Breathing life into regional transportation plans:
TPB’s maps & apps

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Presentation overview

- Background- what is the TPB and what we do
- The products to date
  - 2014 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP)
  - 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the National Capital Region
- Lessons learned, coming attractions & wrap up
What is the TPB? (What do we do)

“The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the region, and plays an important role as the regional forum for transportation planning. The TPB prepares plans and programs that the federal government must approve in order for federal-aid transportation funds to flow to the Washington region.”

- Our plans & programs span all types of modes and planning areas
  - Air quality conformity; long range plans
  - Bicycle and pedestrian; freight; aviation
  - Congestion management; safety
- Traditionally, plans have been written reports of hundreds of pages (that people may not even read)
- The Technical Services Team is assisting other teams to produce online companion products to these written reports
“Breathing life” into our plans

**Why we are doing it**

- The TPB has a commitment to transparent communications and engagement with the public and relevant public agencies.
- Federal regulations require that MPOs define a process for providing interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process.
  - Alternatives to written reports (“Involved/Informed Public”)
  - A more straightforward, interactive experience (“Interested Public”)

**How we are doing it**

- Do first, ask for acceptance (or forgiveness later)
- Recycle as much as you can - don’t recreate content that already exists
2014 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP)

- Draft web apps unveiled November 2014

- Two versions
  - View
  - Project View
2014 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan for the National Capital Region

- Plan adopted January 2015
- Story Map tour
- Content is largely taken from the written plan; supplemental maps
Lessons learned / things no one will tell you

- You will probably not get buy-in unless you have a manager who knows what GIS can do

- You may have to be your own advocate—“build it and they will come”

- You may make some swell maps that never get used (or will sit for months)

- Unless you are a programmer (or have one on-staff), be prepared for work-arounds or limitations on what you can do
What’s next

- An updated 2015 CLRP web map/application
  - Embedded on the CLRP project site at time of plan approval (September)
  - Potential web map-based products for different components of the CLRP
    - Performance analysis story map?
    - “Top 10” list of major changes?

- Additional TPB plans that may have online companion products created
  - TPB 2015 Freight Plan
  - Continuous Air Systems Program (CASP)

Work with teams & groups to think about visualization at the beginning of a project and not have “web maps” as an afterthought
For more information

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