

Celebrating

Years of the TPB

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES &
SHAPING THE REGION'S MOBILITY



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

TPB Mission

The TPB was created in 1965 by the region's local and state governments to respond to federal highway legislation in 1962. As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the TPB guides transportation planning within the metropolitan Washington region, ensuring that the transportation planning process is:



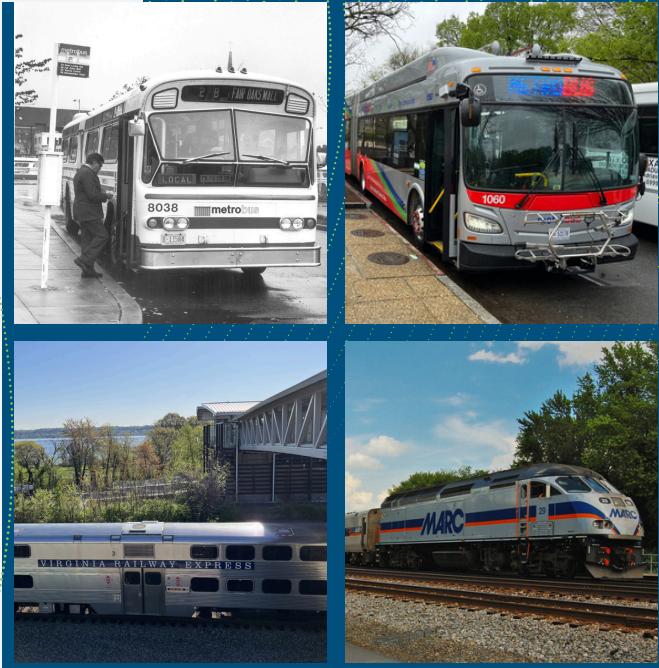
Continuing



Comprehensive



Coordinated



From left to right: COG Archives, Metrobus (Pierre Gaunaud), VRE at Potomac Yards (Pierre Gaunaud), and MARC Train (Mark Levisay/Flickr).

Message from TPB Chairman

James Walkinshaw

This year, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board celebrates 60 years of coordinating regional transportation policy and planning and preparing multimodal plans and programs that make our region more accessible, sustainable, prosperous, and livable.

This anniversary overlaps with the ongoing development of Visualize 2050, the National Capital Region Transportation Plan. TPB staff have been hard at work for over three years identifying specific transportation projects that are financially realistic and achievable for our region in 2050. Planning ahead is key to keeping our transportation investments in a good state of repair while preparing our region to meet the evolving needs of approximately 7 million residents and 4 million jobs in 2050.

Complementing TPB's planning efforts are three technical assistance programs, the Transportation Land-Use Connections, Transit Within Reach, and Regional Roadway Safety Program that support local jurisdictions in engineering for mixed-used, walkable communities. In addition, TPB serves as a central resource for data-driven research on regional travel patterns, transportation resilience, highway asset performance, congestion management, travel demand modeling, roadway safety, and more.

Throughout the years, TPB has acted as a one-stop shop for elected leaders and transportation officials to collaborate in making our streets safer, ensuring an operational and effective transportation system, and shaping the region's mobility to better connect communities for years to come.



TPB Chair Walkinshaw

NOTABLE TPB MILESTONES

Region's First Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP)



The Washington region's first long-range plan, created in the 1960s, envisioned three ring roads and a rail system connecting suburbs to downtown. Today, the region has one ring road—the Capital Beltway—and the Metrorail system.

Air Quality Conformity



In 1994, TPB was required by the New Clean Air Act to begin using complex computer models to predict future travel patterns and estimate vehicle emissions.

Bike to Work Day



In 2001, a regional Bike to Work Day was established. Each year, more DMV residents register—rising from 2,200 registrants in 2002 to 12,777 today. This signature event encourages first-time bicycle commuting.

Regional Roadway Safety Summit



In 2024, TPB hosted its first Regional Roadway Safety Summit joined by academia and the federal government to develop recommendations for local jurisdictions to achieve regional safety outcomes.

Transportation Resilience



In early 2025, the TPB began its first Regional Transportation Resilience Subcommittee. The subcommittee acts through strategic planning to mitigate potential current and future risks to better adapt to the impacts from natural hazards and extreme weather.

Latest National Capital Region Transportation Plan



In fall 2025, the TPB votes to approve the federally mandated metropolitan transportation plan, which outlines future transportation investments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC. Visit: visualize2050.org to learn more about the plan.

Photo credit: COG and Frederick County Fire and Rescue (Maryland Government/Flickr)

About the TPB

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for metropolitan Washington. It is responsible for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process in the metropolitan area. Members of the TPB include representatives of the transportation agencies of the states of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia, local governments, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies, and nonvoting members from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and federal agencies. The TPB is staffed by the Department of Transportation Planning at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

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