

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee December 20, 2006 Emmet Tydings, CAC Chairman

The December 14 meeting of the CAC included a discussion of the future of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study, a briefing on the TPB's Household Travel Survey, and election of six individuals to serve on the 2007 Citizens Advisory Committee.

Discussion of the Development of CAC Recommendations on the TPB's Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (RMAS)

The CAC has been keenly interested in the TPB's scenario study (RMAS) since its inception in 2000. Last month, the CAC decided to develop recommendations, which will be presented to the TPB in January, regarding the future of the study. At the committee's December meeting, the committee discussed the following issues for inclusion in the January recommendations:

Study purpose(s). Committee members expressed a general sense that the study has not been used as effectively as it might be. Members said that the study could have a number of purposes, including influencing project selection and providing technical support for community planning, including the kinds of projects that will be supported through the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) program. However, members expressed concern that these uses have not been pursued as effectively as they might be.

Role of the study in project selection. A number of members said one of the most important things the study can do is influence project selection. However, they noted that given the current planning process, this influence can be very indirect and difficult to measure. One member said some type of system should be established so that local and state plans can be explicitly measured against the scenarios.

Commitment to conducting next steps. CAC members also expressed concern about the degree to which participants in the study are committed to continuing it. In particular, they noted that the Joint Technical Working Group may not be interested in developing a composite scenario or scenarios. Members generally agreed that the CAC should encourage the TPB to develop composite scenarios, which was one of the original intentions of the study. Furthermore, the TPB should be encouraged to ensure that the study is adequately funded.

Briefing on the TPB Household Travel Survey

Bob Griffiths and Clara Reschovsky of the TPB staff gave an overview of the TPB's household travel survey, which is currently underway. They explained that the survey is a major data collection effort, which is done approximately every decade. Among other things, the survey is used to update the TPB's travel models. They described how the survey was conducted in the past, and design elements for the current survey. Staff explained that the pilot testing for the survey was performed in August and September, and the final survey design was recently completed. The main survey will begin in January 2007.

CAC Elections

Six individuals were elected by the 2006 CAC to serve on next year's committee. They are: Harold Foster (DC), Larry Martin (DC), Steve Caflich (MD), Emmet Tydings (MD), Dan Malouff (VA) and Allen Muchnick (VA).

The next step is for the 2007 TPB officers to nominate nine individuals—three each from DC, MD and VA—to serve on next year's committee. The CAC respectfully encourages the TPB officers to move quickly in making these appointments so that the 2007 committee can begin its work as soon as possible.

Other Business

- John Swanson of the COG/TPB staff briefed the CAC on a recent "What If" forum in Rockville on November 29, which was hosted by Delegate Carol Petzold, TPB Chairman Michael Knapp and county staff. This meeting was structured in a new way that provided an opportunity for participants to provide input for use in the development of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study's composite scenarios.
- Mr. Swanson also noted that he presented the "What If" presentation at a Bowie City Council Work Session on November 28.
- Ron Kirby, Director of the Department of Transportation Planning reported on the upcoming TPB agenda. Related to the agenda, CAC members made the following points:
 - Members expressed interest and support for the startup of the new Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) program.
 - Members expressed some concern that the new Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination program (MATOC – formerly known as CapCom) has taken so long to start up.

ATTENDANCE **CAC Meeting, December 14, 2006**

Members in Attendance

1. Emmet Tydings, Chair, MD
2. Ephrem Asebe, MD
3. Stephen Caflich, MD
4. Stephen Cerny, VA
5. Dan Malouff, VA
6. Larry Martin, DC
7. Allen Muchnick, VA
8. Alexandra Simpson, VA
9. Merle Van Horne, DC

Members Not in Attendance

1. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
2. Elvin Crespo, MD
3. Jim Larsen, VA
4. Harold Foster, DC
5. Grace Malakoff, DC
6. Robin Marlin, DC

Staff/Others

- Ron Kirby, COG/TPB
Darren Smith, COG/TPB
John Swanson, COG/TPB
Robert Griffiths,
COG/TPB
Clara Reschovsky,
COG/TPB
Bill Orleans