



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

MEMORANDUM

TO: Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee

FROM: Lamont Cobb, Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: TCSP Study: Improving Pedestrian/Bicycle Access at Select Rail Stations

DATE: May 21, 2015

The attached report describes a TPB study that has developed an inventory and map of nearly 3,000 pedestrian and bicycle capital improvements that would improve access to Metro, VRE and MARC rail stations with underutilized ridership capacity. This project was funded under a research grant that the TPB received in 2013 from the Federal Transportation, Community, and Systems Preservation (TCSP) Program. The report was developed by Toole Design, the primary consultant for this study.

This study seeks to better utilize the transportation system by identifying improvements around stations that will encourage rail ridership in reverse commute directions or by selling the same seat twice. The project focused on 25 rail stations that can accommodate additional riders, and are anticipating employment growth over the next decade or have a large concentration of low-income or transit-dependent residents nearby. All 25 stations are in Regional Activity Centers. For the most part, the ped/bike capital improvements in the inventory were derived from existing local plans, although the consultant conducted targeted field work to augment the recommendations for some locations. The 2,992 projects in the database range from simple sidewalk improvements to construction of major trail facilities. The combined price tag for all these projects is estimated at roughly \$800 million. The average cost per project is \$266,486. The database does not prioritize projects.

In the future, TPB staff intends to use this database to encourage project implementation. In particular, we will encourage our member jurisdictions to use the database as a resource for developing project applications for the federally funded Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which funds small capital improvements, and the Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program, which funds planning and preliminary engineering studies.

In addition, TPB staff looks forward to extending this study's analysis efforts in coordination with WMATA, which is launching the development of a Station Area Improvement Strategic Investment Plan to identify and prioritize access improvements for all Metrorail stations.

An interactive map showing the locations and other details of the access recommendations is available at: <http://wikimapping.com/wikimap/Opportune-Rail-Station-Analysis.html>.

The database can be downloaded in Excel and GIS format at:
<http://www.mwcog.org/transportation/activities/tlc/tcsp/tcsp.html>.