

ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT
May 15, 2024

James Walkinshaw, Chair

The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) met in a hybrid format on Monday, May 6, 2024. The committee received staff updates on the DMVMoves initiative and the Regional Bus Stop Design workshop. They also received a briefing regarding an initiative of the Transportation Safety Subcommittee on an accessibility-themed meeting, the Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) FY 2025 Recipients, and an update on the public comments received on projects included in the Visualize 2050 Air Quality Conformity Analysis. The committee also held a brief discussion on upcoming topics for future meetings.

STAFF UPDATES

Kanti Srikanth, TPB Staff Director, briefed members on the COG-WMATA Regional Transit Initiative (DMVMoves), which kicked off formally on May 1. The initiative aims to develop a regional vision for transit in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. He and Chair Walkinshaw outlined the challenges of the regional transit systems, including funding, making transit more inclusive and accessible, and navigating the different transit systems across the region. The initiative will consist of three steps: creating a vision on what a world-class integrated transit network looks like; how to pay for it; and, how to govern it. Discussion included how WMATA is currently funded. This effort will look at whether there is a better model.

The task force has established two advisory groups: the Community Partners Advisory Group, and the Government Partners Advisory Group. The AFA Advisory Committee will be participating in the Community Partners Advisory Group. The meetings are expected to begin in June, with a preliminary report due in early 2025. Although the task force meetings will be public, the membership on the advisory committees are being kept at a number that will facilitate progress. There will be opportunities for the public to weigh in on the products.

Member comments included the following:

- Revisit the opportunity for public comment and input.
- Explore options for getting corporations involved in contributing to public transit.
- Coordinate services and streamline options for people with disabilities, seniors and visitors across jurisdictions.
- Consider amending the federal compact to include the same jurisdictions that are currently part of the MPO.
- Explore the possibility of increasing funding for transit by taxing commercial properties in the region.

Pierre Gaunard, TPB Transportation Planner, gave an overview of the TPB Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee Bus Stop Design Forum held April 23. More than 50 individuals attended across different modes. The workshop looked at new types of stops, such as floating island stops and bulb-outs. Forum discussions included design of floating bike lanes, use of tactile surfaces, fixed signage, shade provision, and stormwater management.

Members did not have any questions or comments.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION WITH TRANSPORTATION SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE.

Janie Nham, TPB Planning Manager, who was joined by Vanessa Holt, TPB Safety Subcommittee chair, gave the committee an overview of the TPB's safety planning activities, including trends in transportation safety across the region. The Regional Roadway Safety Program's origins date back to 1998, with the TPB taking a sharpened focus on roadway safety in 2018 after analyses detected an increase in fatalities. TPB adopted Resolution R3-2021 in 2020, which re-affirmed roadway safety as a priority and urged safety measures to be implemented in a non-racist way. The TPB serves as an important convener for the region via information-sharing, safety programs, and identifying opportunities for coordination. Janie. Nham shared past topics of the Transportation Safety Subcommittee and noted that the Safety Subcommittee is interested in convening a special meeting on accessibility. AFA members were asked to provide input and perspectives on what topics may be good to cover in the meeting.

Member discussion: NVRides has been collecting safety data to encourage volunteer drivers that it's a safe volunteer option. They can share this information and will be available to brief the AFA committee. There was a question about what led to the pre-pandemic spike. Ms. Nham responded that driver behavior, drunk driving, and speeding are all likely factors. Also, since the pandemic there are fewer work trips, which means an overall lower exposure to unsafe conditions. Chair Walkinshaw mentioned missing sidewalks or disconnected sidewalks creating safety hazards. USDOT's Safe System Approach was discussed, which looks at the entire transportation system through a safety lens. Sergio Ritacco, TPB Transportation Planner, mentioned past AFA discussions on this topic that he will share for future discussion.

Member questions and comments included the following:

- Consider incorporating cycling classes in schools as part of the curriculum for improved bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- Consider further study on the trends and factors leading to increased aggressive driving behavior, speeding, and drinking and driving.
- Is there any newer research on seatbelt usage?
- Is there a relationship between the unemployment rate and safety?

TRANSPORTATION LAND-USE CONNECTIONS (TLC) FY 2025 RECIPIENTS

Kenneth Derryberry, Transportation Planning Intern, provided an overview of the recipients of FY 2025 Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program funding, which has provided support to local jurisdictions integrating land use and transportation planning at the community level since 2006. The presentation emphasized the accessibility aspects of the newly funded projects. Staff solicited applications for the FY 2025 TLC round of technical assistance between January 5 and March 8, 2024. The TPB approved the applications for funding in FY 2025.

Members did not have any questions or comments.

VISUALIZE 2050 UPDATES

Leo Pineda, TPB Transportation Planner, provided a briefing on comments received on the draft project inputs and scope of work for the air quality conformity analysis of Visualize 2050 and the FY 2026-2029 transportation improvement program (TIP), including next steps in the planning process. The TPB will be asked to approve two documents at the next meeting: the inputs to the air quality conformity analysis and the air quality conformity scope of work. This will initiate a 10-month long process of analyzing the inputs and evaluating the air quality impacts. The other components of the plan that are not considered as impacting the air quality conformity analysis will be added by the end of June 2024. Public comments received included concerns about express toll lanes, lack of transit projects, and bicycle and pedestrian access. All comments can be viewed on the TPB March meeting

website.

Member comments included the following:

There is likely to be spirited discussion expected at the TPB meeting next week about the project inputs with the potential for using the weighted voting option among TPB members.

LOOKING AHEAD: WORK PLANNING FOR THE AFA COMMITTEE

Sergio Ritacco facilitated a discussion on items to bring forward for future meetings in addition to items already noted at the last meeting,

- Regarding the Section 5310 program, Dan Sheehan and COG's Enhanced Mobility staff will keep the AFA committee up to date on the current round of grantee projects. The next solicitation round will be in summer 2025.
- COG has received an Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility (ICAM) federal grant. This grant has been awarded to update the ReachARide.org transportation services clearinghouse. TPB staff are looking forward to working with the AFA Committee to solicit ideas, and perhaps, form a small working group to update the ReachARide platform. Coordination efforts are expected to commence this summer. The ReachARide website is <https://reacharide.org/>
- Angela White mentioned that the Olmstead Task Force is meeting in Washington, DC, this year. Some connection to the AFA Committee would be worth looking into, and she will connect with Laura Bachle, TPB Transportation Planner, on this topic.

The next meeting is July 8 and is virtual at 12:00 P.M.

Attendees

District of Columbia
Faye Dastgheib
Jason Harris
Nicholas Roland

Maryland
Doreen Brown
William Clement
Bong Delrosario

Virginia
Cynthia Alarico
Emily Braley
Kinta Carter
Clemmon Hammie
Lorena Rios
Valesca Maldonado

Regional
Angela White
Sherri Mohebbi
Cecilia Castillo-Ayometzi
Janine Ashe

Bill Orleans

Vanessa Holt, TPB Safety Subcommittee Chair

TPB Staff

Rachel Beyerle
Kanti Srikanth
Leo Pineda
Pierre Gaunard
Kenneth Derryberry
Cristina Finch
Sergio Ritacco
Janie Nham

Chair
James Walkinshaw, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors