

Frequently Asked Questions About The Transportation Improvement Program

What is an MPO?

MPO stands for “Metropolitan Planning Organization.” The MPO is the federally-designated regional transportation planning organization that serves as a forum for cooperative transportation decision-making. The MPO board includes elected officials and technical staffs from the City of Richmond; the Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent and Powhatan; and the Town of Ashland. It also includes staff from state and regional agencies and from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. The Richmond Regional Planning District Commission staff serves as staff for the MPO. Further information on the MPO is provided on the attached flyer (i.e., “Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization”).

What is a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the list of transportation projects in the Richmond Region that are to be carried out within a four-year period. All major projects included in the TIP must be included in the list of projects contained in the *Richmond Area MPO 2031 Long-Range Transportation Plan*.

How will the information/opinions I provide be used?

All written responses will be shared with the MPO board for their consideration in making decisions about the TIP. The MPO staff will also prepare a response to all significant comments received. These responses will also be considered by the MPO in their decision-making process.

What happens with the TIP once it is adopted?

Once the TIP is adopted by the MPO, it is forwarded on to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) where it is reviewed and approved for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) along with the TIPs from the other regions in Virginia. VDOT then submits the STIP to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). These federal agencies review the STIP to ensure that it meets all applicable regulations and requirements. Upon completion of federal agencies’ review and approval, projects in the STIP can become eligible for federal transportation funds.

Where to submit your comment:

Please submit your written comments to the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission by **4:30 p.m., May 18, 2011**. Please mail, e-mail, or fax your written comments by way of the contact information provided below.

U.S. Mail: Ms. Barbara Nelson
RRPDC
9211 Forest Hill Avenue, Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23235
Fax: (804) 323.2033
E-mail: bnelson@richmondregional.org

Where can I get more information?

For information about the Transportation Improvement Program, please call Barbara Nelson, Principal Transportation Planner with the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC) at 323.2033, or visit the RRPDC website at www.richmondregional.org. The proposed Transportation Improvement Program is posted on the RRPDC web site. We will gladly email or mail a copy of the document, if requested. For the hearing impaired, we can be reached at 323-2033 through the Virginia Relay Center at 1-800-828-1120.