
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MONTHLY REPORT

November 9, 2023
Richard Wallace, CAC Chair

The November meeting of the 2023 - 2024 TPB Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on Thursday, November 9. The committee held a special session with the TPB officers which included state-based breakout sessions to discuss regional and local issues, and the TPB priorities. The meeting was held virtually on WebEx.

REMARKS FROM THE TPB OFFICERS

TPB Chair Reuben Collins, Second Vice Chair James Walkinshaw, and Gabrielle Rogoff, Legislative Director for Vice Chair Christina Henderson, provided opening remarks about how they coordinate their regional work at TPB with the local interests that they represent as elected officials. TPB Chair Reuben Collins noted the importance of recognizing the interest of every jurisdiction in the region. He added that the CAC is uniquely poised to gather perspectives across the region. Second Vice Chair Walkinshaw's remarks discussed the positive role that TPB plays considering the diversity of land uses and perspectives across northern Virginia. He also noted that the approach for Visualize 2050 would allow agencies to re-examine projects to ensure that they still are relevant and further TPB's goals. Gabrielle Rogoff, Legislative Director for Vice Chair Christina Henderson, discussed priorities for the District of Columbia, including traffic safety legislation, addressing WMATA funding, and monitoring transportation project success.

Member comments and questions included:

- **What accomplishment or lesson learned would the TPB Chair like to share with the CAC?** A member asked TPB Chair Collins about an accomplishment or lesson learned to share with the committee. He added that he hopes to see TPB continue its work on advancing equity, as residents with the greatest need may not be represented when decisions are made.

DC BREAKOUT SESSION

CAC members met with Vice Chair Christina Henderson's Legislative Director, Gabrielle Rogoff and discussed the District of Columbia's priorities, and the CAC's reflections on current transportation issues in their communities. Vice Chair Ra Amin summarized the key takeaways that included:

- **Importance of traffic safety and ensuring repeat violators of traffic laws are held accountable.** Specifically, the discussion centered around the Clean Hands Act so that repeat offenders are unable to continue driving unsafely. In addition, the group discussed the importance of enforcing traffic laws to advance safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. The committee members also expressed interest in a clear stance on fines associated with traffic violations – noting the recent discussion about the \$200 fine related to motorists blocking bus lanes. Another member noted the importance of being proactive in preventing accidents.
- **Improving bike and pedestrian access and safety.** The discussion covered challenges facing bike and pedestrian projects such as funding and traffic law enforcement.
- **Addressing the WMATA funding gap.** The group discussed different ways that WMATA could address their funding gap without passing the cost to riders or taxpayers by taxing property

owners on WMATA parcels. Another member clarified that they believe jurisdictions should get Metro-created land value returned from landowners.

- **How does the CAC help DC Council and Vice Chair Christina Henderson to advance Council's Priorities?** The CAC also discussed ways that they could help advance the DC Council's goals and priorities.

MARYLAND BREAKOUT SESSION

CAC members met with TPB Chair Reuben Collins and discussed priorities in Maryland, and the CAC's reflections on current transportation issues in their communities. Maribel Wong summarized the key takeaways that included:

- **Importance of expanding bicycle infrastructure in outer jurisdictions.** The group discussed their desire to see expanded bicycling infrastructure in Maryland, especially in outer jurisdictions. TPB Chair Collins shared that in Charles County developers are more frequently presenting projects that include elements that benefit the community, such as bike lanes.
- **Emphasis on proactive public engagement across transportation agencies.** The group discussed the importance of public engagement and transparency. The discussion included the "smart city" approach of information sharing, including the use of open data and data dashboards.
- **Establish a CAC objective or goal to better connect with the TPB.** The group expressed interest in a retreat or other event so the committee could identify a goal or objective that they could work towards during their tenure.

VIRGINIA BREAKOUT SESSION

CAC members met with TPB Second Vice Chair James Walkinshaw and discussed priorities in Virginia, and the CAC's reflections on current transportation issues in their communities. Rachel Beyerle summarized the key takeaways that included:

- **The future of Northern Virginia's transition from auto-centric development to a more multimodal-approach.** The group discussed the current rail system redesign for commuters into DC and expressed a desire for more cross county connections and VRE providing additional service on weekend and evenings. The group also discussed the lack of rail service in western Fairfax County as a potential expansion area for VRE or Metro.
- **Acknowledgment of different priorities between state and counties, and constraints on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements.** The group acknowledged challenges to improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, including differing priorities at the state and county level.
- **Further discussing the intersection of transportation issues with housing, climate.** The group discussed several topics that relate to transportation such as climate and housing availability near public transportation.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Marcela Moreno provided a summary of the November 2023 TPB meeting agenda.
- Marcela Moreno provided a staff update to inform the committee that she is moving and beginning November 22, TPB Transportation Planner John Swanson will staff the CAC until a new staffer is hired.

- Chair Wallace announced that the next CAC meeting will take place on December 14 as a virtual meeting held on WebEx.

ATTENDEES

Members

Richard Wallace, *Chair*
Ra Amin, *Vice Chair*
Ashley Hutson, *Vice Chair*
Christina Farver
Daniel Papiernik
Gail Sullivan
Heather Gaona
Jacqueline Overton Allen
Jeffery Parnes
Kalli Krumpos
Larkin Turman
Lorena Rios
Maribel Wong
Mark Scheufler
Nancy Abeles

Noell Evans
Rick Rybeck

Staff

Rachel Beyerle
Cristina Finch
Marcela Moreno
John Swanson

Other

Commissioner President Reuben Collins, *TPB Chair*
Supervisor James Walkinshaw, *TPB Second Vice Chair*
Gabrielle Rogoff, Office of Councilmember
Christina Henderson
