

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
January 21, 2004
Allen Muchnick, 2003 CAC Vice Chair

The Citizens Advisory Committee held its regular monthly meeting on January 15. Because the new appointments for the 2004 CAC had not been made, the TPB in December asked last year's committee to meet in January.

Discussion at the meeting focused on the TPB agenda for 2004 and topics that the 2004 CAC might take up in the coming year.

Topics discussed at the meeting included the following:

- **Bus service** is something should be looked at more carefully. Ron Kirby, Director of COG's Department of Transportation Planning, said that bus service will be the subject of attention for a number of TPB activities, including the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study and the Transportation Research Board's review of the TPB's modeling practices. He also noted that discussions about proposed managed highway facilities, such as the ICC or Beltway HOT lanes, need to include an examination of how bus service will fit in. The CAC last year supported a proposal to improve bus information.
- The CAC discussed **air quality conformity** issues and the 2004 CLRP/TIP cycle. Ron Kirby said that the deadlines associated with these requirements hopefully will not be quite so pressing during the beginning of 2004, so the TPB hopefully will have a chance to focus on other things. The CAC continues to have a close interest in air quality issues.
- Members expressed a strong interest in **emergency preparedness** and how it relates to transportation. They said that public information about emergency planning is lacking. The committee discussed what would be the best way to enhance the public's understanding of emergency preparations. As a first step, committee members asked for a briefing on emergency preparedness efforts.
- Several members of the CAC raised issues related the forthcoming **reauthorization** of the federal transportation programs. Members more broadly stressed the importance of staying abreast of this legislation and how it will affect local funding, especially for Metro. One member suggested that the TPB might look at a legislative proposal from Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas to provide more funding to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).
- Staff reported on discussions regarding two potential **outreach meetings** for this spring: 1) a meeting on the Anacostia light rail project, and 2) a meeting in Montgomery County, with a topic yet to be determined. (Montgomery County Councilmember Michael Knapp

requested a CAC public meeting last year.) Members also discussed a potential public meeting on the Metro short-term funding shortfall.

- More broadly, some members questioned whether ***other approaches, besides public outreach meetings*** should be used by the CAC to focus attention on issues that the committee believes are important. A member noted that some important topics, such as the transit-oriented development, are not naturally suited as big attractors for public meetings, but still deserve public attention.
- Members discussed the ***number of public forums*** the committee hosts every year. Several members said the CAC should not have six public forums every year. They said that sometimes these meetings seem to be organized just for the sake of having meetings. Other members said that the meetings in past years have been successful and useful because they have added value to the public's discussion about important transportation projects and issues. Several members emphasized the importance of TPB members participation for successful public forums.
- Members expressed interest in a number of ***other topics*** including bicycle/pedestrian safety, the TPB's short-term funding study, traffic signal optimization, and the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study.

ATTENDANCE*
January 15, 2004

2003 CAC Members in Attendance

1. Allen Muchnick, vice chair, VA
2. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
3. Bob Chase, VA
4. Jim Clarke, MD
5. Federico Cura, VA
6. John Edwards, VA
7. Glen Harvie, MD
8. Dennis Jaffe, DC
9. Lee Schoenecker, DC
10. Stewart Schwartz, VA
11. Merle Van Horne, DC

2003 CAC Members Not in Attendance

1. Karren Pope-Onwukwe, MD
2. Steve Cafilisch, MD
3. Jacque Patterson, DC
4. Nancy Jakowitsch, DC

2003 CAC Alternates in Attendance

Harold Foster, DC

TPB Staff

Ron Kirby
John Swanson

* The 2004 CAC members had not been appointed as of this meeting. Therefore, at the request of the TPB, the members of the 2003 CAC met at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting.