

# VTrans2040

## Multimodal Transportation Plan

### 2025 Need Assessment – Regional Networks

#### General Workflow and Coordination

##### ➤ Introduction

VTrans2040 includes two complimentary documents. The first is the VTrans Vision plan, which has been released for public comment and can be accessed on the CTB and vtrans.org websites. Many stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth have been included in outreach efforts for the Vision Plan, including:

- Webinars – August 20, October 7, and November 10, 2014
- Regional Forum – September 8 (held simultaneously in 5 locations)
- Public Meetings – series of 9 statewide meetings in September 2014
- CTB Presentations – Oct. 15 & Nov. 12, 2014 and Jan. 14 & Feb. 17, 2015
- Survey – July through August, 2014

The second part of the VTrans effort is the Multimodal Transportation Plan. The purpose of the VMTP is not only to create a multimodal plan to guide Virginia's planning and programming efforts, but is also to conduct a Needs Assessment for 2025, which will be the first level of screening for the HB2 process. Any projects that are eligible for funding through HB2 must meet a need identified in the VMTP.

2025 Needs are identified in the VMTP through the following process:

- **Regional Profiles:** the study team will create a regional profile, including a transportation network profile, including infrastructure and travel patterns; economic profile, including industry mix and major employment centers; and a demographic profile, including land use patterns and activity centers.
- **Future Regional Profile:** the study team will create a future economic profile that considers the future economic desires of the region, and expected/desired development patterns. Future economic drivers will be linked to workforce and freight needs through the team's research on business location decisions, information about the

transportation preferences of the businesses and workforce for non-freight industries, and freight needs of the existing and future industry sectors. Workshops will include multiple discussions of these economic-transportation linkages.

- **Needs and Gap Analysis:** identifying the gap between the existing and future regional profile, the study team will identify regional transportation needs that will ensure that the future transportation network promotes and supports the desired future development and economic profile.

The needs identified in this step of the process will be used as a screening for HB2 projects. The needs will not be specific projects, but a set of both regional and corridor level transportation demands or deficiencies that will allow MPOs to identify a preferred solution.

- **Recommendations:** the study team will propose recommendations that meet the identified regional needs. Regional planners can use these recommendations as a starting point to create project recommendations for the six- year plan, but that is optional and will NOT be a direct part of the HB2 process.

#### ➤ Public Outreach

Targeted MPO outreach will be in lock-step with the study process outlined above. The study process includes in-person work sessions with MPO and regional staff to ensure that each regional profile includes specifically tailored information and desires from each region. The outreach includes:

- Workshop 1 – Baseline Regional Profile (Early April)
- Workshop 2 – Baseline and Future Regional Profile (Late April/Early May)
- Regional Forum – Desired Economic Regional Profile (May)
- Workshop 3 – Needs/Gap Analysis (June)
- Regional Forum – Draft Needs (July)
- Workshop 4 – Recommendations (August)

The intention of the MPO outreach is to meet with staff-level planners and providers. However, each MPO will be responsible for identifying the appropriate participants for their region. The most important criterion is to engage a group that can represent and identify regional behaviors and desires for economic development and multimodal travel. The workshops are expected to take about 2 hours each. There is some flexibility in scheduling, but each MPO must stay on track to meet the established milestones.

#### ➤ Regional Profile

One of the first, and most important, tasks will be to work with the MPOs to develop the regional profiles. The regional profiles will include some data sources that can be collected

from existing data sources, while others will be specific to, and provided by, the MPO. The existing data sources include:

- Demographic data sources such as the Census and Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research (VCTIR).
- Economic data sources such as Global Insight and Dunn & Bradstreet, which provide input on major employment centers and sector mix.
- Transportation Network data sources such as the VDOT SPS highway network, statewide accessibility index, freight demand and bottlenecks and other travel pattern and origin-destination information.

Additional sources of region specific data will be identified by working with each MPO. In particular, the study team may need input from the regions on the following:

- travel demand model inputs and outputs
- long range transportation plans and supporting documentation or data (for example, any transportation, economic or related surveys)
- regional economic development plans and supporting documentation
- identification of major activity centers
- expected areas of employment and/or population growth

➤ Next Steps

The most important element to initiating the VMTP process successfully is to work collaboratively with MPO staff to collect regional data sources and schedule the first two work sessions regarding the construction of a regional profile.

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