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**TPB CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT**

January 17, 2018

*Jeremy Martin, CAC Chairman*

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) focused on two major activities in 2017: Long-Range Plan Task Force and Visualize 2045. Additionally, the committee fulfilled its mission by working to *promote public involvement in transportation planning for the region, and providing independent, region-oriented citizen advice to the TPB on transportation plans and issues.*

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017**

During the year, the committee provided feedback and guidance on many issues, ranging from improving public transportation to transportation safety. The following section describes the topics and ways in which the CAC feels it had the biggest impact in 2017.

#### **Long-Range Plan Task Force**

The CAC has long advocated that the TPB develop a list of unfunded regional priority projects and conduct scenario analysis to determine the possible impact of adding additional unplanned transportation infrastructure to the region's system. This work was conducted this year by the TPB's Long-Range Plan Task force, which worked to develop ten possible initiatives that could improve transportation in the region. The task force reviewed an analysis of the initiative and selected five to recommend to the board for further concerted action. The CAC was involved in this process through regular briefings and discussions at CAC meetings. The CAC was also represented on the Task Force by Emmet Tydings, through whom the committee provided input into the process, including conveying CAC priorities and selection of initiatives. The CAC also performed their own selection and evaluation process which helped to establish the relationships between the different initiatives.

#### **Visualize 2045**

The TPB kicked-off its quadrennial long-range plan update in 2017. This cycle, the long-range plan has been updated with new elements, new planning activities, and a new name and visual identity. The committee reviewed and provided input into the name and brand identity for the plan. The committee also served an important ambassadorial role for a public opinion survey. In this role committee members helped to identify locations across the region for in-person survey distribution. They also encouraged people in their communities to participate in the survey.

#### **Committee priorities**

At the beginning of the 2017 session, the CAC voted on its top five priorities for the year. These include: improving public engagement around the long-range plan; improving transportation access and equity; Improving safety for and promoting biking and walking; enhancing public transportation; and exploring implications of emerging transportation technology.

Committee members feel that they raised awareness of these issues during their monthly meeting, whether it be in a discussion directly related to those topics—for example, public involvement in Visualize 2045 or a discussion of the TPB's transportation equity areas. Although the issue of emerging technology was not explicitly address on their agenda, members regularly brought up concerns and ideas regarding new transportation technology with TPB staff.

## **Comments and advice on TPB plans**

In addition to providing comment and advice in the Long-Range Plan Task Force and Visualize 2045, the committee provided input into the monthly TPB meeting, and other planning efforts including: the Transportation/Land-Use Connections program, the Street Smart safety campaign, and the environmental justice analysis of the long-range plan.

## **MISSED OPPORTUNITIES**

With all that the CAC accomplished and discussed during 2017, there were several missed opportunities. Although the committee felt that it had some success in discussing its priorities, it would have liked more time set aside to fully address CAC interests. They specifically wanted to hear more about the TPB's equity work and how different jurisdictions in the region are planning for changes in transportation technology. The committee felt that it could be difficult to set aside time for discussions that were not directly related to the TPB agenda, the Long-Range Plan Task Force, or Visualize 2045. The committee recognizes that a high functioning and reliable WMATA is necessary for region's long-term health and prosperity, but the committee struggled to find a way to provide meaningful feedback or suggestions to the TPB or WMATA.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018**

At the January CAC meeting, the committee discussed recommendations for the 2018 to take into consideration as they put together their work plan.

- The CAC should intentionally coordinate and share information with the Access for All Advisory Committee. Perhaps members who attend AFA meetings could brief the CAC about topics discussed by the FA.
- Continue exploring ways to express interest and support in WMATA.
- Request specific data or information (on traffic patterns or financing mechanisms) from TPB staff to inform CAC discussions.
- Encourage TPB and jurisdiction staff to talk simply and not use jargon.
- Explore the ways that increased GPS navigation impacts neighborhood streets across the region. What, if anything, are the different jurisdictions doing to address this?
- It can take a while to really understand what exactly goes on at the TPB. Request an updated orientation and ask lots of questions.
- Consider holding meetings in different locations across the region to learn more about specific projects and TPB accomplishments.
- Request materials that can assist committee members take what they are learning back to their community.
- Think about how CAC alumni can raise awareness about public engagement opportunities
- Climate and resiliency are important, but not often discussed.

**AT THE JANUARY CAC MEETING THE COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED**

- Andrew Austin, TPB Transportation Planner, briefed the committee on project inputs to the constrained element of Visualize 2045 and the Air-Quality Conformity Analysis.
- Lyn Erickson, Plan Development & Program Coordination Director, reviewed the agenda for the December TPB meeting.

**ATTENDEES**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>ALTERNATES</b>	<b>TPB STAFF AND GUESTS</b>
Jeremy Martin, chairman	Veronica Lowe	Lyn Erickson, staff
Katherine Kortum	Jeffery Parnes	John Swanson, staff
Emmet Tydings	Ronit Dancis	Bryan Hayes, staff
Meredith Howell	Jessica Smith	Abigail Zenner, staff
Paul Angelone	Evan Papp	Andrew Austin, staff
Stephen Still		Bill Orleans, resident`
Lorena Rios		Heather Foote, resident
Rob Jackson		
Nancy Abeles		
Robyn Jackson		