

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee October 20, 2004 Dennis Jaffe, CAC Chair

The TPB's Citizens Advisory Committee met on October 14. The meeting focused on the CAC's plans to hold public meetings on the TPB's Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study. The committee also discussed the TPB's press conference on October 20 for disability awareness month and the upcoming TPB agenda.

Disability Awareness Day at the TPB

Wendy Klancher of the COG/DTP staff briefed the committee on Disability Awareness Day on October 20, 2004, which is being sponsored by the TPB's Access for All Advisory Committee. To highlight the typical workday commutes of people with disabilities, several travel teams—each including a person with a disability, a member of the TPB, and in some cases a member of the media—will trek to a press conference at COG.

The press conference is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., immediately prior to the monthly TPB meeting. During the press conference, participants from the travel teams will describe the services and obstacles they confronted on the morning commute. CAC member Mike LaJuene will participate in the event as part of a team including Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins and possibly a reporter from the *Washington Post*.

Questions and comments included the following:

- CAC members expressed enthusiastic support for the event.
- Members asked if staff will prepare a report compiling information about the travel teams' experiences. Ms. Klancher said a summary would be prepared.
- Ms. Klancher requested any assistance CAC members might provide in getting the word out for this event.

Public Outreach on the TPB's Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study

John Swanson of the COG/DTP staff presented a revised version of the PowerPoint briefing that has been prepared for the upcoming public outreach meetings on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study. An earlier version of the presentation was presented to the CAC last month. It was since been revised based on feedback from the TPB's Access for All Committee, Technical Committee and Steering Committee.

Mr. Swanson informed the committee that one meeting has been scheduled: December 8 in Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg, MD. Emmet Tydings, CAC vice chair, has taken a lead role in organizing this forum. Michael Knapp, CAC vice chair, will act as local host.

Member questions and comments about the draft presentation included the following:

- ***The region's robust economy should be emphasized.*** One member said the region's jobs/housing imbalance should be compared with other areas, which are not expecting to experience the kind of growth Metropolitan Washington is facing. Another member suggested the presentation needs to emphasize how important the region is to the nation.
- ***Explain what the study is not.*** Members suggested the presentation should explicitly state what is not included in the study scenarios, including dramatic changes in energy costs, telecommuting, and/or housing costs.
- ***The presentation should explicitly ask: "What have we missed?"*** One of the purposes of the outreach is to record reactions. Regardless of whether people make realistic or unrealistic suggestions, their comments should be noted.
- ***Can/should telecommuting be included in the scenarios?*** Although the TPB's forecasting for the CLRP includes projected telecommuting increases, staff noted it might be difficult to accurately forecast the effects of a massive increase in telecommuting. This subject may deserve further discussion and consideration in the future.
- ***Include information on land consumption.*** A member suggested the presentation should include information showing that land is being consumed much faster than population is growing.
- ***Include more background information at the beginning.*** The presentation needs to provide more context about why the study has been performed and what might result from it. Another member suggested the presentation needs to describe how difficult it is to actually effect change in this region.
- ***Include a wrap-up slide at the end.*** A summary will help facilitate discussion after the presentation.
- ***Beware of limited attention spans.*** The presentation must remain less than 20 minutes.
- ***Be prepared to deal with the question: "How realistic are these scenarios?"*** The presentation emphasizes that the study is looking at hypothetical results ("what ifs") not policy steps ("how to's") needed to implement the scenarios. However, citizens are likely to bring up "how to" questions. The presenter and participants must be ready to deal with that discussion
- ***Post-presentation format can provide a way for differing opinions to be shared.*** Following the presentation, CAC members might provide contrasting

perspectives on what scenarios offer the best chance for positive change. The format of the forums might be designed to provide opportunities for open discussion, but also for advocates from different positions to express their views.

Other Business

The committee also discussed the following:

- ***Upcoming TPB Agenda.*** Jerry Miller of the COG/TPB staff briefed the committee. Discussion focused on the CLRP update process and the WMATA funding panel. Mr. Miller informed the CAC that the WMATA funding panel will have a meeting on Tuesday, October 19, that will include a public comment period, 5:00 -5:45 p.m.
- ***Upcoming CAC elections.*** The CAC will hold elections in November to designate six individuals to serve on next year's committee. According to the TPB public involvement process, the TPB officers in December will nominate an additional nine individuals to the committee.
- ***November CAC agenda.*** Members requested updates on the WMATA funding panel and Disability Awareness Day. The committee also needs to discuss its end-of-the-year report.

ATTENDANCE

CAC Meeting, October 14, 2004

Members in Attendance

1. Dennis Jaffe, Chair, DC
2. Ephrem Asebe, MD
3. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
4. Steve Caflisch, MD
5. Steve Cerny, VA
6. Bob Chase, VA
7. Harold Foster, DC
8. Michael LaJuene, VA
9. Allen Muchnick, Vice Chair, VA
10. Lee Schoenecker, DC
11. Stewart Schwartz, VA
12. Emmet Tydings, Vice Chair, MD

Members Not in Attendance

1. Don Edwards, DC
2. Mark Friis, MD
3. Merle Van Horne, DC

Staff/Others

Gerald Miller, COG/DTP
Wendy Klancher, COG/DTP
John Swanson, COG/DTP
Glen Harvie