



The TPB's Long-Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program: **Technical Inputs Solicitation**

Policy Guide

Updated April 2023



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

Purpose of this Technical Inputs Solicitation Document

The Technical Inputs Solicitation is a process used by the TPB to solicit technical inputs for two federally required documents: the long-range transportation plan (LRTP) and the biennial Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The LRTP represents a collection of both motorized (highway and transit) projects and non-motorized (walk and bike) projects as well as travel demand management programs that TPB member agencies plan to invest transportation funds in and implement over the next 20 years (at a minimum). The TIP is a federal obligation document that describes the planned schedule in the next four years for distributing federal, state and local funds to construct or implement specific projects that are in the LRTP.

The TPB's current LRTP is called Visualize 2045 and its TIP covers FY 2023-2026. When either of these documents are updated, the federal government requires the TPB to conduct an in-depth analysis to ensure projected emissions of certain pollutants generated by users of the region's future transportation system will not exceed (or will "conform to") the air quality emissions budgets set forth in the region's air quality plans. This is known as air quality conformity. Based on the results of the analysis, a determination is made to confirm conformity.

The TPB intends to update its LRTP, to be called Visualize 2050, and its TIP. This solicitation document requests technical inputs from the TPB member agencies for Visualize 2050 and the FY 2026-2029 TIP. It also provides a brief overview of the plan and TIP update including: 1) the technical inputs solicitation process, 2) requirements, 3) information to consider when examining and submitting projects, and 4) the schedule.

1. Technical Inputs Solicitation Process for the Next Update

The TPB approved its current plan and TIP on June 15, 2022. The federal agencies approved the conformity determination for the plan and TIP on August 25, 2022. The plan and TIP approved in 2022 were based on project submissions that were approved by the TPB in Resolution R19-2021 in June 2021 for inclusion in the plan and TIP analysis. As part of Resolution R19-2021, the TPB further directed its staff to initiate an update to the 2022 plan with a target completion date of 2024. If the process takes longer (beyond first quarter of 2025); out of term amendments should be considered.

One of the major activities for the development of Visualize 2050 and the FY 2026-FY 2029 TIP, as outlined in the Resolution R19-2021, is using a zero-based budgeting approach for this technical inputs solicitation, and consideration of scenario study findings to inform the submissions.

Using a zero-based budgeting approach means that the TPB member agencies will re-examine all projects, programs, and policies in the current Plan and TIP and resubmit them for the Plan and TIP update. Specifically, the intent is to enable the submissions to better reflect TPB planning priorities, be more aligned with the TPB's policy framework, be more reflective of TPB scenario findings, and be more responsive to other findings from related TPB analysis. Documents that the TPB sponsoring agencies should review and consider prior to resubmitting their technical inputs are described and linked in this document.

Resolution R19-2021 also noted that projects that are under construction or have funding allocations would be exempt from a re-examination and re-submission for this update. TPB member agencies are being provided a comprehensive list of projects

that are in the current LRTP, Visualize 2045, with those that are under construction or have funding identified.

Pages 5-7 present a proposed schedule for Visualize 2050 and the TIP. This schedule is in part driven by requirements related to the Air Quality Conformity requirements and is subject to change. For due dates for the technical inputs please see the schedule included herein.

2. What's Required

This Technical Inputs Solicitation requires that agencies undertake the following:

- Step 1. Financial Plan and Fiscal Constraint Analysis: Submit updated projected revenues and estimated expenditures to expand, operate, and maintain the region's transportation system through 2050.
- Step 2. LRTP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis: Review and update existing projects, programs, and policies to be included in the conformity analysis.
- Step 3. LRTP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis: Add new projects, programs, and policies to be included in the conformity analysis.
- Step 4. LRTP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis: Add additional operational and service details to be included in the conformity analysis

Each sponsoring agency will be provided specific data entry details in the Technical Input Solicitation Instructional Guide and Transit Memorandum.

Review, Comment, and Approval Process

The submissions to this solicitation (draft technical inputs) will undergo a process of review, comment, and approval before initiating the air quality conformity analysis. The steps of this process are outlined on the next page.

REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT PROJECT

What is a 'regionally significant project?'

To meet federal guidelines, the TPB defines it with respect to the air quality conformity analysis as:

- 1) Any project on a facility that is included in the coded regional network that adds or removes at least one continuous vehicular lane from one major road to the next, or adds a new access/egress location or capacity; or
- 2) Any transit project that adds or modifies fixed-guideway transit facilities (heavy rail, light rail, streetcar, bus rapid transit).



Board and Committee Review

It is the TPB’s responsibility to approve project, program, and policy submissions for inclusion in the LRTP and TIP. The LRTP and TIP inputs have typically undergone local review, however, the TPB is responsible for a regional review. The TPB’s tasks are to:

- Become acquainted with project and program details
- Review for consistency with regional planning goals and priorities
- Review for consistency with locally adopted plans and priorities
- Ensure that opportunity for input from the public and local officials has been provided
- Discuss whether and how submissions support the concept “think regionally, act locally”

3. Information that TPB sponsor agencies should consider when re-examining, resubmitting, or submitting new projects, programs, and policies

The TPB’s actions to set regional goals, priorities and its various studies and analysis are intended to inform regional planning and to influence the decision-making process of its member agencies as to the most effective projects, programs and policies in which to invest. Therefore, as part of the Technical Inputs Solicitation, the TPB staff are making readily available documents for consideration as agencies re-evaluate what inputs to submit for Visualize 2050.

The TPB Synthesized Policy Framework and the TPB Summary of Scenario Studies Findings will be considered part of the TPB’s Technical Inputs Solicitation for the Visualize 2050. These documents are expected to be used by TPB member agencies to develop inputs for Visualize 2050. Additionally, the TPB produces other analysis and information that should also be considered as

agencies examine the potential inputs to Visualize 2050, such as the performance analysis, public comment, and environmental justice analysis of the 2022 LRTP (Visualize 2045). Brief descriptions of these resources and links to where each can be reviewed are on the new Visualize 2050 webpage (Visualize2050.org) and below:

To inform regional planning, the TPB sponsor agencies should review and consider the following resources:

- [Visualize 2050, Synthesized Policy Framework](#)
- [Visualize 2050, Scenario Planning Studies – Summary of Findings](#)
- [Visualize 2050, Scenario Planning Studies – Appendix A: Detailed Findings](#)
- [Visualize 2045 Update, Environmental Justice Analysis](#)
- [Visualize 2045 Update, Air Quality Conformity Determination Summary](#)
- [Visualize 2045 Update, Performance Analysis of the Transportation System](#)
- [Visualize 2045 Update, Voices of the Region Outreach](#)
- [Visualize 2045 Update, Public Comments](#)
- [Visualize 2045 Update, list of all projects in the plan by jurisdiction, and how each sponsor agency indicates the projects advance the TPB policy priorities and federal planning factors](#)
- [Visualize 2045 Update, key elements of the Air Quality Conformity policy and technical approach](#)
- [Equity Emphasis Areas \(EEAs\)](#)
- [High-Capacity Transit Station and EEA interactive planning tool](#)

4. Visualize 2050 Schedule

Updated 6-month extension (TPB Board Approved April 2023)

Timeframe		Activity
CY 2023	January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPB staff present to TPB and its Technical Committee the complete draft Technical Inputs Solicitation document for review TPB staff publish new LRTP 2024 update (Visualize 2050) and Technical Inputs Solicitation webpage with resources to support the update
	February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff present to the TPB and its Technical Committee the complete final and Technical Inputs Solicitation document for review and approval The TPB releases the Technical Inputs Solicitation document to initiate the Call for Projects The list of exempt and non-exempt projects will be published for board and public review, the TPB will receive public comments from March-November on the non-exempt projects and will provide the comments to the members of the board and their technical agencies Coordination begins with members of the board and technical staff to schedule policy priority discussions and non-exempt projects InfoTrak training will be provided for technical staff of the sponsor agencies
	March - April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPB member agencies will begin re-examination of project inputs and consider the TPB priorities (synthesized policy framework) and scenario findings in developing Visualize 2050 inputs. TPB staff will facilitate meetings with board members and their technical agency staff to discuss potential inputs during applied ZBB approach (3 meetings, one for each DC, MD, VA) TPB member agency technical staff will begin to input technical information into Project InfoTrak (fresh start- re-entry of data) for the proposed projects (including those exempt from re-examination as per ZBB Approach) TPB staff continue working with TPB member agencies on updates to financial analysis: high-level revenue and expenditure (operations, maintenance, and capital forecast)
	May - December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPB member agency technical staff continue and complete re-examination of current projects and propose new projects, informed by TPB policy framework and scenario studies, that advance TPB priorities and goals, for inclusion in Visualize 2050 TPB staff will continue to assist TPB members and member agency staff, including facilitated meetings with board members and their technical agency staff, as necessary, to discuss potential inputs to Visualize 2050 TPB member agency staff will continue to input technical information into Project InfoTrak (fresh start re-entry of data) for the proposed projects (including those exempt from re-examination as per ZBB) TPB staff continue accepting and sharing public comments on Visualize 2050 project inputs with TPB members and their transportation agencies TPB staff continues financial analysis, to be completed by December 29, 2023 in tandem with InfoTrak database updates

CY 2024	January - February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary inputs due December 29 for the LRTP and Air Quality Conformity (AQC) analysis for staff review and coordination • Staff will review and compile the conformity table showing changes. Staff to send draft table with changes to agencies for review on February 1. Agencies to provide corrections by February 15 • TPB member agencies submit technical corrections to preliminary inputs and updates based on TPB/interagency consultation to produce final inputs for comment period. • Final project inputs for the LRTP and Air Quality Conformity (AQC) analysis due to TPB staff for inclusion in comment period documentation (February 15) • TPB staff will reconcile draft financial analysis results and produce preliminary financial plan to reflect project submissions
	March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 1 - The TPB Technical Committee will review the draft financial plan; projects proposed for inclusion in the conformity analysis, and the draft AQC scope of work. Public comment period starts March 1 on projects and AQC scope of work • The TPB will receive a briefing on the draft inputs to the plan/AQC analysis and the draft AQC scope of work and the draft financial plan • Public comment period runs March 1 through March 30 on inputs to the plan/AQC analysis and AQC scope of work. MWAQC TAC will review this information during its fall meeting
	April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TPB will receive a summary of the public comments on the draft inputs to the plan and AQC analysis; agencies sponsoring the projects will have the opportunity to discuss and advise staff on responses • The TPB will review responses to comments and updates to inputs to the plan and scope of work for the AQC analysis
	Early 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA anticipated to find new Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEBs) in the updated 2008 ozone maintenance plan adequate for use in air quality conformity analyses.
	May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TPB will be asked to accept the comments and approve the inputs and scope, authorizing staff to begin analysis. • Continue financial analysis: (May 2024-March 2025) final revisions, report production
	May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPB staff commence Air Quality Conformity technical analysis after TPB approval

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CY 2025	Winter 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) inputs due for the FY 2026-2029 TIP January 26, 2025 • TPB staff complete financial plan: final revisions, report production • TPB staff complete Air Quality Conformity technical analysis and draft report • TPB staff draft performance analysis for the plan and TIP
	April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment period on the plan, TIP, and the results of AQC analysis for the updated plan and FY 2026-2029 TIP from April 1 - April 30 • The TPB Technical Committee and MWAQC and MWAYC TAC will review the draft results of AQC analysis for the updated plan and FY 2026-2029 TIP during their meetings • The TPB will receive a briefing on the draft results of teh AQC analysis for the plan and TIP
	May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TPB will receive a summary of the comments received on the analysis, plan, and TIP; the agencies sponsoring the projects will have the opportunity to advise staff on responses to comments.
	June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TPB will be asked to approve the results of the AQC analysis and adopt the updated plan and the FY 2026-2029 TIP



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