
TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

March 7, 2025

1. WELCOME, VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES, AND MEMBER ROLL CALL PROTOCOL

Staff described the procedures and protocols for the virtual meeting and conducted a roll call. Meeting participants are documented in the attached attendance list.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING RECAP FROM THE FEBRUARY 7, 2025 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

There were no questions or comments regarding the February Technical Committee meeting. The summary was accepted as final.

ITEMS FOR THE BOARD AGENDA

3. BRIEFING ON THE DRAFT FY 2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Ms. Lyn Erickson said that the only pages that changed from last month's Unified Planning Work Program were the expenditures. She said that the TPB staff are confident in the numbers presented in the Unified Planning Work Program, with the grand total amounting to \$27.1 million. She explained that there are two actions the board needs to take: first, to amend the 2025 UPWP to allocate funds for carryover, and second, to approve the 2026 UPWP, which will already include the carryover amounts. She noted that TPB staff is proposing to carry over \$1.8 million from a couple of programs, which is incorporated into the \$27 million total. She added that she has not received any comments from any board members.

Ms. Lyn Erickson expressed that the Unified Planning Work Program is part of business as usual, and once it is approved by federal partners by early June, TPB will be able to receive the federal funds by July 1.

There were no questions or comments for Ms. Lyn Erickson.

4. BRIEFING ON THE DRAFT FY 2026 COMMUTER CONNECTIONS WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Dan Sheehan presented on the Commuter Connections Work Program. He said that Commuter Connections has received a significant uptick in phone calls due to the return-to-office policy and said that the Technical Committee is invited to provide comments on the Commuter Connections Work Program. He said that the FY 2026 Commuter Connections Work Program will be presented to the Transportation Planning Board in March.

There were no follow-up questions for Mr. Sheehan.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. VISUALIZE 2050 UPDATE

Ms. Cristina Finch kicked-off the multi-part presentation on the development of Visualize 2050 and the FY 2026-2029 TIP by updating members on the status of the remaining Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB) activities. Agencies have been working in a self-paced mode through each of the six steps

towards the goal of accomplishing all work prior to the May 9, 2025, deadline. Ms. Finch also reviewed the remaining schedule and key dates for the remainder of this year working towards the anticipated adoption of the plan and TIP in December 2025. Following a question from Chair Weisburg, Ms. Finch clarified the presentation from VDOT on the I-495 Southside Express Lanes project will only occur at the TPB board meeting. Mr. Dan Malouf thanked staff for their support and assistance during the ZBB effort.

Ms. Jamie Bufkin informed the committee on the federally required Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (Safetea-Lu) discussion on potential environmental mitigation activities for environmental resources that are affected by the metropolitan transportation plan. Ms. Bufkin first provided an overview of the TPB's history in the development of an environmental consultation process with regional environmental agencies, which found that the TPB's limited involvement posed challenges to addressing project-level details. From this process, the creation of an interactive map that highlights environmental and historic resources with planned projects was found to be a useful tool to review the assessment of projects at a regional scale. Ms. Bufkin then gave a demo of the Visualize 2050 update to this interactive map and explained the different layers included and showed how the tool might be used to inform agencies. She then highlighted common environmental impacts from transportation projects and the various scales at which mitigation efforts can be applied. A table of the updated potential mitigation activities in the region were shown, which came from a review of five major projects in Visualize 2050 that have undergone environmental review. Ms. Bufkin concluded by asking that committee members bring this information back to their environmental staff and determine whether any common, ongoing mitigation activities are missing from the list and to provide feedback on the interactive map and overall consultation process. Once the map is updated with the 2050 projects, staff will inform committee members.

Mr. Andrew Austin spoke to his presentation and stated that TPB staff would soon be distributing an addendum to the Technical Inputs Solicitation (TIS) document that was approved by the TPB in February 2023. He stated that this addendum was necessary because the first three of four steps described in the initial TIS document had to be completed at the very outset of the plan and TIP update process, while the final step of updating the TIP inputs had to come at the very end of the process, and if nothing else, the users would be using a different platform for the financial inputs at the end of the process then they would for conformity inputs at the outset. He discussed some of the federal requirements that played a larger role in the TIP development such as financial constraint and the Congestion Management Process. He briefly outlined the procedures that agencies would use to provide their financial inputs. Mr. Austin also announced two training sessions to be held on March 13 and 14 and two Q&A sessions to be held on Friday, March 21 and Friday, March 28.

Christine Hoeffner asked for verification that all amendments and administrative modifications made to the FY 2023-2026 TIP would be carried over. Mr. Austin confirmed this.

Ms. Rachel Beyerle presented an overview of the new visualize2050.org website. Ms. Beyerle explained that the TPB staff wanted the new website to contain useful information on the Visualize 2050 National Capital Region Transportation Plan's development, plan documents, background materials, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report, and public comment opportunities while being easy to navigate. Ms. Beyerle walked through the structure, menu, and navigation of the website, pointing out new features. Ms. Beyerle stated that the website would include a gallery of interactive maps. Ms. Beyerle said that the materials that would be added to the website in the coming months include: the Plan, TIP, Air Quality Conformity Report, additional maps, and links to public comment resources on the Get Involved page which will serve as a communications hub for the fall 2025 comment period. Ms. Beyerle encouraged

committee members to share information about the website on their own websites, in newsletters, and on their social media channels.

There were no follow-up questions.

6. MWAQC ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE: EJ AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

Mr. Robert Christopher introduced the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) explaining how it is the entity responsible for developing and maintaining the regional air quality plans for the region. It is housed at COG and works in coordination with state air agencies in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. MWAQC members have been increasingly interested in addressing environmental justice concerns from an air quality perspective and this interest eventually led to the creation of the Environmental Justice Subcommittee. He explained how the subcommittee met monthly last year to discuss and address the topic of environmental justice around the region a contractor was brought on board to aid in the process of working on an Environmental Justice Action Plan. The action plan focuses on equity-driven strategies to improve air quality.

Mr. Robert Christopher went through the contents of the action plan. He said that MWQAC is accepting comment through next Friday, March 14. There were no questions for Mr. Christopher. Ms. Lyn Erickson said that TPB staff have yet to review and comment on the Environmental Justice Action Plan.

There were no follow-up questions.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Vicki Caudullo presented the upcoming solicitation period for Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP) for Maryland and Virginia. She explained how this federal reimbursement program funds design, preliminary engineering or construction of projects aimed at improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and enhancing safety. The application period for Maryland TAP is April 1 to April 30 and the Virginia pre-application period is from April 1 to May 30. For Virginia, applicants are required to submit a pre-application to apply.

Ms. Lyn Erickson reminded members in Maryland Jurisdictions that MDOT's Climate Focused Funding Portal solicitation is open until March 26. She said that the link is on the agenda. The solicitation is for projects to be considered for Carbon Reduction Program funding.

Mr. Kanti Srikanth shared his thoughts on recent federal actions. He thanked the FTA and FHWA for being responsive and available to engage with the TPB regarding emerging and evolving federal policy priorities within the transportation sector. The TPB will be asked to adopt the budget this month, although FHWA and FTA must still approve it. He also expressed his gratitude to the state DOTs for providing funding estimates.

Mr. Srikanth explained that the only change is that, once the MPO adopts a long-range plan and the TIP, they are required to conduct an environmental justice analysis; however, the Executive Order mandating this was rescinded. He stated that they are awaiting clarification on whether the TPB will need to undertake any kind of environmental justice analysis and whether a new framework for conducting such analyses will be introduced.

Furthermore, Mr. Srikanth highlighted that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act forms the basis of the funding and defines all activities that MPOs are required to perform. This act expires on September 30, 2026, meaning that the Federal Government must reauthorize the transportation act. He indicated that related work activities at the US DOT level and within the US Congress are expected to begin this year and next. It is still early, and it remains unclear what kinds of changes might emerge in the reauthorization bill.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT	
Amy Garbarini – DRPT – V Ann McGrane – NVTC – V Brittany Sumpter – VRE – V Chloe Delhomme – City of Manassas – V Corey Pitts – MCDOT – V Cynthia Johnson – PRTC – V Dan Koenig – FTA – V Dan Malouff – Arlington County – V David Edmondson – City of Frederick – V David Schilling – FTA – V David Rodgers – MDOT – V Douglas Smith – City of Gaithersburg – V Gerri Lloyd – PRTC – V Heather Edelman – DC – V James Walkinshaw – Fairfax County – V Kari Snyder – MDOT – V	Markus Tarjamo – Charles County – V Meagan Landis – Prince William County – V Neil Harris – City of Gaithersburg – V Rebecca Schwartzman – DC OP – V Victor Weissberg – Prince George’s County – I Regina Moore – VDOT – V Rob Donaldson – Loudoun County – V Ryan Washington – MWAA – V Sree Nampoothiri – NVTA – V Mark Phillips – WMATA – V Maria Sinner – VDOT – V
OTHERS / MWCOC STAFF PRESENT	
Charlene Howard – V Cristina Finch – I Jamie Bufkin – V Katerine Rainone – V Leo Pineda – V Kanti Srikanth – I Lyn Erickson – I Tim Canan – I Rob d’Abadie – I Mark Moran – I Amanda Lau – I Eric Randall – V Dan Sheehan – I Laura Bachle – I Sergio Ritacco – I	Janie Nham – I Dusan Vuksan – I Victoria Caudullo – V Pierre Gaunard – V Sara Brown – I Andrew Austin – I Rachel Beyerle – I Andrew Meese – V Feng Xie – V Jane Posey – V