

# National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290 (202)962-3310 Fax: (202) 962-3202 TDD: (202) 962-3213

## **Item #5**

### **MEMORANDUM**

February 20, 2013

**TO:** Transportation Planning Board

**FROM:** Ronald F. Kirby  
Director, Department of  
Transportation Planning

**RE:** Additional Letters Sent/Received

The attached additional letters sent/received will be reviewed along with other letters sent/received under item #5 of the February 20<sup>th</sup> TPB agenda.

Attachment

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## Memorandum

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Patrick Wojahn  
Chair, TPB Access for All (AFA) Advisory Committee  
College Park City Council

SUBJECT: AFA Comments on the Draft 2013 Financially-Constrained Long-Range  
Transportation Plan and General Transportation-Related Concerns of the Committee

DATE: February 20, 2013

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The TPB Access for All Advisory (AFA) Committee received a presentation on the significant changes to the Draft 2013 Financially Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) at its January 31, 2013 meeting. The committee had the following comments on projects in the plan, and raised several other concerns about issues for low-income communities, minority communities and people with disabilities and suggestions to address these issues at the regional and local level. The AFA is submitting the following comments based on discussion at the January meeting.

### Comments on New Projects and Significant Changes in the CLRP

The AFA expressed concern that none of the new significant additions to the 2013 CLRP are transit projects.

- Many of the population groups that the AFA represents depend on public transportation on a daily basis. The committee expressed its support for continued investment in public transit region-wide.

The AFA stressed the importance of making accessibility improvements when all projects are designed and built.

- Some of the new projects in the 2013 CLRP will contain elements that have implications for accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Accessibility for everyone is improved when projects include sidewalks, curb cuts and detectable warning systems at intersections and/or bus stops.
- State Departments of Transportation should coordinate with county and local transportation agencies to include these elements and other streetscape improvements to improve mobility for transit-dependent populations, such as person with disabilities, those with limited incomes, and limited English-speaking populations.

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*This document is available in an alternative formats upon request.  
Email: accommodations@mwkog.org, or phone: (202) 962-3275 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).  
Please allow up to seven working days for preparation of the material.*

## General Comments on Transportation-Related Concerns

The AFA supports investments in public transportation that will ensure that residents have travel options that are accessible and affordable.

- The AFA approves of the many public transportation projects included in the 2013 CLRP and stresses the importance of ensuring that these options are accessible and affordable to low-income communities, people with disabilities and those with limited English skills.

The AFA applauds the TPB's efforts to develop guidance for complete streets policies throughout the region.

- Providing safe and accessible pedestrian infrastructure is necessary to accommodate all road users throughout the region. This is especially important to people with disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs or have other mobility or visual impairments. This policy guidance is a step in the direction of making all transportation infrastructure compliant with ADAAG standards (ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities).

The AFA encourages WMATA to continually assess MetroAccess service, eligibility and fares.

- Since many people are reliant on MetroAccess throughout the region, the AFA recommends that the quality of the MetroAccess service and call center should continue to be monitored and assessed.
- The AFA raised concerns about how higher MetroAccess fares and stricter eligibility requirements are impacting paratransit-dependent population groups, and reiterates the recommendation for simpler fare structure.
- The existing MetroAccess contract will end in June 2013, and the AFA recommends that strong monitoring and oversight of the service be built into the next contract(s) WMATA procures for MetroAccess service.



## Florida Department of Transportation

RICK SCOTT  
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.  
SECRETARY

February 14, 2013

Mr. David Robertson  
National Capital Region Transportation  
Planning Board  
777 N. Capitol Street, NE  
Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Robertson,

**Did you know that your agency's long range transportation plan (LRTP), "The Financially Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan for The Capital Region", has been cited as an excellent example of a citizen-friendly document in a research study?** The Florida Department of Transportation's, Office of Policy Planning, recently completed a report, "Long Range Transportation Plan Citizen-Friendly Best Practices" that included your plan as an exemplary example.

As you know, the effort and detail that goes into creating a LRTP is highly technical and complex. Yet the general public needs to be able to understand the metropolitan planning process. This review highlighted design principles from other states' Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) that we can share with our MPOs in Florida. Of the 359 MPOs throughout the United States, LRTPs from 137 randomly selected MPOs were reviewed based on four criteria related to citizen-friendliness: (1) length, (2) clarity, (3) graphics, and (4) vision. The report highlights six LRTPs, including yours, as examples for each of the four criteria.

Congratulations on producing a LRTP that is worthy of national exposure! The Florida Department of Transportation applauds your agency for producing a citizen-friendly document and thanks you for being a best practice example. We hope you find the enclosed report to be informative. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at: [Yvonne.arens@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Yvonne.arens@dot.state.fl.us).

Sincerely,

Yvonne Arens  
MPO Statewide Coordinator

Enclosure  
cc: Howard Glassman, MPOAC, Executive Director