
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MONTHLY REPORT

January 18, 2023
Ashley Hutson, CAC Chair

The TPB Community Advisory Committee (CAC) met on Thursday, January 12. The committee discussed WMATA's Better Bus Initiative, and the 2022 End-of-Year Report. The meeting was held virtually and in-person at the MWCOG office.

BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION ON WMATA'S BETTER BUS INITIATIVE

Allison Davis and Peter Cafiero of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority 's introduced Metro's Better Bus Initiative and Network Redesign. They provided an overview of the Better Bus Initiative's process and current status. They also provided an update of public outreach efforts so far, and their initial findings.

The presentation concluded with discussion with the following questions for the committee:

- What does Better Bus mean to you and your communities?
- What would make a network redesign successful?
- What would make a network redesign unsuccessful?

Member comments and questions included the following:

- ***Better Bus Service Means Reliable Bus Service:*** Several CAC members expressed their desire for reliability. One member asked about the implementation of HOT lanes to improve on-time performance for trips across jurisdictions (ex. poor on-time performance for a route connecting Montgomery County to Fairfax County). Another member noted that routes traveling through the urban core are susceptible to delays. They added an example about a provider that instructed drivers to avoid going through the District of Columbia because it was unreliable. One member suggested that rideshare data could be valuable in understanding travel patterns, especially since some riders may opt for rideshare when the bus is unreliable or unavailable.
- ***Better Bus Service Means More Options Across Jurisdictions:*** One member asked how the initiative was working toward better interjurisdictional options such as a route connecting Montgomery Mall to Tysons and other similar travel patterns.
- ***Better Bus Service Means Coordination:*** Some CAC members highlighted their desire to see improved coordination between public transportation providers. One member said that the service provider was less important than being able to transfer seamlessly between providers. Another member noted that knowing your provider is important for wayfinding/signage in locations with multiple transportation providers. Another member asked about WMATA's coordination effort with jurisdictions with bus lanes and other infrastructure improvements like bike lanes. An attendee added that understanding who is providing your service is essential if you want to make your voice heard about service improvements.
- ***Clarifications about Bus Service Improvement Terminology:*** Members asked for clarification on what Metro means when they discuss bus service improvements like "faster trips" or "bus trips that are safer".

DISCUSSION ABOUT 2023 END-OF-YEAR REPORT

John Swanson of the TPB staff reviewed the 2023 End-of-Year Report with CAC members. He posed several follow-up questions for discussion to assist TPB staff plan for future CAC meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Lyn Erickson of the TPB staff provided an overview of the upcoming TPB agenda.
- Marcela Moreno of the TPB staff said that 77 applications had been received for the 2023-2024 CAC, including applications from 6 current members of the CAC. She said that TPB officer nominations were posted on the event page for the January 18 TPB meeting. TPB officers will be approving the nominees at the next meeting. The first meeting of the new CAC will be on February 9.
- Some CAC members expressed interest in having the first meeting with the 2023 -2024 committee as a hybrid meeting.
- TPB staff thanked the outgoing chair and CAC members for their service on the committee.

ATTENDEES

Members

Ashley Hutson, *Chair*
Elisa Walton
Nancy Abeles
Ra Amin
Michael Artson
Jeff Jamawat
Katherine Kortum
Eyal Li
Daniel Papiernik
Jeff Parnes

Staff

John Swanson
Rachel Beyerle
Marcela Moreno
Lyn Erickson
Justine Velez

Others

Allison Davis, WMATA
Peter Cafiero, WMATA
Mark Philips, WMATA
Anson Stewart, MIT
Michael Leong, MIT
John Moody, MIT
Daniela Shuman, MIT
Bill Orleans