



TPB TRAVEL FORECASTING SUBCOMMITTEE

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH 20, 2026 MEETING, 9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM

The meeting was held at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and offered a virtual option via web conferencing software.

MEETING ATTENDEES

MEMBERS, ALTERNATES, AND PARTICIPANTS

- Jim Bunch (Mead & Hunt) *
- Manfreda Davila (M-NCPPC, Prince George's Co.) *
- Kevin Chai (Fairfax County)
- Xiao Cui (VDOT)
- Ali Etezady (RSG, Inc.) *
- Jay Evans (RSG, Inc.)
- Hardik Gajera (RK&K) *
- John Gliebe (Cambridge Systematics)
- Anson Gock (Delaware DOT) *
- Dan Goldfarb (VDOT)
- Bishoy Kelleny (Bentley Systems Inc) *
- Li Li (Whitman, Requardt & Assoc.)
- Tom Li (ASRI)
- Chaitanya Paleti (RK&K) *
- Krishna Patnam (AECOM)
- Maggie Qi (Fairfax Co. DOT)
- Charmelis Reyes Cruz (Fehr & Peers)
- Andrew Rohne (Caliper) *
- Thomas Rossi (Cambridge Systematics)
- Jun Yang (M-NCPPC, Montgomery Co.)

COG STAFF

- Timothy Canan *
- Anant Choudhary
- Robert d'Abadie *
- Nazneen Ferdous
- Tom Harrington *
- Charlene Howard *
- Kenneth (Ken) Joh *
- Glenn Lang
- Kaelem Mohabir *
- Mark Moran
- Ray Ngo
- Wanda Owens
- Fabiha Rahman *
- Bahar Shahverdi
- Dan Sheehan
- Kanti Srikanth *
- Jessica Storck *
- Dusan Vuksan
- Feng Xie
- Zhuo Yang *
- Jim Yin

* An asterisk indicates that the person attended the meeting remotely via WebEx.

1. OPENING: MEETING ROLES, RULES, AND ROLL CALL OF PARTICIPANTS

Mark Moran opened the meeting by discussing the roles of the meeting participants (e.g., chair, host, technical host, note taker), meeting rules, and performing a roll call of participants. This meeting of the TFS was chaired by Jun Yang.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING, HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2026

Jun had a correction for the highlights of the January 23, 2026, TFS meeting. He explained that, due to the two M-NCPPC branches in Prince George's Co. and Montgomery Co., a distinction should be made in section 7 when referring to the M-NCPPC, Montgomery Co., Travel/4 Model. With this change, the highlights were approved.

3. STATUS REPORT ON COG/TPB'S FY 26 PROJECT FOR CONSULTANT ASSISTANCE WITH TRAVEL DEMAND FORECASTING METHODS USED BY THE COG/TPB STAFF

This item was presented by Mark and Thomas (Tom) Rossi, who spoke from two sets of presentation slides. Mark first gave a brief overview of the contracting process at COG/TPB for model development assistance and highlighted the two previous contracts for developing the strategic plan in 2015 and developing the Gen3 Model. He then proceeded to explain the current contract with RSG and Cambridge Systematics, elaborating on the five tasks they have been assigned, their status, and the respective budgets. Mark also noted that, due to a late start to the contracts, there would be a carry-over to fiscal year 27. Finally, Mark presented the project teams across both consultants and COG/TPB staff.

Tom Rossi, the Project Manager for the consultant team from Cambridge Systematics, took over after Mark to give a more detailed overview of task 2, the development of the strategic plan. He briefly went over the project team and the background of the strategic plan, highlighting that it will deal with both the Gen2 and Gen3 models and will include short-, medium-, and long-term goals for model development. Tom then went over the three development subtasks and introduced the general intent and methodology for each. In particular, he highlighted the first subtask, which involves an outreach to local stakeholders and peer agencies. He concluded his presentation by explaining the task timeline, expecting the plan to be completed in 9 months.

After the presentation, Krishna Patnam asked whether one of the questions in the outreach will be about how frequently the respondent uses the model and if they experience any problems, how often these occur. Tom answered that, though he cannot confirm that this question will be included in the survey, it will be considered.

Dan Goldfarb wanted to stress the importance of the TPB's travel demand model for VDOT. In particular, he emphasized the SMART SCALE¹ program and how the discretionary funding for Virginia uses the model. Furthermore, he explained that the central office for VDOT also uses the model and wanted to ensure that the outreach will include them. Tom confirmed that they will be in contact with VDOT.

Charlene Howard asked whether she and her team were included in the list of parties that will be contacted during the outreach, as she and her team would like make use of high-level model outputs to share in an interactive way. Tom and Mark confirmed that her name was on the list of staff that will be surveyed. Furthermore, Tom emphasized the importance and need to hear from non-modelers who use the information that the model generates.

Jim Bunch mentioned that it will really be appreciated if the SWOT extends to common uses by stakeholders. Particularly, to support subarea and corridor plans and projects for development, planning, and operations studies that require more detail than the Long-Range Transportation Plan

¹ Virginia SMART SCALE. <https://smartscale.virginia.gov/>

regional analyses required. Tom confirmed that such topics will be part of the analyses, as they make use of the model outputs and important parts of planning for the region.

4. COG/TPB GEN3 TRAVEL MODEL: STATUS REPORT FROM COG/TPB STAFF

Dr. Feng Xie presented this item from a set of presentation slides. During his presentation, he provided a regular status update on COG/TPB's Gen3 Travel Model. Feng first talked about the feedback received from beta testing the Gen3 Model. He went over the responses from the survey that was sent out to the beta testers and gave an overview of the positive comments received. He also discussed the issues encountered by the model testers and the solutions COG/TPB staff devised. Feng then provided an update on the official release of the Gen3 Model, going over what had been accomplished since the last TFS meeting, before laying out the next steps for the upcoming months.

After the presentation, Maggie Qi inquired about available information on the stakeholder training for the Gen3 Model. Feng explained that COG/TPB staff had not yet figured out the details for the upcoming stakeholder training. However, he pointed out that COG/TPB plans to conduct the training a few months after the official release of the model so that the stakeholders have an opportunity to test the model out before attending the training.

Xiao Cui asked whether the Gen2 Model will still be supported once the Gen3 Model is released. Feng confirmed that COG/TPB plans to support both Gen2 and Gen3 models as COG/TPB's production use models in the foreseeable future. Dusan Vuksan further indicated that the Gen3 Model will not replace the Gen2 Model as the TPB-adopted model until after it is used for the next major long-range plan update, which is expected to occur in two to three years. In the meantime, stakeholders will be able to use both models but will need to determine how to adapt their own models to remain compatible with the Gen3 Model when it becomes TPB's next adopted model.

Jim Bunch asked whether recipients of the beta model will be provided with the official transmittal package upon its release. Feng answered that, yes, COG/TPB staff can follow up with the recipients of the beta model once the official model is released.

5. 2025 STATE OF THE COMMUTE SURVEY

Dan Sheehan presented this item from a set of presentation slides. He first explained that the 2025 State of the Commute (SOC) is a triennial survey of more than 7,500 workers across the DC, Maryland, and Virginia region, and represents the first comprehensive, post-pandemic snapshot of commute behavior. Dan proceeded to go over the results of the survey, comparing them to those of the 2019 (pre-pandemic) survey and of the 2022 (mid-pandemic) survey. He noted how this comparison reveals a region in transition, rather than one that has fully returned to its pre-pandemic state. Dan highlighted how teleworking remains a permanent structural feature, that drive-alone commuting has rebounded to near pre-pandemic levels, and that transit mode share has recovered strongly from its pandemic low. Dan concluded his presentation with key takeaways from the survey, highlighting implications for the TFS's modeling work, and briefly went over the tools available to TPB members and planners.

No questions were raised by the subcommittee. However, Feng made a comment that the 2019 SOC survey data had recently been used by the modeling team to calibrate the transit subsidy model and free parking eligibility model in the Gen3 Model, due to lack of relevant information in the regional household travel survey.

6. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF CURRENT MODELING EFFORTS AROUND THE REGION

Dan Goldfarb briefly gave an update on the current state of modeling at VDOT. He first explained that the SMART SCALE applications are due at the end of August and that for certain projects, a component of the application requires the use of the Travel Demand Forecasting model. Daniel noted that this

process will soon begin using the COG/TPB Gen2/Ver. 2.4 Model. He concluded his announcement by mentioning that, with the approaching release of the Gen3 Model, VDOT will have to coordinate with their central office on how to proceed with its adoption.

7. NEXT MEETING AND OTHER BUSINESS

Mark first announced the dates of the next TFS meetings, before highlighting that the TFS is always on the lookout for external presenters and that interested parties should contact Feng.

Ken Joh then proceeded to give a brief update on the upcoming 2026 Regional Travel Survey (RTS). He explained that the survey will be using address-based sampling to ensure that the sample is a representative sample. He further highlighted that the survey will make use of both a web-based questionnaire (1-day record) and a smartphone app (7-day record), and that incentives would be offered to encourage participation. Ken then explained that there will be a spring wave of data collection, which will be from early April to late June, and a fall wave. He concluded his update by highlighting that his team was cooperating with the communications team to ensure that the survey effort was publicized.

Tim Canan briefly spoke up to mention the ongoing efforts to coordinate transit onboard surveys with the public transit providers throughout the region, with the goal to build a regional database of transit Origin-Destination trips. He explained that, with help from Tom Harrington, they are currently in the process of engaging with the transit providers, either to support them in doing their surveys, or providing them with resources to help them.

After the updates, Ken, Tim, and many other attendees thanked Mark for his years of service at COG/TPB and wished him the best in his retirement!

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at about 11:40 AM.

Attribution: This meeting summary was developed using a variety of sources, including notes from participants, a recording of the meeting, presentation slides, and a meeting summary generated by artificial intelligence (AI), via Webex and ChatGPT. Any sections of the meeting summary based on AI-generated content were reviewed and edited for accuracy by humans. The primary authors of the meeting summary were the meeting presenters and Glenn Lang.