

REPORT
TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
November 19, 2014
Tracy Hadden Loh, CAC Chair

At the CAC meeting on November 13, the committee received briefings on the draft Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan and the draft Call for Projects for the CLRP and TIP. The committee also discussed proposals for developing an inventory of the region's unfunded transportation projects and establishing a multi-sector working group to explore cooperative actions to reduce greenhouse gases.

Briefing on the Draft Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Mike Farrell of TPB staff briefed the committee on the draft update of the region's draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which is scheduled for TPB approval on December 17, 2014. He explained that this is an update of the 2010 plan. In addition to providing a policy context and recommended practices, the plan identifies 475 project recommendations.

CAC member comments and questions included the following:

- ***What was the source of the projects that were included in the draft plan? How was the plan put together?*** Mr. Farrell explained that the agency staff of the TPB's member jurisdictions submitted the projects that were included in the plan. All the projects are already in officially approved local or state plans. The selection of projects was left to the discretion of the member jurisdictions, although each project was required to cost at least \$300,000 or to be one mile in length.
- ***Positive comments about the inclusion of funded as well as unfunded projects.*** CAC members appreciated the fact that the plan includes both funded and unfunded projects. They noted that the list of unfunded projects can serve as a resource for advocacy.
- ***It would be useful in the future to do a gap analysis.*** A member suggested that future planning activities might seek to identify locations or needs that are not currently addressed by projects that are already planned. Another member noted the importance of inter-jurisdictional connectivity.

Briefing and Discussion Regarding the Call for Projects for the 2015 CLRP and FY 2015-2020 TIP

Ben Hampton of TPB staff briefed the committee on the draft document announcing the solicitation of projects for next year's Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He explained that the document has been fundamentally altered and now includes a brochure, which provides an overview of the process, along with a revised project description form that asks submitting agencies to provide information about how new

projects support goals in the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan. Last year, the CAC requested that the Call for Projects included such enhancements.

Member comments and questions included the following:

- ***Appreciation for the direction of this document.*** Individually and as a group, the CAC complimented staff for the transformation of the Call for Projects. In particular, the CAC appreciates that the document responds to the CAC’s request earlier this year that the solicitation of projects for the CLRP should be more explicitly linked to the Priorities Plan.
- ***It could be helpful to explain that the CLRP is federally required.*** Members suggested that a sentence might be added to the brochure explaining that projects must be included in the CLRP in order to receive federal funding.
- ***This, or other documents, could be widely circulated to the public.*** A participant at the meeting suggested that the Call document might be distributed to public libraries. TPB staff responded that the general suggestion of disseminating information was worthwhile, although this document might not be the most appropriate one to widely distribute.

Discussion Regarding the Development of a List of Unfunded Transportation Projects

Kanti Srikanth, director of the Department of Transportation Planning, briefed the committee on staff’s proposed approach for developing a list of projects that have been included in the approved plans of the TPB’s member jurisdictions, but have not secured the funding commitments necessary for inclusion in the CLRP. He explained that as a starting point, the sources for this list would include TransAction 2040 (Northern Virginia), moveDC (D.C.), the county priority letters for Maryland, and WMATA’s Momentum plan. With these plans providing a baseline, he said, members would be asked if additional projects should be included.

Member comments and questions included the following:

- ***Broad support for the development of this list of unfunded projects.*** Members expressed appreciation that staff was taking up this activity. Staff’s suggested approach seemed to make sense to the committee.
- ***We need to be thinking ahead about how the list might be used.*** Members said we should be planning ahead so that the list doesn’t just “sit on a shelf.” Suggestions for using the list included:
 - ***Make it a basis for public outreach.*** Members decided that at their December meeting, they will discuss and identify specific suggestions for using the list in public involvement activities that will be meaningful.
 - ***Use the list for public information and future planning.*** Members suggested that subsets of projects from the list will offer valuable data for discussion and

further analysis. For example, the list might be used to identify the transit projects that are being planned across the region. This would provide opportunities to look at costs and regional connections.

- ***Potentially identify a limited number of regional priority projects.*** Members discussed the possibility of using the list to identify top priorities for the region. They acknowledged the political challenges of developing such a select list, but they suggested it could be a bold and useful step for the region to take.
- ***The potential uses of this inventory are not yet apparent.*** Members agreed that it is useful to think ahead, but at this moment we may not be able to anticipate all the ways in which this list will be useful.
- ***Some clarifications.*** Members sought clarification about the following points:
 - ***The list will only include projects from approved plans.*** In general, members agreed that this limitation made sense, at least as a starting point. Several participants acknowledged the need to respect local and state decision-making regarding transportation project development and funding.
 - ***The list will include the Metro 2025 package from WMATA's Momentum plan.*** The CAC has long urged regional leaders to fund the Metro 2025 package of improvements, including all eight-car trains and core station improvements. CAC members noted that these improvements were not funded in the most recent CLRP. Mr. Srikanth assured the committee that the Metro 2025 package, as well as WMATA's long-range plan, would be included in the list of unfunded projects.

Briefing and Discussion on Proposed Activities by the TPB and Other Boards at COG Related to Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr. Srikanth briefed the committee. He said that at the TPB's November meeting, the Board will be briefed on a proposed resolution supporting the goals in the 2008 COG Climate Change Plan to reduce emissions 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050, and another draft resolution to establish a working group to promote progress toward that goal. He emphasized that this working group will include representatives from a variety of sectors, not just transportation.

Based upon the discussion at the CAC meeting and subsequent email exchanges, the CAC requests that the TPB and COG consider including citizen representation on the working group. The TPB's Priorities Plan Scoping Task Force (2010-2011), which included three members of the CAC representing each state-level jurisdiction, could provide a model for working group membership.

Other questions and comments included the following:

- ***The connection between the working group and the CLRP process is unclear.*** Members asked if the CLRP would be analyzed as part of the working group's activities,

and whether this process would be used to influence projects that go into the CLRP. Mr. Srikanth answered that the working group would discuss the relationship between the TPB's planning process and the activities of the working group.

- **Importance of a multi-sectoral approach.** Members applauded the inclusion of a variety of sectors, not just transportation, in the working group.
- **Has COG developed a regional inventory of greenhouse gas emissions?** In response to this question, Mr. Srikanth answered yes, the Climate, Energy and Environmental Policy Committee (CEEPC) has developed such an inventory.
- **Optimism & pessimism.** Members discussed the enormity of this global problem and the challenges of making an impact through local measures. Mr. Srikanth said that two initiatives at the national level are likely to have the greatest impact: tougher vehicle standards and power plant regulations. But although national-level measures will be most impactful, he said that does not mean there is nothing to do locally. He said he was very hopeful about opportunities that can be pursued in our region.

Other Business

Staff announced that prior to the next meeting, TPB staff would conduct an election among the CAC members to select six individuals to serve on next year's CAC. The 2015 TPB officers would nominate an additional nine individuals at the January 21. At that same meeting, the TPB would approve all 15 new members, along with alternates.

The last meeting of the 2014 CAC will be on January 15, 2015. The 2015 CAC will hold its first meeting on February 12.

ATTENDEES CAC Meeting, September 11, 2014

Members Present

1. Tracy Hadden Loh, Chair (MD)
2. Veronica Davis (DC)
3. John Epps (MD)
4. Andrea Hamre (VA)
5. Jeffrey Parnes (VA)
6. Lorena Rios (VA)
7. Tina Slater (MD)
8. Stephen Still (VA)
9. Jarrett Stoltzfus (MD)
10. Emmet Tydings (MD)

Members Not Present

1. Neha Bhatt (DC)
2. Cindy Petkac (DC)
3. Zachary Smith (DC)

Alternates Present

- Gary Hodge (MD)
Douglas Stewart (VA)

Staff and Guests

Kanti Srikanth, COG/DTP staff
John Swanson, COG/DTP staff
Ben Hampton, COG/DTP staff
Bryan Hayes, COG/DTP staff
Lamont Cobb, COG/DTP staff
Bill Sadler, Safe Routes to School Partnership
Bill Orleans, resident