



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Transportation Planning Board  
**FROM:** Lyn Erickson, Plan Development and Coordination Program Director  
**SUBJECT:** Public Comment for the January 2025 TPB Meeting  
**DATE:** January 22, 2025

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The Transportation Planning Board accepts public comment on a rolling basis. Comments can be submitted via email ([tpbcomment@mwkog.org](mailto:tpbcomment@mwkog.org)), online ([mwkog.org/tpbcomment](http://mwkog.org/tpbcomment)), mail, and phone. Comments are collected until noon on the day before the TPB meeting. These comments are compiled and shared with the board at the meeting the following day.

Between noon Tuesday December 17, 2024 and noon Tuesday January 21, 2025, the TPB received one letter. One person signed up to speak in person at the TPB meeting.

The comments are summarized below. All full comments are attached to this memo.

### IN-PERSON PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS

One person signed up to speak during the Item 1 Public Comment item: **Sonya Breehey, Coalition for Smarter Growth.**

### PUBLIC COMMENTS - LETTER/EMAIL RECEIVED

#### **Katherine Garcia- Comments via Letter- January 21, 2025**

On behalf of the Sierra Club, Ms. Garcia urges the TPB to take action on the strategies outlined in the "Implementation Considerations for On-Road Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Strategies." released in October, 2024.

Key points include:

- Prioritizing GHG reduction strategies in the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program.
- Requiring regional accountability to achieve COG's and TPB's GHG reduction goals.
- To reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) while ensuring equity, pair strategies that reflect the true cost of driving with those that incentivize alternative transportation modes.
- Prioritize full funding of transit and other alternatives over continued highway expansion.



Written Comments for the  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (COG)  
Transportation Planning Board (TPB)  
Board Meeting

21 January 2025

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Dear Transportation Planning Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments for your January board meeting on behalf of the Sierra Club District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia chapters. The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with millions of members and supporters. In the DMV area, we have over 30,000 dues-paying members, along with many tens of thousands of supporters.

We urge the TPB to take concrete steps toward advancing strategies outlined in [your study](#) published last October, which aim to reduce on-road transportation emissions. In addition to addressing climate change, reducing vehicle emissions will also help decrease harmful air pollution—a critical need, as the EPA has classified the Washington D.C. region as being in [non-attainment](#) of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone, the primary component of smog.

**We recommend the following:**

- With the strategies you [originally identified](#) for exploration in 2022 now thoroughly examined, it is time to take action. We recommend that your FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program explicitly prioritize implementing greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies to meet TPB's GHG reduction goals for the on-road transportation sector.
- In order to meet [COG's](#) and [TPB's](#) GHG reduction goals, many of the strategies in your report will require regional coordination and accountability.
- As your study highlights, one of the most effective ways to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) while ensuring equity is to pair strategies that reflect the true cost of driving with those that incentivize the use of alternative transportation modes.
- This approach also means prioritizing the full funding of transit and other alternatives over continued highway expansion.

The Sierra Club looks forward to continued dialogue with TPB to ensure the DMV region becomes the most sustainable and accessible place to live and travel.

Thank you,

Katherine Garcia  
Clean Transportation for All Campaign Director  
Sierra Club