**ITEM 7 – ACTION**
**November 18, 2026**

I-495 Southside Express Lanes (SEL): Air Quality Conformity Scope of Work Approval and Amendment Process Initiation

**Action:** Adopt Resolution R5-2027 to approve the I-495 SEL project submission, the Air Quality Conformity Analysis Scope of Work and proposed analysis schedule.

**Background:** VDOT has requested and the TPB has agreed to begin activities to initiate a Visualize 2050 plan amendment and revise the air quality conformity analysis to include the new I-495 SEL project as presented by VDOT in October 2026. The conformity process will be explained, and the TPB will be asked to approve the air quality conformity analysis scope of work and schedule for the analysis. After reviewing the results of the conformity analysis and a 30 day public comment period, the TPB will consider amending the new project into the Visualize 2050 in March 2027.

TPB R5-2027
November 18, 2026

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

# RESOLUTION ON REVISING THE AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN, VISUALIZE 2050, AND THE FY 2026-2029 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO REFLECT INCLUSION OF THE I-495 SOUTHSIDE EXPRESS LANES PROJECT FOR A POTENTIAL OFF-CYCLE AMENDMENT OF THE PLAN AND TIP

**WHEREAS**, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), as the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington region, has the responsibility under the provisions of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, reauthorized November 15, 2021 when the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law, for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the metropolitan area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Planning Regulations of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) implementing the FAST Act, which became effective June 27, 2016, specify the development and content of the metropolitan transportation plan (MTP), referred to by TPB as the National Capital Region Transportation Plan, and of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and require that it be reviewed and updated at least every four years; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA), issued on November 24, 1993 "Criteria and Procedures for Determining Conformity to State or Federal Implementation Plans of Transportation Plans, Programs, and Projects Funded or Approved Under Title 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act," and, over the years, subsequently amended these regulations and provided additional guidance, which taken together provide the specific criteria for the TPB to make a determination of conformity of its MTP and TIP with the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality maintenance within the Metropolitan Washington non-attainment area; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 17, 2025, the TPB adopted resolution R3-2026 determining that the MTP, which the TPB calls "Visualize 2050," and the FY 2026-2029 TIP, conform to all requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, and resolution R4-2026 approving Visualize 2050 and the FY 2026-2029 TIP; and

**WHEREAS,** on April 2, 2026, the FHWA and the FTA reviewed and approved the air quality conformity analysis for Visualize 2050 and FY 2026-2029 TIP; and

**WHEREAS,** prior to adopting Visualize 2050 and the FY 2026-2029 TIP in December 2025, the TPB deferred including the I-495 Southside Express Lanes (SEL) project pending Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) continuing project development work to fully address the issues that were identified by TPB members; and

**WHEREAS,** VDOT briefed the TPB on its work with TPB member jurisdictions addressing the issues previously identified and presented a revised I-495 SEL project at the October 21, 2026 meeting; and

**WHEREAS,** in the attached letter of November 5, 2026, VDOT requested that Visualize 2050 be amended to include the revised I-495 SEL project, "off-cycle," ahead of the next required update of the Plan and TIP in 2029; and

**WHEREAS,** the I-495 SEL project is regionally significant and amending this project into Visualize 2050 and the FY 2026-2029 TIP requires revising the approved air quality conformity analysis prior to the TPB's action on amending the Plan and TIP to include the I-495 SEL project; and

**WHEREAS,** VDOT submitted the project description and technical specifications needed for the air quality conformity analysis, which have been reviewed by the TPB Technical Committee at its meeting on November 6, 2026; and

**WHEREAS,** the project submission has been developed to meet the financial plan requirements in developing a fiscally constrained MTP; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board approves:

1. The I-495 SEL project submission, as described in the attached materials, for use in the air quality conformity analysis; and
2. The attached Air Quality Conformity Analysis Scope of Work; and
3. The proposed schedule for consideration of the Visualize 2050 and TIP amendment that anticipates releasing the results of the revised air quality conformity analysis for public comment on February 5, 2026, and the TPB being able to consider action on amending the Plan and TIP to include the I-495 SEL project as early as the March 17, 2027, meeting.