

Virginia

Arlington County: Process Improvements for Approving Parking in New Developments

Arlington County requested consultant services to review the Site Plan and Parking Management Plan approval processes and recommend measures to incorporate parking management earlier in the site plan approval process for new development.

Prince William County: Revitalizing Yorkshire

Prince William County requested consultant assistance to develop transportation and land-use strategies that would help realize the county's vision for a vibrant community in Yorkshire, which is located along the Route 28 Corridor in the northern part of the county.

TPB News, 777 North Capitol St, NE, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290
202-962-3237; scrawford@mwkog.org
"TPB News" at www.mwkog.org/transportation

BICYCLE / PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS

(Continued from page 1)

The subcommittee sees this short list as a very modest investment in bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Washington region. In trying to reach the adopted goals of the TPB Vision and the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the subcommittee supports the funding of bicycle and pedestrian projects over and above this list. In addition, the subcommittee encourages the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in all transportation projects as recommended in policy guidance by the United States Department of Transportation.

The Subcommittee developed the priority list using the following criteria:

• **Regional Bicycle Network Connectivity:** Priority was given to projects that enhanced connectivity of facilities on the regional bicycle facilities network.

• **Pedestrian Safety:** Priority was given to projects that promoted pedestrian safety, especially in areas with documented pedestrian safety problems and no pending road project that could address them.

• **Access to Transit:** Priority was given to projects that enhanced access to Metrorail stations and other major transit stops or facilities.

• **Time Frame:** All projects should be able to be completed by 2014, the end of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) time frame.

• **Local Support:** The project is a priority for the jurisdiction or jurisdictions in which it is located.

• **Still seeking funding:** The project does not yet have full construction funding committed to it.

• **Reasonable Cost:** The total cost of the list should be a reasonable fraction of the total spending in the region on highways and bridges. Staff estimates that the total cost of the attached projects is less than two percent of the total highway funding in the first year of the TIP. ▲

More information about the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee may be found on the subcommittee web page at: www.mwcog.org/transportation/committee



ON THE WEB

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.mwcog.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 FEBRUARY AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB's February 20 agenda included the following items in addition to the topics covered elsewhere in this newsletter:

- Review of comments received and approval of project submissions for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009-2014 TIP (These projects were described in detail in the February issue of TPB News).

- Approval of the Scope of Work for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009-2014 TIP.
- Briefing on the Draft FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- Briefing on the Draft FY 2009 Commuter Connections Work Program (CCWP).

Information and materials for the February 20 TPB meeting are posted on the TPB website: www.mwcog.org/transportation/tpb. ▲

Priority Unfunded Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

Metropolitan Branch Trail (District of Columbia) \$2.5 million

The Metropolitan Branch Trail has been a high priority for the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) for many years. It is in the District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan and in the District of Columbia Bicycle Plan. DDOT staff and the Bicycle Advisory Committee selected it as the top priority unfunded bicycle and pedestrian project for the District. This 7.7 mile multi-use path will run from Union Station to Silver Spring, parallel to the Red Line of the Metro. It will link to the planned Prince Georges Connector Trail at Fort Totten. On the Montgomery County side, the trail will eventually connect to the Georgetown Branch Trail.

Falls Road Shared-Use Path (Montgomery County) \$15 million

Falls Road currently lacks sidewalks, and the need to serve pedestrians is a major reason for installing a shared-use path rather than bicycle lanes. This five-mile shared-use path will run parallel to Falls Road, from Dunster Road to River Road. The Falls Road shared-use path is in the Montgomery County

Henson Creek Trail (Prince George's County) \$750,000

The extension of the Henson Creek Trail has long been proposed in area plans, including the 1981 Subregion VII Master Plan and the 1985 Equestrian Addendum to the Adopted and Approved Countywide Plan. This project will extend the existing stream valley trail from Temple Hill Road to the Branch Avenue Metro Station. The trail extension was identified by the County's Bicycle and Trails Advisory Group as the number-one trail priority in Prince George's County in 2003.

Holmes Run Greenway Shared-Use Path Improvements (Alexandria) \$510,000

The Holmes Run Greenway is one of the most heavily used non-roadway transportation corridors in the City of Alexandria. This approximately 3-mile linear park provides a key off-road bicycle and pedestrian connection from the high density residential and retail centers on the West End to the Eisenhower Valley and is a major connector to bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Fairfax County and Old Town Alexandria. This facility is in a serious state of disrepair and requires funding to provide for a safe crossing of Holmes Run.

Arlington Boulevard Bikeway Improvements (Arlington County) \$2 million

This project is for design and implementation of a series of improvements to the Arlington Boulevard Bikeway in Arlington County, from the Fairfax County line to Fort Myer Drive. Major components include intersection improvements with grade separations, improvements to the north side bikeway between Pershing Drive and Glebe Road, and widening/reconstruction of the segment between 10th Street and Pershing Drive opposite Fort Myer.

Enhanced Bicycle Parking/Access Improvements at Vienna Metro Station (Fairfax County) \$1 million

The existing bicycle facilities located at the Vienna Metro Station are nearing capacity and it is common to see bicycles chained to trees, sign posts, and other physical features. The existing bicycle parking area located northeast of the mezzanine walkway will be redesigned to provide secure, covered parking amenities for 100 bicycles. This project will also provide a new shared-use path accessing the north side station area from Vaden Drive.

Loudoun County Parkway Shared-Use Path (Loudoun County) \$1 million

The Loudoun County Parkway is identified as a primary corridor in the Loudoun County Bicycle Plan. This project calls for construction of a 4.4 mile shared-use path parallel to the Loudoun County Parkway from Route 7 to Waxpool Road.

WMATA Bicycle Parking Project (Region-wide) \$600,000

This project pilots a new bike locker system at 3 stations each year using a parking technology system modeled after car sharing. The project also replaces existing Type 3 bicycle racks with modern inverted U racks. ▲

TPB RECEIVES STATUS REPORT ON REGIONAL BUS SERVICE

The "Status Report on the Bus Systems in the National Capital Region" and information about the Regional Bus Subcommittee may be found on the subcommittee web page at: www.mwco.org/transportation/committee

At its February meeting the TPB received a briefing on the activities of its Regional Bus Subcommittee, a group formed to provide a permanent process for coordinating bus planning among the region's 13 public bus operators and for incorporating regional bus plans into the TPB's Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and the six-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The TPB's Regional Bus Subcommittee was created in January 2007. The 2007 Inaugural Chair Jim Hamre provided a review of the subcommittee's first year, summarized in the "Status Report on the Bus Systems in the National Capital Region." Membership in the subcommittee includes representatives from the jurisdictions and the public transit

operations sponsored by those jurisdictions.

Roughly the same number of people each day ride on the region's buses as take rail, though bus service has a larger coverage area. Bus operators face some of the same challenges as their rail counterparts: maintenance of equipment, maintenance of facilities, and making sure the service capacity meets the public demand.

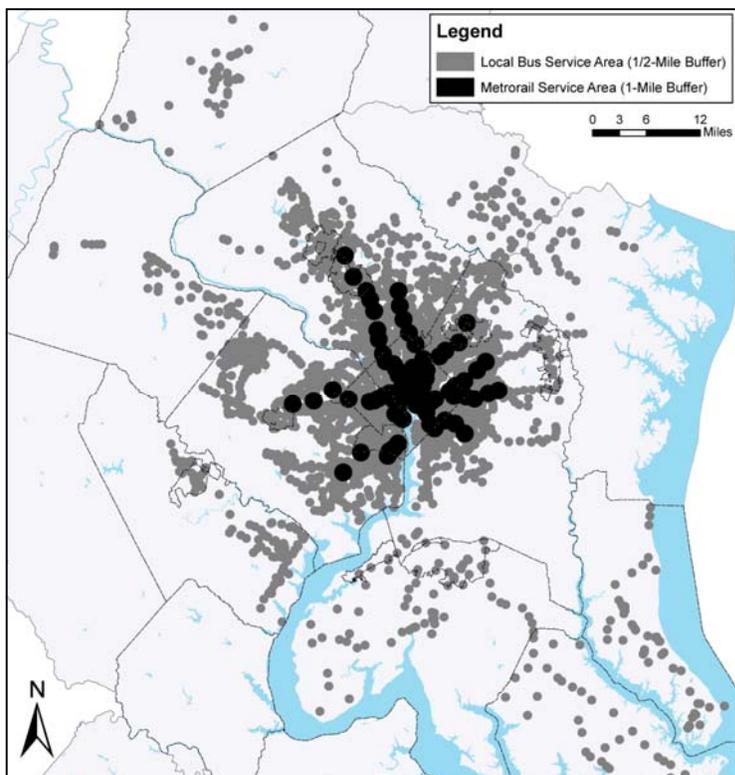
Mr. Hamre said that innovation and environmental concerns have driven many recent improvements in the region's bus fleet. "We are in the forefront in the nation by introducing clean fuel technologies," he said. "We have Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered buses, hybrid technology buses, and clean diesel buses."

He also described challenges facing the region's bus operators, including ensuring bus accessibility for people with disabilities, providing high-quality and accessible bus stops and transit centers, and securing adequate funding to maintain and expand bus services throughout the region.

In 2008, the subcommittee will continue work on long-range bus service planning. The subcommittee played a major role in developing the region-wide on-board bus survey to be conducted in the spring of 2008, and will continue to work with TPB and WMATA staff as they develop and administer this comprehensive survey of all bus transit operations in the region. Not only will this better inform bus service planning, but it will complement regional travel data collected through other means.

The subcommittee also plans to develop a list of unfunded priority projects this year that will detail the needs identified by the

(Continued on page 7)



The map above shows the transit service area coverage in the region. The gray shaded area denotes the local bus service area and the black shaded area represents the Metrorail service area.

jurisdictions and transit operators as paramount to maintaining an effective regional bus system.

The subcommittee asked the TPB to continue to support bus services in the work programs of other committees. The group also requested that TPB members continue to inquire about and encourage the incorporation of bus planning in the development of local transportation projects and land-use plans, as well as during the review of project submissions for new housing and commercial developments in their jurisdictions. ▲

TPB Alphabet Soup

AFA	Access for All Committee
CAC	Citizen's 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
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
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 SET TO APPROVE WORK PROGRAMS

At its March 19 meeting, the TPB is scheduled to approve two FY 2009 work programs critical to TPB activities. Both the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the Commuter Connections Work Program (CCWP) were released for public comment at the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on February 14. The public comment period ends on March 13.

The FY 2009 UPWP incorporates in one document all federally assisted state, regional, and local transportation planning activities proposed to be undertaken in the region from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The UPWP provides a mechanism for the coordination of transportation planning activities in the region, and is required as a basis and condition for all federal funding assistance for transportation planning by the joint planning regulations of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

The FY 2009 CCWP consists of a core program of regional transportation demand management operational activities, plus jurisdictional programs that are conducted at the discretion of individual state funding agencies. Commuter Connections is a continuing commuter assistance program for the Washington region which encourages commuters to use alternatives to driving alone in a private automobile, including ridesharing, transit, telecommuting, bicycling, and walking. ▲

UPCOMING MARCH AGENDA ITEMS

The TPB's March 19 agenda is expected to include the following items:

- Approval of the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- Approval of the FY 2009 Commuter Connections Work Program (CCWP).
- Update on the Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Committee (MATOC).
- Update on the regional "Street Smart" Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education Campaign.
- Briefing on the Final Report of the TPB Regional Value Pricing Study.
- Update on the activities of the TPB Scenario Study Task Force.

Information and materials for the March 19 TPB meeting are posted on the TPB website one week prior to the meeting: 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.).

March 2008

- 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)
- 12 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 13 Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (12:30 pm)
- 13 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 18 Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee (10 am)
- 18 TDM Evaluation Group (noon)
- 18 Regional TDM Marketing Group (2 pm)
- 18 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 19 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 21 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 25 Travel Management Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 25 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 27 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 27 Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force (noon)

April 2008

- 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)
- 10 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 15 Commuter Connections Employer Outreach Committee (10 am)
- 16 TPB Scenario Study Task Force (10 am)
- 16 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 22 Travel Management Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 22 Regional Bus Subcommittee (noon)
- 24 TPB Access for All Advisory Committee (2 pm)

May 2008

- 2 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 2 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 8 Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force (noon)
- 14 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 15 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 20 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (10 am)
- 20 TPB's Annual Transit Forum (11 am)
- 20 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 21 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 22 Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force (noon)
- 23 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 27 Travel Management Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 29 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)



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.

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. Postage Paid
Washington, D.C.
Permit #9770