

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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TPB Tech Item #6

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board Technical Committee

FROM: Michael Farrell, Transportation Planner IV
Department of Transportation Planning

SUBJECT: Draft Green Streets Policy and Policy Template

DATE: September 26, 2013

The TPB Technical Committee will be briefed on most recent versions of the following documents:

1. A regional Green Streets policy inventory;
2. A draft regional Green Streets policy; and
3. A Green Streets policy template.

The TPB Technical Committee was briefed on these documents at the September 6th meeting and asked to provide comments before September 27th. However, since the TPB will not be able to review these documents at its' October 16th meeting, we have taken the opportunity to extend the comment period. We would appreciate receiving any additional comments no later than Thursday, October 24th

Background

On December 18, 2012, the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership requested that the TPB develop and approve a regional policy on Green Streets, similar to the regional policy on Complete Streets adopted in May 2012. The Partnership cited Prince George's County's recently adopted Complete and Green Streets policy as a positive example. At its January 2013 meeting the TPB Technical Committee directed staff to organize a stakeholder workshop to determine what gaps, if any, a regional policy could help fill.

Accordingly, Department of Transportation Planning and Department of Environmental Programs staff held a Green Streets workshop on April 8th, 2012, with over 90 people in attendance. Workshop participants concluded that green streets are often the most cost-effective response to stormwater runoff regulations. Additional benefits of green streets include enhanced groundwater supplies, beautification, cooler temperatures, reduced building energy use, enhanced air quality, increased property values, and economic development.

The TPB Technical Committee was briefed on the outcome of the workshop, as well the results of a survey on Green Streets policies and practices of the local governments in the Washington region, at its May 3rd meeting. Technical Committee members requested additional documentation of existing Green Streets and stormwater policies and practices in the Washington region.

The TPB was informed of the outcome of the workshop at its May 15th meeting.

In response to comments from the TPB Technical Committee, DTP and DEP staff prepared a regional Green Streets policy inventory and a draft regional Green Streets policy modeled after the TPB's Complete Streets policy.

Staff also prepared a Green Streets policy template, similar to the Complete Streets policy template which was attached to the TPB's Complete Streets policy. This Green Streets policy template incorporates language from the Prince George's Complete and Green Streets Policy, as well as elements of Green Streets policies from Portland, OR, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, and the Charles River Watershed Association.

The State Technical Working Group, the Anacostia Watershed Management Committee, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, and the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee have been briefed. The current draft documents reflect comments received thus far.