

ITEM 10 – INFORMATION
October 15, 2025

Comment Period to Begin on the
Visualize 2050 National Capital Region Transportation Plan, the
FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, and the Related
Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report

Background: With the finalization of the regionally significant project inputs and the regional air quality analysis (above), TPB staff will share preparations for the upcoming public comment period on three documents: the Visualize 2050 National Capital Region Transportation Plan, the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report of Visualize 2050 and the FY 2026-2029 TIP. The comment period is scheduled for October 23 to November 21, 2025



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Cristina Finch, TPB Transportation Planner
SUBJECT: Visualize 2050: Comment Period Preparations
DATE: October 9, 2025

As part of the development of the next National Capital Region Transportation Plan, Visualize 2050, and the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), this month the TPB will initiate the last of three public comment periods. This memorandum provides an overview of the third and final comment period that is scheduled to begin on October 23, 2025 and a brief background on the previous two comment periods. Together, the three comment periods will have collectively created opportunities for the public to comment on Visualize 2045 projects that were proposed for resubmission into Visualize 2050, the air quality conformity process and the air quality conformity inputs, and the Draft 2050 National Capital Region Transportation Plan; Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 20206-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and the Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report.

EXPLANATION OF THE FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPPORTUNITY

The third comment period is scheduled for October 23 to November 21, 2025. This is a 30-day public comment period on the Draft Visualize 2050 National Capital Region Transportation Plan; Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and the Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report of Visualize 2050 and the FY2026-2029 TIP. This will be the final opportunity for the public to comment on the documents. The promise to the public is to convey their comments to the TPB's elected and appointed officials and the member agencies. TPB staff will also develop written responses to comments received; any comments related to projects or other state-specific activities will be shared with the appropriate agency.

The TPB will also host a TIP Forum on November 13, 2025, in conjunction with the TPB Community Advisory Committee meeting. Staff are planning an interim report on comments received by November 9, and plan to share these comments with the TPB in the read-ahead materials scheduled for mailout on November 13. A summary of all comments received will be provided before the December 17 TPB meeting when TPB is scheduled to act on the three documents.

TPB'S PLANS FOR COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

In support of the October 23-November 21, 2025, comment period, COG and the TPB will share information about three draft documents: the Visualize 2050 plan, the FY 2026-2029 TIP, and the accompanying Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report on its Visualize communications hub website, <http://visualize2050.org> and on the COG website, <https://www.mwcoog.org/>.

The Visualize 2050 website is where members of the public will find the draft Visualize 2050 plan, executive summary, FY 2026-2029 TIP, Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report, and supplemental materials including an interactive map gallery.

The visualize2050.org website will include a link to the Visualize 2050 online comment form along with information on other comment options:

- a) the tpbcomment@mwcog.org email address,
- b) the (202) 962-3774 voicemail line, and
- c) the mailing address for comment letters (write to: TPB Chair, 777 N. Capitol Street NE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20002).

The comment form link and instructions will be placed in several locations: the homepage and Get Involved page at visualize2050.org and the TPB Comment Form page at mwcog.org (with a link from the COG homepage).

The October 23-November 21 comment period will be announced in COG and TPB e-newsletters, and through the following COG and TPB social media channels: Bluesky, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and X/Twitter. An Ambassador Toolkit consisting of a comment period guide, flyer, sample social media graphics, and logos will be available for download on the Get Involved page of the Visualize 2050 website. Comment period information will be shared with COG and TPB members, committee members, regional public information officers, and the public. Legal advertisements will run in the Washington Post, Washington Hispanic, and AFRO News. COG's Office of Communications will field and share any news media about the draft Visualize 2050 plan.

The TPB will also share information about the FY 2026-2029 TIP Forum on November 13, 2025, which will be held at 6:00 P.M. at the COG office (with a virtual option). TIP Forum details will be posted on the Visualize 2050 website, in newsletters, and on social media.

NEXT STEPS

The key milestones for the remainder of this year are shown in Table 1. The TPB is scheduled to act on Visualize 2050, the FY 2026-2029 TIP, and the AQC Report at the December 17, 2025 meeting.

Table 1: Remaining Schedule for Developing Visualize 2050

2025	
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 finalize the draft Visualize 2050 plan, TIP, and AQC documents, website, reflecting TPB's action. November 13, 2025, FY 2026-2029 TIP Forum,• 10/23/2025 Staff releases above draft documents and advertises a 30-day public comment period.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11/13/2025 FY 2026-2029 TIP Forum public comment opportunity• 11/19/2025 TPB briefed on all aspects of Visualize 2050 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.

BACKGROUND ON PREVIOUS COMMENT PERIODS

Public engagement for Visualize 2050 and the FY 2026-2029 TIP previously centered around two comment periods:

- February–November 2023: Focus on Visualize 2045 projects
- March 2024: Focus on air quality conformity analysis scope of work and inputs

The first comment period took place between February 15–November 30, 2023. During this first comment period, a Survey Monkey feedback form was used to gather public opinion on Visualize 2045 projects eligible for resubmittal to the Visualize 2050 plan. In addition, TPB staff collected comments about Visualize 2050 via email, voicemail, and letters. At the conclusion of this comment period, TPB staff received 997 project comments. These comments were then summarized and presented to the TPB Board and were made available for agencies to refer to as they re-examined and submitted their projects for Visualize 2050.

The second comment period occurred between March 1 and March 30, 2024, in an open and not statistically significant format. The purpose of this comment period was solely to focus attention on the scope of work which included projects that, due to their capacity-impacting nature, are regionally significant for air quality (RSAQ) conformity and the TPB's air quality conformity analysis process. This second comment opportunity used a MetroQuest interactive comment form that included a map of all RSAQ projects. In addition, TPB staff collected comments about Visualize 2050 via email, voicemail, and letters. In total, 893 individual comments were received, most of which came from the MetroQuest form. The comments were summarized and shared with the TPB Board.