



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Kanti Srikanth, TPB Staff Director
SUBJECT: Revised schedule for approving remaining project for Visualize 2050 Air Quality Conformity and System Performance Assessment
DATE: July 10, 2025

The timing of one of the actions within the revised schedule for developing and adopting Visualize 2050 plan, adopted by the TPB on June 18, 2024, is being modified. This memorandum provides the details of and background information on the reason for the modification.

SCHEDULE MODIFICATION

The TPB was scheduled to act on Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) request to include the I-495 Southside Express Lanes (I-495 SEL) project at its September 17, 2025, meeting. This action is now being rescheduled to October 15, 2025. Further, the previously scheduled TPB meeting on September 17, 2025, is being cancelled. The TPB's next meeting after July 16, 2025, will be on October 15, 2025.

BACKGROUND

The Visualize 2050 plan adoption schedule was originally adopted by the TPB on April 19, 2023. On June 18, 2024, the TPB approved a schedule extension for final approval to be completed by December 2025. The modified schedule to accommodate the additional air quality conformity analysis showed the TPB receiving the results of the regional air quality conformity and system performance assessment analyses for the two scenarios for Visualize 2050 – one including the I-495 SEL project and the other without – at its July 16, 2025 meeting, and also showed the board acting on the decision of which of these two scenarios to select to move forward in developing Visualize 2050 plan at its September 17, 2025 meeting.

The I-495 SEL project, as proposed by VDOT¹, is a regionally significant project for the air quality conformity analysis, the financial plan, and generally as a transportation infrastructure element. The 11-mile-long project extends through two states (Maryland and Virginia) and three localities (City of Alexandria, Fairfax and Prince George Counties), is on an interstate facility (I-95 / I-495) crossing the Potomac River via the Woodrow Wilson Bridge that is physically in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, and serves more than 250,000 motor vehicles travelling within and through the National Capital region every day.

As such, the I-495 SEL project is of significant interest to all TPB member jurisdictions, particularly so for VDOT (project sponsor), MDOT, Prince George's County, City of Alexandria, Fairfax County and the

¹ Two HOT (Express) lanes (vehicles with 3+ people toll-free) in each direction on I 495 between the I 95/I 395 / I 495 Springfield Interchange and MD 210 with Express bus service between Branch Avenue Metro Station and Tysons Corner to be completed by 2031.

District of Columbia (project is also physically located). The previously scheduled September 17, 2025 meeting, where TPB action was planned to decide whether to accept the proposed changes to this facility as part of its Visualize 2050, presents an unavoidable conflict for the participation by some of the representatives including the District of Columbia.

Alternate meeting dates within the month of September 2025 present similar unavoidable conflicts for other member jurisdictions including VDOT and Prince George's County. With the intent of providing all TPB member jurisdictions the best opportunity to attend and participate in the meeting where action is taken on the I-495 SEL project, staff recommends deferring action on the project to the previously scheduled, regular meeting of the board on October 15, 2025. Staff has been able to examine and revise the schedule of activities for the next steps in the process and is able to preserve the TPB adopted date of adopting Visualize 2050 at its December 17, 2025 meeting. Listed below are the proposed revised detailed next steps in the process of adopting Visualize 2050.

Staff has also determined that at this time there is no work from its work program activities that merit being presented to the board for its review or action in September. As such, staff recommends cancelling the September 17, 2025 meeting.

| 2025 | |
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| June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPB staff draft AQC and performance analysis for the plan and TIP. |
| July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7/16/2025: TPB meeting: Briefing on draft results of the Air Quality Conformity and system performance analyses for both options. |
| September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/24/2025: Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee reviews draft results of the AQC analysis for the updated plan and FY 2026–2029 TIP. |
| October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10/15/2025: TPB votes to move forward with or without the I-495 Southside Express Lanes project for continuation in the plan development and air quality conformity processes. Staff finalizes the draft Visualize 2050 plan, TIP, and AQC documents, website, reflecting TPB's action. 10/23/2025: Staff releases above draft documents and advertises a 30-day public comment period |
| November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11/19/2025: TPB briefed on all aspects of Visualize 2025 and the FY 2026-2029 TIP and comments received with responses, to date. 11/21/2025: Public comment period closes. |
| December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12/17/2025: TPB updated on additional comments and responses and acts to approve the results of the AQC analysis and adopt the Visualize 2050 plan and the FY 2026-2029 TIP. |