

I-495 SOUTHSIDE EXPRESS LANES (SEL): UPDATED PROJECT CONCEPTS AND COMMITMENTS

Visualize 2050 & I-495 SEL – Overview

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Visualize 2050 & I-495 SEL – Overview

- **TPB vision for Visualize 2050:**
 - Adopt earlier than federally due (end of 2024 VS 2026)
 - Use “Zero-based budgeting” (all projects in the Plan re-examined and re-submitted)
- **Original Visualize 2050 schedule revised twice**
 - Added 6 months – MDOT Express Lanes and WMATA funding
 - Added 9 months – pursue two alternative sets of Visualize 2050 through air quality conformity analysis – one With the I-495 SEL project and one Without
- **TPB adopted Visualize 2050 without the I-495 SEL project**
 - Deferred consideration of its inclusion in Visualize 2050 – some of the issues identified by TPB’s members were deemed to not have been satisfactorily addressed
 - VDOT was to continue its project development and coordination with stakeholder jurisdictions addressing the issues
 - VDOT to report back to the TPB, in 2026, about its progress on project development and addressing the issues
- **Additional slides outline specific TPB actions and when they happened**



Visualize 2050 & I-495 SEL – TPB Meeting Milestones

- **June 2022** TPB decides to update its long-range plan, Visualize 2045, ahead of 4-year schedule
 - “Zero-based budgeting” (All projects in previous Plan - re-examined, re-submitted)
 - Adoption of Visualize 2050 targeted for December 2024
- **Feb. 2023** TPB initiates call for projects for Visualize 2050 using “Zero-based budgeting” approach
 - TPB Policy priorities documents and compilation of all recent scenarios analyses released

Original Schedule – not followed, Maryland, Virginia and WMATA asked for time extension:

- *Aug. 2023 Projects for inclusion in Visualize 2050 & regional air quality conformity analysis due*
 - *Nov. 2023 TPB accepts project inputs; directs staff to begin regional air quality conformity analysis*
 - *Oct. 2024 TPB releases air quality conformity analysis results for public comments*
 - *Dec. 2024 TPB adopts Visualize 2050*
- **April 2023** TPB revises schedule for Visualize 2050 as follows:
 - *Dec. 2023 Projects for inclusion in Visualize 2050 & air quality conformity analysis due*
 - *May 2024 TPB accepts project inputs; directs staff to begin regional air quality conformity analysis*
 - *April 2025 TPB releases air quality conformity analysis results for public comments*
 - *June 2025 TPB adopts Visualize 2050*



Visualize 2050 & I-495 SEL – TPB Meeting Milestones

- **April 2024** TPB briefed on comments received on projects for the Visualize 2050 air quality conformity (AQC) analysis; [VDOT presents project update on I-495 SEL project](#)
- **May 2024** TPB approves all regionally significant projects for the Visualize 2050 AQC analysis except the I-495 SEL project which was deferred for discussion next month
- **June 2024** TPB directs staff to conduct two alternative sets of regional AQC analysis, without and with the I-495 SEL project;
TPB revises the schedule to adopt Visualize 2050 as follows:
 - *October 2025* TPB to select one of the two conformity analyses: *With OR Without I-495 SEL*
 - *Oct.-Nov. 2025* TPB to release Visualize 2050 & conformity analysis for selected alternative
 - *Dec. 2025* TPB to adopt Visualize 2050
- **July 2025** TPB receives briefing on AQC and performance analysis of Visualize 2050 with and without the SEL project; [VDOT presents project update on I-495 SEL project](#)
- **Oct. 2025** [VDOT presents project update on I-495 SEL project](#), TPB issues FAQ with I-495 SEL
TPB votes to defer inclusion of the I-495 SEL project from Visualize 2050
VDOT to continue working on project development and provide TPB with an update in 2026
- **Dec. 2025** TPB approves Visualize 2050 without I-495 SEL construction project
- **Oct. 2026** [VDOT provides report to TPB on I-495 SEL project status](#)



I-495 SEL – Engagement at TPB

- **December 2023** VDOT submits I-495 SEL project for inclusion in Visualize 2050
- **March 2024** Public comment period #1 – I-495 SEL available for comment
- **March 2024 – Nov. 2025** Ongoing comments on I-495 SEL project received for and against
- **October 9, 2025** FAQ summarization of 14 common Q&A's on I-495 SEL projects and the planning process
- **Oct. – Nov. 2025** Public comment period #2 – Received comments applauding TPB's October 2025 vote to exclude I-495 SEL in plan



Links to Additional Information



I-495 SEL at TPB meeting materials

- **October 2025 FAQ with Information on I-495 SEL pages 2-5:**
<https://www.mwcog.org/file.aspx?&A=%2bPD8YW4FXjcgauyaGQbvttoy2zdfUJ8NjXcaT8zGdWhQ%3d>
- **Key Dates**
 - June 16, 2021 TPB
 - **Resolution R19-2021**: Resolution on Inclusion of Project Submissions in the Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Constrained Element of the Update to Visualize 2045 and the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) outlined three requirements for the development of a full update to the plan including the original deadline by 2024.
 - April 17, 2024 TPB
 - Item 9B – Visualize 2050 March Comment Period Summary and Updates Memo (PDF pages 272-276)



I-495 SEL at TPB meeting materials

- **Key Dates (cont.)**
 - May 15, 2024 TPB
 - Item 8A - UPDATED Resolution R12-2024 - Visualize 2050 and FY26-29 TIP Approval of AQC Scope of Work and attachments
 - Item 8B - UPDATED Visualize 2050 Supplementary Information to Support Board Action on R12-2024
 - Item 8B - Additional Letter from Fairfax County
 - Item 8B - Additional Letter from Prince George's County
 - Item 8B - Additional Letter from City of Rockville
 - **Resolution R12-2024: Resolution on Air Quality Conformity Analysis Project Inputs for the Visualize 2050 Plan and FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program** directed TPB staff to proceed with the air quality conformity analysis using key inputs for the development of Visualize 2050.



I-495 SEL at TPB meeting materials (cont.)

- **Key Dates (cont.)**
 - June 7, 2024 Technical Committee
 - Item 3 - UPDATED - Visualize 2050 Letter from WMATA to VDOT
 - June 20, 2024 TPB
 - Item 7 - Visualize 2050 - I-495 Southside Express Lanes project action
 - Item 7 - Northern VA Transportation Authority Endorsement of VDOT I495 SEL letter
 - Item 7 - Fairfax Co Letters of Support I-495 SEL Project
 - **Resolution R13-2024: Inclusion of the Southside Express Lanes Project in the Air Quality Conformity Analysis for Visualize 2050 and FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program directed TPB staff to add a second option with one additional project in the air quality conformity analysis.**
 - April 15, 2025 TPB
 - Item 8 - Visualize 2050 Memo; Item 8 - Presentation - Visualize 2050 - VDOT SEL Project Update
 - July 16, 2025 TPB
 - Item 7 - Presentation - Visualize 2050 Draft Analyses
 - Item 7 - Presentation - VDOT I-495 Southside Study TPB Update



I-495 SEL at TPB meeting materials (cont.)

- **Key Dates (cont.)**
 - October 15, 2025 TPB
 - **Resolution R2-2026**: Resolution to defer inclusion of the I-95/1-495 Southside Express Lanes Project in the Air Quality Conformity Analysis of the Visualize 2050 National Capital Region Transportation Plan and the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
 - November 19, 2025 TPB
 - Item 8 - Presentation - Visualize 2050 TIP AQC
 - Item 8 - Visualize 2050 Plan, TIP, Air Quality Conformity Summary
 - Item 8 - Visualize 2050 Plan, TIP, Air Quality Public Comment Period Interim Report



I-495 SEL at TPB meeting materials (cont.)

- **Key Dates (cont.)**
 - December 17, 2025
 - Item 8 - Presentation - Approval of V2050/TIP/AQC/Self-Certification
 - Item 8 - Memo 1: V2050 Public Comments Summary
 - Item 8 - Memo 2: V2050 Changes to Plan and TIP (Attachment of table Errata)
 - Item 8 - Memo 3: V2050 Overview of Resolutions (MDOT/MoCo Transit letters)
 - **Resolution R3-2026 Conformity Determination - Adopted**
 - **Resolution R4- 2026 V50 and TIP Approval - Adopted**
 - **Resolution R5-2026 MPO Self Certification - Adopted**



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