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## **TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

July 2, 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 JUNE 6, 2025 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

## **ITEMS FOR THE BOARD AGENDA**

### **3. FY 2026 MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET ASIDE PROGRAM PROJECT APPROVALS**

Ms. Victoria Caudullo briefed the Committee on the projects recommended for funding under the fiscal year 2026 cycle of the Maryland Department of Transportation suballocation of federal Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP) funds.

Ms. Caudullo presented on the projects recommended by the MD TAP Technical Selection Committee to receive technical assistance in fiscal year 2026. The Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program provides federal funds for small-scale projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, trails, safe routes to school (SRTS) projects, community improvements, and environmental mitigation. These kinds of projects are considered "alternatives" to traditional highway construction. The TPB is responsible for selecting projects in the region using portions of each state's TA Set-Aside funding. The TA Set-Aside Program provides the TPB with the chance to support walkable and bikeable communities in all corners of our region.

This year, two applications requesting a total of \$333,005 in federal funding were received. A selection panel consisting of Virginia Department of Transportation, District Department of Transportation, and TPB staff convened in June to recommend that the TPB Steering Committee approve a resolution to fund the following two projects at its July 2 meeting:

- Charles County, Connect Waldorf - Leonardtown Road Corridor Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvement Feasibility Study (feasibility study, \$102,000)
- Prince George's County, Safe Routes to School Coordinator Position (non-infrastructure, \$231,005)

The TPB Steering Committee will be asked to approve the selection panel's recommendation at the board meeting on July 2, 2025. Following the board's action, TPB staff will forward information regarding the approved project to MDOT for actions at the state level. Unfunded projects in our region will be eligible for funding using the statewide TA Set-Aside funds. In August, MDOT will conduct a process to select projects using the statewide TA funds. Once all selections are finalized, MDOT staff will work with applicants to administer funding.

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Following Ms. Caudullo's presentation, Chairperson Victor Weissberg shared his thanks for the TPB's efforts and shared context as to how the Prince George's application will support the County's efforts and bolster MDOT's focus on safety improvements for students walking or biking to school.

#### **4. VISUALIZE 2050 FINALIZATION OF PROJECT INPUTS FOR THE AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS**

In this multi-part presentation, Cristina Finch first provided an update on past/current activities to develop Visualize 2050, the FY 2026-2029 TIP, and the air quality conformity analysis of both. Rob d'Abadie shared the air quality conformity analysis results of the two options (with and without the I-495 Southside Express Lanes project), as directed by the Board in June 2024. He also shared results from analyses of other mobile source emissions. Sergio Ritacco presented select measures from the future system performance analysis and the regional difference made by the I-495 Southside Express Lanes project. Ms. Finch also reviewed the remaining schedule and key dates for the remainder of this year working towards the anticipated adoption of the plan, TIP, and conformity report in December 2025.

Ms. Regina Moore inquired about the timeframe of the public comment period if Board votes in October instead of September which would also need to be moved to a later start date. Mr. Nick Ruiz inquired about the percent of non-work-related trips that are non-SOV (single occupancy vehicle) to which Mr. Srikanth explained that the "all trips" data includes work and non-work and that for work trips only, the majority are SOV trips, but for all trips, the majority is non-SOV.

Mr. Vic Weissberg acknowledged that Metrorail on the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge was not a technical input to Visualize 2050 but inquired if it was factored into the analysis. Mr. Srikanth responded it was not as only submitted projects were analyzed and any others would need to be part of a separate scenario analysis. Mr. Eric Randall shared Metro had done significant analysis as part of their Blue/Orange/Silver Line Study. Mr. Srikanth acknowledged the many transit options in the region today and how hard it is to make a large impact on regional mode share with one project that would only entail approximately 10 miles of additional heavy rail.

Mr. Corey Pitts asked about the role of telecommuting in the performance results to which Mr. Srikanth and Mr. Dusan Vuksan explained the model reflects pre-covid levels of travel and telecommuting which yield results that overestimate emissions from pre-pandemic higher commuting and lower telecommuting. Additionally, the emissions analysis uses the EPA MOVES4 model, and even with the overestimation of emissions, the results shared are still below the emissions budget.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### **5. 2024 STATE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION REPORT**

Mr. Gaunaud presented an update of the 2024 State of Public Transportation report, which will be published this fall. The draft report was created in collaboration with the members of the Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee (RPTS) and summarizes the previous year's activities and accomplishments of the region's transit agencies. Other data for the report comes from the FY 2023 National Transit Database and open-source materials. The 2024 version of the report will be more

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streamlined than previous editions with the removal of a subject-specific “deep dive” chapter. It is also expected to include more infographics. Other report highlights include that Metrorail ridership is increasing and catching up to total regional bus transit ridership and several local operators are experiencing large ridership gains, including Transit Services of Frederick County which surpassed pre-pandemic levels. In 2024, fare free local bus service in Loudoun County, the development and completion of several major planning documents by agencies across the region, and development of a new operations and maintenance facility for Arlington Transit exemplified the breadth of transit planning activities. In DC, the Circulator bus system ceased its operations in December 2024, leaving Metrobus as the sole local operator. Mr. Gaunaard noted that a draft of the report will be presented to RPTS for final feedback.

After the presentation, Chair Weissberg emphasized that there are many changes happening to bus systems around the region, including operators going fare free and ongoing service network redesigns.

Mr. Canan from TPB followed with a notice about upcoming transit survey work. He described how Ken Joh (TPB) gave a presentation to the Technical Committee in June on various upcoming surveys in the region, including the coordination of on-board transit surveys. Mr. Canan explained that high-quality transit data, like from on-board surveys, is necessary to calibrate and validate regional travel models. He ended by noting that TPB will reach out shortly to directors of transit operators requesting their partnership and cooperation in facilitating the survey deployment.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs. Victoria Caudullo announced the solicitation period for Transit Within Reach from June to August.

Mr. Kanti Srikanth announced that the COG Board Retreat will be held at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Hotel in Cambridge, Maryland on July 25-26, 2025.

Ms. Amanda Lau provided a synopsis of the Technical Committee Subcommittee Meetings that were held for the month of June.

There were no staff updates.

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## ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT	
Andrew Bossi – MCDOT Christine Fix – VPRA Corey Pitts – MCDOT Douglas Smith – City of Gaithersburg Janine Ashe – FHWA Kari Snyder – MDOT Leo Pineda – VDOT Mark Rawlings – DDOT Markus Tarjamo – Charles County Melissa Kim – WMATA	Starla Couso – NVT Victor Weissberg – Prince George’s County Rahul Trivedi – VDOT Rebecca Schwartzman – DCOP Regina Moore – VDOT Rob Donaldson – Loudoun County Shannon Bacon – NVTC
OTHERS / MWCOC STAFF PRESENT	
Amanda Lau – I Lyn Erickson – I Kanti Srikanth – I Andrew Austin – I Sergio Ritacco – I Sara Brown – I Vicki Caudullo – I Tim Canan – I Laura Bachle – I Rachel Beyerle – I Tom Harrington – I	Mark Moran – I Janie Nham – V Charlene Howard – V Cristina Finch – V Dusan Vuksan – V Jamie Bufkin – V Pierre Gaunard – I Robert d’Abadie – I Eric Randall – V