

## Key Vote on 2006 Plan Update Scheduled for April 19

On April 19, the Transportation Planning Board will vote on moving forward with the projects submitted for the region's long-range transportation plan update.

Five major new projects and two new studies were submitted for inclusion in the 2006 Update to the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and the FY 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The District of Columbia has submitted the only big-ticket items this year—three projects totaling over \$1 billion, all linked to the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative.

**Project Descriptions on page 4.**

At the April 19 meeting, the TPB is scheduled to vote on the inclusion of the submitted projects in the air quality conformity analysis that is part of the CLRP/TIP development process. The approval of the project submissions at this stage is an essential step in keeping the update process on schedule.

For more information on the Plan and the proposed changes visit the new CLRP web site at [www.mwcog.org/regionaltransportationplan](http://www.mwcog.org/regionaltransportationplan).



DC Office of Planning

**D.C.'s new projects include reconstruction of the 11th Street Bridges (the middle 2-span bridge in rendering above) and a new Frederick Douglas Bridge (far bridge above). See page 4 for details.**

### Street Smart Kickoff



**Alexandria City Councilmember Ludwig Gaines spoke at the kickoff of the 2006 Street Smart pedestrian/bicycle safety campaign. D.C. Metropolitan Police Chief Charles Ramsey, left, and Arlington Board member Chris Zimmerman, center, were also present. More about Street Smart on page 3.**

## Commuter Connections Continues to Reduce Solo Driving

Because of the TPB's Commuter Connections programs, drivers in the Washington region made 130,000 fewer trips in 2005 and reduced their driving by nearly 2.5 million miles.

Nick Ramfos, Commuter Connections chief, presented these and other benefits of Commuter Connections programs to the Transportation Planning Board on March 15.

The FY 2007 work program for Commuter Connections was released for public comment at the March TPB meeting. The TPB is scheduled to approve

See **Commuter Connections** on page 2

## Commuter Connections

*continued from page 1*

the work program at its meeting on April 19.

Commuter Connections provides a variety of services that encourage people to cut back on the habit of driving to work alone. The program is a network of public and private transportation organizations, including the TPB and COG, state funding agencies and local organizations.

The budget for Commuter Connections in FY 2007 is \$5.9 million.

The Commuter Connections work program includes the following key elements:

- The *Commuter Operations Center* provides ridematching services to commuters through a central toll free number "1-800-745-RIDE."
- *Guaranteed Ride Home* provides users of alternative commute modes up to four free rides home per year in a taxi or rental car in the event of an unexpected personal or family emergency or unscheduled overtime.
- *Marketing* of alternative commute options provides continual regional marketing of car/vanpooling, teleworking, mass transit, Bike to Work Day, and Guaranteed Ride Home aimed at persuading commuters to switch to alternative commute modes from the use of single-occupant vehicles, as well as persuading commuters currently using alternative commute modes to continue to use those modes. A new Guaranteed Ride Home program rewards and loyalty program will be planned in FY 2007.

- *Monitoring and Evaluation* provides data collection and analysis as well as program tracking and monitoring reports for each program area. A new evaluation schedule will be adopted this year.

- *Employer Outreach* supports marketing and outreach efforts to the region's employers to encourage use by their employees of alternative commute modes such as ridesharing, transit, telecommuting, bicycling, and walking; assists employers in holding bicycling seminars for employees; and maintains an up-to-date regional

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## May 19 is Bike to Work Day



**Bike to Work Day is an annual celebration of bicycling as a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work. The event is cosponsored by Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, along with numerous public and private sector partners. Sign up at [www.waba.org](http://www.waba.org).**

Bicycling Guide. A regional "Live Near Where You Work" program will be introduced in FY2007.

- *Telework* assistance provides information and resources to employers on the benefits of teleworking and assists them in setting up telework programs for their employees. An on-call consultant will be hired in FY2007 to provide this assistance.

- *InfoExpress Kiosks* are located at selected shopping centers and other high pedestrian activity areas to provide commuting information to the general public. The kiosk program will be redesigned and improved in FY 2007.

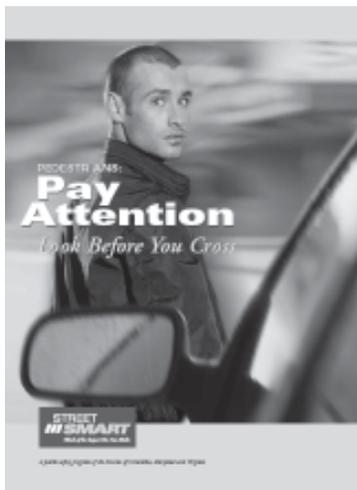
In addition to reducing solo driving, Commuter Connections programs were also shown to reduce vehicle emissions, which is the primary reason most of the different program activities were implemented in the first place. Every day, the programs are estimated to reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) by nearly two tons and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by nearly one ton.

These measures of effectiveness have shown that Commuter Connections is among the most effective commuter assistance programs in the nation in terms of reducing solo driving and vehicle emissions. For more information on the Commuter Connections work program, go to [www.mwccog.org/transportation/tpb](http://www.mwccog.org/transportation/tpb). ■

## TPB Launches Ped/Bike Safety Campaign

Area officials from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia launched the TPB-sponsored Street Smart campaign on March 21 and reaffirmed their dedication to pedestrian safety during a press conference in Alexandria.

Arlington Board Chair Chris Zimmerman, Alexandria Mayor William Euille, Alexandria Councilman Ludwig Gaines, Fairfax County Chairman Gerry Connolly, D.C. Metropolitan Police Chief Charles Ramsey and other leaders voiced their support for Street Smart's outreach and enforcement efforts, and outlined initiatives in their local jurisdictions to reduce the number of unnecessary deaths and injuries on our region's roads.



According to TPB statistics, pedestrians account for one fourth of the region's motor vehicle deaths, approximately 89 fatalities a year. In addition, a recent study in September 2005 by Inova Regional Trauma Center and the TPB shows the responsibility for pedestrian accidents appears shared, almost equally, between drivers and pedestrians.

Pedestrian safety advocates emphasize "three E's": education, engineering, and enforcement. Street Smart focuses on education, but the campaign is has been combined with stepped-up law enforcement efforts throughout the region. Ongoing engineering initiatives include improved sightlines, signals, markings and the use of technology, such as laser detectors and the "runway" lighting for crosswalks.

Street Smart was first launched in October 2002. For more information, go to [www.mwcog.org/transportation/streetsmart](http://www.mwcog.org/transportation/streetsmart). ■

## Other March Items

Other items on the TPB's March agenda included:

- Briefings on the **2006 Update to the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP)**:
  - Staff briefed the board on *this year's project submissions* (see page 4) for the CLRP.
  - Staff briefed the board on the extent to which the CLRP is addressing the "*top 10 worst bottlenecks*" that were identified in the TPB's triennial aerial photographic survey of freeway congestion (see March TPB News). TPB staff reported that three projects in the CLRP were directly addressing bottleneck locations. The other bottlenecks were either being studied or were not being addressed.
  - Staff briefed the TPB on small-grants programs that have been established in other metropolitan areas to *promote "livable communities" or "transit-oriented development."* Some TPB members have expressed interest in establishing such a program in the Washington region.
- Approvals related to the TPB's **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**. The UPWP is the TPB's annual work program. The board approved the FY2007 UPWP, which begins in July, along with carryover funding from the current work program. ■

### 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

# New Projects Submitted for 2006 Long-Range Plan

Five new major projects were submitted for this year's update to the region's Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP). On April 19, the TPB is scheduled to vote on the inclusion of the submitted projects in the air quality conformity analysis that is part of the CLRP/TIP development process.

## Projects Proposed for Construction

### 1. South Capitol St Corridor with Frederick Douglas Memorial Bridge Improvements

*Between Independence Ave. & MLK, Jr. Blvd.*

Convert South Capitol Street from an urban highway to a grand six-lane boulevard. Construct a newly aligned, six-lane Frederick Douglas Bridge.

- **Length:** 3.5 miles
- **Cost:** \$625 million
- **Completion:** 2015

### 2. 11th St Bridges & Interchange Reconstruction

*Between the Anacostia Freeway & Southeast Freeway*

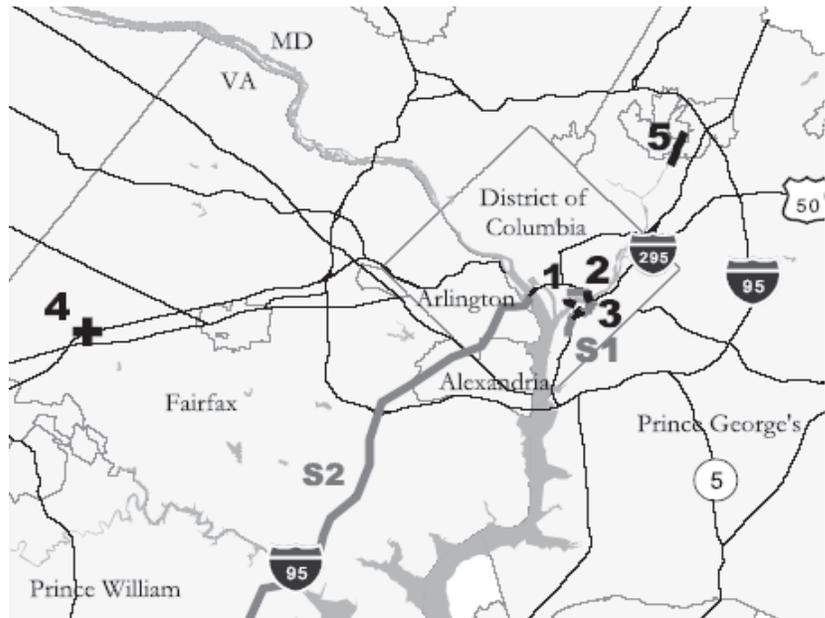
Replace and reconfigure the 11th Street Bridges. One bridge would be limited to freeway traffic, carrying four lanes in each direction. The second bridge would carry local traffic on two lanes in each direction. New ramps east of the river would connect both directions of the Anacostia Freeway with each span.

- **Length:** 1 mile
- **Cost:** \$377 million
- **Completion:** 2011

### 3. Anacostia Streetcar Project

*Phase I: From Firth Sterling & South Capitol St. to Howard Rd. & MLK, Jr. Ave.*

Build the first phase of the streetcar line. This project replaces the Anacostia Demonstration Rail Line (the CSX Shepard Branch Light Rail Project) previously in the CLRP. The new



project contains four phases, but only the first phase is included for construction in the 2006 CLRP. Phases II, III and IV are included for study (see S1 on page 5).

- **Length:** Approximately ½ mile (Phase I only)
- **Cost:** \$21 million
- **Completion:** 2007

### 4. Upgrade VA 28 at I-66 Interchange

*Between VA 28/I-66 Interchange & Braddock/Walney Rds*

Eliminate turn movements and implement signal timing/phasing changes near the interchange of VA 28 and I-66 at three locations: 1) VA28 and Braddock/Walney Road; 2) VA 28 and ramps to westbound I-66, and 3) VA 28 and ramps from eastbound I-66.

- **Length:** Operational improvements within a half-mile area.
- **Cost:** \$750,000
- **Completion:** 2008

### 5. Widen MD 201, Kenilworth Avenue

*Between River Road and Pontiac Street*

Widen Kenilworth Avenue from 4 to 6 lanes in the vicinity of Greenbelt Park.

- **Length:** 2 miles
- **Cost:** \$3 million
- **Completion:** 2010

## Proposed New Studies

### S1. Anacostia Streetcar Project (Phases II-IV)

*Phase II: Firth Sterling and South Capitol Street to Malcolm X Avenue*

*Phase III: Howard Road and MLK, Jr., Avenue to Good Hope Road and Minnesota Avenue*

*Phase IV: MLK, Jr. Avenue over the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge on M Street, SE to South Capitol Street.*

Phases II-IV of this project are included for study in the 2006 CLRP, while Phase I is included for construction (see description at left). This project replaces the Anacostia Demonstration Rail Line (the CSX Shepard Branch Light Rail Project) previously in the CLRP.

- **Length:** Approximately 4 miles (all four phases, including half-mile in Phase I)
- **Completion:** 2011
- **Cost:** \$3 million

### S2. Study Proposal to Build and Operate HOV/HOT Lanes on I-95/I-395

*Between the District of Columbia line and the I-95 Massaponax exit in Spotsylvania County*

The CLRP already includes the extension of HOV

lanes from Quantico Creek to the Stafford County line and the re-striping to 3 lanes of existing HOV lanes from the D.C. line to Quantico Creek. The proposed change for the 2006 CLRP would provide for the development of environmental documents, consistent with federal (NEPA) and state requirements, for a proposal to build high occupancy/toll (HOT) lanes proposed by the private sector under Virginia's Public/Private Transportation Act (PPTA).

- **Length:** 47 miles
- **Completion:** 2007
- **Cost:** \$380,000

## New Long-Range Plan Website



**For a one-stop-shop on the TPB's Constrained Long-Range Plan, go to [www.mwcog.org/regionaltransportationplan](http://www.mwcog.org/regionaltransportationplan).**

**You can find information about the major projects already in the plan (approximately 130 projects, plus studies), background and federal requirements on the plan, future travel conditions under the plan, and opportunities for comment.**

## Upcoming TPB Agenda

The TPB's April agenda will include:

- Items regarding the **2006 CLRP and FY2007-2012 TIP:**
  - Review of comments received on project submissions and recommended responses.
  - Approval of project submissions.
  - Approval of Scope of Work for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the CLRP and TIP.
  - Update on the Financial Analysis for the 2006 CLRP.
- Approval of **FY 2007 Commuter Connections Work Program.**
- Approval of regional **Bike to Work Day 2006** proclamation.
- Briefing on the TPB Transportation Planning Process **Federal Certification Review** Summary Report.
- Update on activities to identify dedicated funding for WMATA.
- Approval of **amendments** to the FY 2006-11 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that are exempt from the air quality conformity requirement to modify funding for 11 transit, commuter rail and ridesharing projects as requested by MDOT.
- Approval of **amendment** to the FY 2006-2011 TIP that is exempt from the air quality conformity requirement to modify the funding and construction schedule for widening I-66 between US 29 and VA 234 in Prince William County, as requested by VDOT. ■

# 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).

## April 2006

- 4 Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Marketing Group (10 am)
- 5 Telecommuting Ad-Hoc Group (10 am)
- 7 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 7 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 11 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 13 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 18 Employer Outreach Ad-Hoc Group (10 am)
- 18 Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Group (noon)
- 18 Bike Plan Work Group (1 pm)
- 19 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 25 Travel Management Subcommittee (9 am)

## May 2006

- 5 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 5 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 9 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Transit Forum (11 am - 1:30 pm)
- 10 Bike To Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 11 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 16 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 16 Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 17 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 19 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 19 Joint Technical Working Group for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (noon)
- 23 Travel Management Subcommittee (9 am)
- 25 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 25 TPB Access for All Advisory Committee (noon)

## June 2006

- 2 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 2 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 6 Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Marketing Group (10 am)
- 13 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces Joint Meeting (12:30 pm)
- 15 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 16 Joint Technical Working Group for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (noon)
- 20 Commuter Connections Center Subcommittee (10 am)
- 20 Transportation Management Association (TMA) Advisory Group (noon)
- 21 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 27 Travel Management Subcommittee

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