

**REPORT**  
**TPB Citizens Advisory Committee**  
**April 15, 2015**  
**Bob Summersgill, Chair**

At the April 9<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting, the committee was briefed on the work of the Multi-Sector Working Group to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, the status of real-time data from the region's transit providers, and the TPB CAC agenda. The committee also discussed forming subcommittees around various topics.

**Multi-Sector Working Group on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions (MSWG)**

Erin Morrow and Bob Griffiths of COG/DTP staff presented an overview of greenhouse gases (GHG) and regional GHG projections. They also presented draft lists of potential GHG reduction strategies that have been proposed to undergo analysis. These lists were released for public comment on April 9. Staff focused attention on the draft strategies list for transportation and land use. CAC members were encouraged to review the proposed strategies and comment by the April 22 deadline for public comment.

The committee and staff discussed the effects of lower gas prices, incentives for electric and hybrid vehicles, involvement of the private sector, and transportation strategies relative to land use.

**Status Report: Real-time Transit Information**

At the CAC's request, Eric Randall, of COG/TPB staff, provided a briefing on the status of real-time transit information and data collection across the region. He explained the different types of data formats, trends on making data publicly available, and how the region's transit agencies vary in how they create, use and distribute real-time data.

Committee members discussed the benefits of standardizing real-time transit data across all agencies, and suggested that the TPB might play a leadership role in this coordination. Mr. Randall noted the difficulties in coordinating the various transit operators. He cited the challenges of setting up other regional partnerships, such as the Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination Program.

At the end of the meeting, the committee discussed whether WMATA should take the lead in real-time data collection. However, some members said that WMATA may not be able to handle leading an "open data" initiative, and that the agency needs to devote resources to other, more pressing issues.

The CAC agreed to further explore this topic through a subcommittee, with the goal of developing recommendations to the TPB.

**CAC Subcommittees**

The committee agreed to establish five subcommittees:

- The Subcommittee on the TPB's List of Unfunded Projects will look at the regional list of unfunded projects being compiled by the TPB and advise the Board with criteria for analyzing the list.
- The Subcommittee on COG's Multi-Sector Working Group (MSWG) to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions will develop recommendations in response to public comment periods for the MSWG.

The Subcommittee on Public Participation at the TPB will explore the use of social media to reach diverse and low-income communities and suggest best practices for collecting data to help determine gaps in the TPB's public participation programs.

- The Subcommittee on Establishing Standards for Real-Time Transit Information in the Washington Region will study opportunities to promote regional standards for real-time transit information to be used on websites, mobile applications, and for other uses.
- The Subcommittee on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will consider key issues related to WMATA.

### **Further Discussion**

The group discussed the role of WMATA in the region, with differing viewpoints on how the public sees the agency, relative to current events. Some members noted that in many ways, Metro service is good but it simply has not been adequately maintained. Others emphasized that much of our transportation future is contingent upon Metrorail, including rail and bus rapid transit projects in the suburbs.

However, other committee members said the public has a deep lack of confidence in the agency. Some said the agency is increasingly unpopular, seen as a bad neighbor and often not held accountable on contracts. In this climate, they noted, it is becoming difficult to argue that the agency should be given more money.

Committee members also compared transit investments in foreign cities to those in the Washington area. In particular, members noted that the region's transit lags behind other major metropolitan areas in the world and therefore we need to make big transit investments to remain globally competitive.

### **TPB Agenda Briefing**

Kanti Srikanth briefed members on the agenda for the April 15 TPB Meeting.

#### **ATTENDEES CAC Meeting, April 9, 2015**

##### Members Present

1. Chair Bob Summersgill (DC)
2. Veronica O. Davis (DC)
3. Gary V. Hodge (MD)
4. Holly Muhammad (DC)
5. Jeff Parnes (VA)
6. Lorena Rios (VA)
7. Steven Still (VA)

##### Alternates Present

- Rob Jackson (VA)
- Jeremy I. Martin (MD)
- Emily Oaksford (DC)
- Michael Rodriguez (VA)
- Tina Slater (MD)
- Julia Thayne (DC)

##### TPB Staff and Guests

Kanti Srikanth (COG/DTP Staff)  
Robert Griffiths (COG/DTP Staff)  
Paul DesJardin (COG Staff)  
Steve Walz (COG Staff)  
John Swanson (COG/DTP Staff)  
Eric Randall (COG/DTP Staff)  
Erin Morrow (COG Staff)  
Amanda Campbell (COG Staff)  
Ben Hampton (COG/DTP Staff)  
Bryan Hayes (COG/DTP Staff)  
Lamont B. Cobb (COG/DTP Staff)  
Bill Orleans, resident  
Nancy Abeles, and resident

##### Members Not Present

1. Keith Benjamin (DC)
2. John D. Epps (MD)
3. Andrea Hamre (VA)
4. Tom Sanchez (DC)
5. Douglas Stewart (VA)
6. Alex Tremble (MD)
7. Emmet Tydings (MD)