

September 18, 2023

Hon. Tom Dernoga, Chair
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

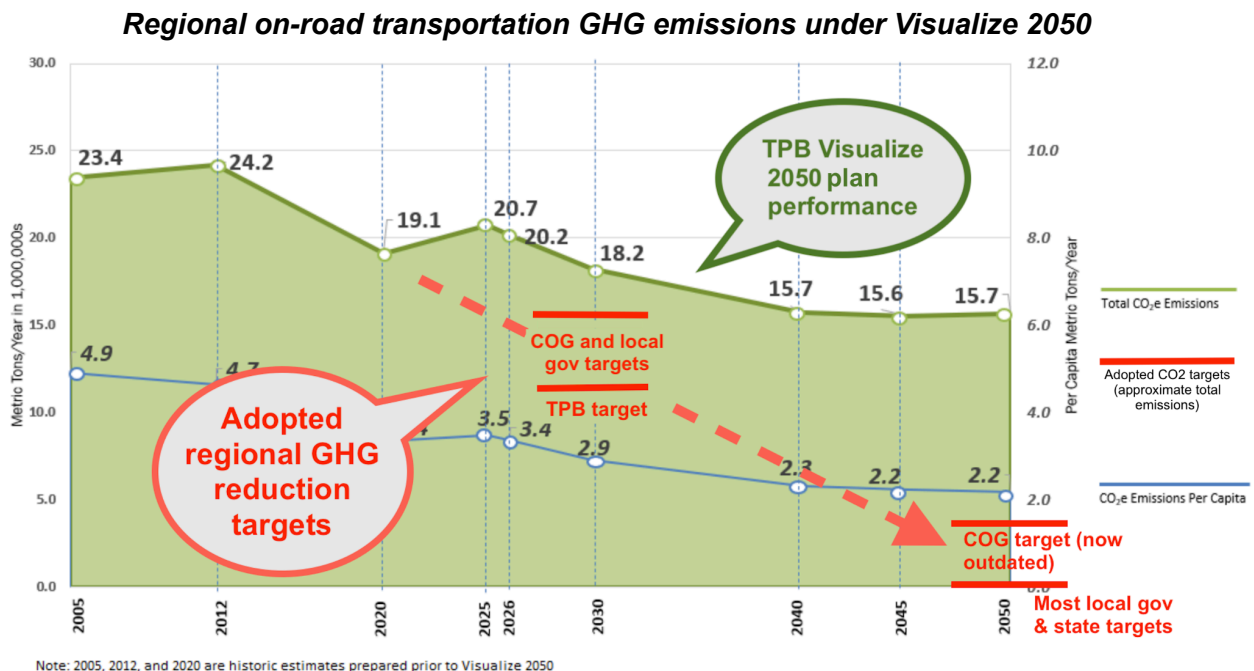
Re: Regional action on climate pollution falling short in Visualize 2050 plan

Dear Chair Dernoga and MWAQC members,

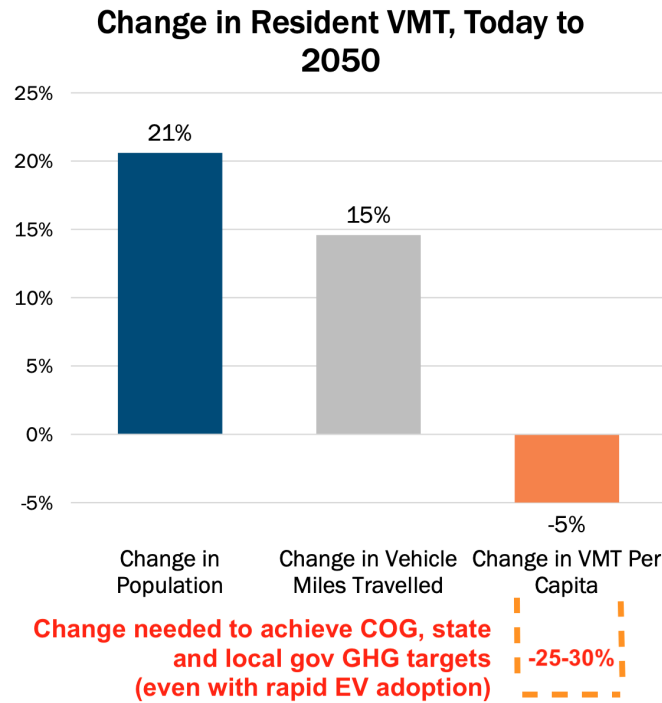
Metropolitan Washington has reached the mid-point for implementation of the COG 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan. Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, and the new Visualize 2050 long-range transportation plan prepared by TPB shows that our region is not doing enough to lower vehicle pollution to meet our 2030 or 2050 targets.

TPB's Climate Change Mitigation Study of 2021 found that the region must both quickly transition to electric vehicles *and* reduce per capita Vehicle Miles Traveled in the magnitude of 20% (and more in later decades) to achieve its GHG targets. We need both a less car-dependent region and cleaner cars. See attached article for more details.

The Coalition for Smarter Growth appreciates your call for further regional VMT reduction strategies in your draft letter on the Visualize air quality conformity analysis. CSG has recommended that TPB's plans also incorporate performance targets for the levels of per capita light duty vehicle VMT and EV adoption needed to achieve the adopted COG GHG targets.



Source: [TPB](#) chart, with red annotations by the Coalition for Smarter Growth



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The Region Forward plan and COG’s Region United framework – and CSG – support a network of walkable, bikeable, inclusive, and transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way for the Washington, DC region to grow and provide opportunities for all. This approach, along with EVs, is also critical for addressing criteria pollutants and the significant non-tailpipe particulate pollution from vehicle brakes and tires.

We hope that MWAQC will continue to encourage the challenging but necessary work that the region must do for cleaner air and a safe climate, and hold the region accountable.

Thank you for your work.

Bill Pugh, AICP CTP
 Transportation & Climate Director

CC: MWCOG Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee, Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee, and National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

Attachment: Bill Pugh, [“Region’s new transportation plan fails to meet climate goals”](#) in *GGWash*, September 3, 2025

