



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Lyn Erickson, Plan Development and Coordination Program Director
SUBJECT: Public Comment for the June 2026 TPB Meeting
DATE: June 17, 2026

The Transportation Planning Board accepts public comment on a rolling basis. Comments can be submitted via email (tpbcomment@mwkog.org), online (mwkog.org/tpbcomment), mail, and phone. Comments are collected until noon on the day before the TPB meeting. These comments are compiled and shared with the board at the meeting the following day.

Between noon, Tuesday, May 19, and noon, Tuesday, June 16, the TPB received two requests to address the TPB in-person, one letter and one comment submitted via email. These comments are summarized below. All full comments are attached to this memo.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS

Two people signed up to speak during Item 1 Public Comment:

- Bill Pugh, Coalition for Smarter Growth
- Lindsey Mendelson, Maryland Sierra Club

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Coufal, Citizens Against Beltway Expansion, Comment via Letter- June 16, 2026

Ms. Coufal writes that VDOT's TIP amendment seeks to resurrect the Southside Express Lanes, disregarding TPB's rejection of the proposal last October. They urge the TPB to remove this clause from the TIP amendment.

Brian Ditzler, Comment via Email- June 15, 2026

Mr. Ditzler writes that VDOT's proposed TIP amendment concerning the Southside Express Lanes Project appears to ignore TPB's resolution adopted October, 2025. He urges the TPB to ask VDOT and MDOT representatives to explain how TIP funding for further study of the Southside Express Lanes project will be used and how local jurisdictions will be engaged to explore options.



June 16, 2026

MWCOG Transportation Planning Board
777 North Capitol St. NE #300
Washington, DC 20002-4239

Dear Chair Harris and Members of the Transportation Planning Board:

VDOT's TIP amendment seeks to resurrect the Southside Express Lanes, disregarding the TPB's rejection of the project last October. The TPB directed VDOT to work with other jurisdictions to develop a consensus for addressing congestion. Instead, VDOT asks the TPB to approve spending to advance the Southside toll lanes including P3 development, environmental review, and traffic and design activities. We urge you to remove this clause from the TIP amendment.

Sincerely,

Barbara Coufal
Chair

Laura Bachle

From: B Ditzler <bditzler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 9:01 PM
To: TPBcomment
Subject: Item 1 - Public Comment Opportunity for TPB meeting June 17

Summary of comments:

- 1.VDOT's proposed TIP amendment concerning VDOT's Southside Express Lanes Project appears to ignore TPB's resolution on that topic adopted in October 2025.
- 2.VDOT's proposed amendment needs to be reworded to reflect TPB's resolution.
3. VDOT & MDOT representatives should be asked to explain how local jurisdictions will be engaged to explore project options, as was called for in TPB's resolution .

I am writing to express my concern with VDOT's proposed Transportation Improvement Program amendment "T11614- I-495 Southside Express Lanes Advance Activities" which seeks approval to extend the express lanes system on the southern section of I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway) by 11 miles from the Springfield Interchange in Fairfax County, VA, across the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge to the MD 210 interchange in Prince George's County MD.

The wording of the proposed TIP amendment appears to ignore the TPB's resolution adopted in October 2025 which found that VDOT's Southside Express Lanes proposal did not address concerns raised by TPB members. VDOT and MDOT were directed to "explore project options and work with local jurisdictions towards securing a consensus".

The proposed TIP amendment needs to be reworded to reflect the TPB resolution and not advance VDOT's preferred alternative for the Southside Express Lanes project which the TPB did not approve.

It would be helpful also for VDOT and MDOT representatives at the TPB meeting to be asked to explain how the TIP funding for further study of the Southside Express Lanes project will be used and how affected local jurisdictions will be engaged to explore project options.

Brian Ditzler
Silver Spring, MD