

**Federal Team Meeting with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to
the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board**

**U.S. DOT Certification Review of the
Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area
Transportation Planning Process**

Time: Thursday March 9th, 2023
6:00-7:00 p.m. during first half of CAC meeting

Location: Ronald F. Kirby Training Center
777 North Capital Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Background: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are required to complete a certification review of each metropolitan planning organization (MPO) serving a transportation management area (TMA), which is an area with a population over 200,000, every four years. These reviews are carried out to ensure the metropolitan planning process adheres to federal statutes and regulations. Public comments are a vital element of these reviews, as they allow the public to provide direct input on the transportation planning process.

Purpose: The Federal review team will participate in the CAC scheduled meeting on March 9th from 6-7 pm and engage in open dialogue with members. The discussion will aim to address how successfully the public is able to participate in the transportation planning process in the metropolitan area.

Comments: Members of the public and CAC can send comments to daniel.koenig@dot.gov. Note: comments should focus on the planning and decision-making process and not on the merits of specific products or projects.

Format: The certification review provides an opportunity to provide advice and guidance to enhance the planning process and improve the quality of transportation decisions. Members of the CAC should consider the below questions that the Federal team will use to guide discussion.

1. How effective is public involvement in transportation planning conducted by the National Capital Region TPB and its partner transportation agencies?
2. What methods to encourage involvement are working and what are not? Please provide examples and explanations.
3. How does public involvement assist the region to reach consensus on difficult and controversial issues related to transportation?
4. How can public views successfully be communicated to decision-makers in an area as large and complex as this?

5. Please describe situations where public involvement has had an impact on the planning process and decisions reached and where it has not. For example, consider how involvement contributes to developing strategies in the long-range plan, selecting investments in the TIP, or any other activities.

6. How might the TPB improve public involvement? For example, consider changes to the structure of advisory groups, use of media, use of facilitators, or efforts to reach a broad range of groups, including minority and low-income communities.