

## ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

November 10, 2020

*Kacy Kostiuk, Chair*

The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) met virtually on November 10 and the highlights from the meeting are provided below. A list of participants is on the last page. The AFA advises the TPB on transportation issues and services important to low-income communities, minority communities, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, and older adults.

### **WMATA TITLE VI PROGRAM**

Ms. Carla Elliott of Metro, presented on WMATA's 2020 Title VI Program, including: compliance procedures, public participation, and the Language Assistance Plan.

The discussion following the presentation included how WMATA gathers statistics on on-time performance and low-income households, how any service change requires an equity analysis to determine any disparate impact, the digital divide in outreach to low-income and minority populations, and how the American Community Survey (ACS) census data is used by WMATA.

### **A SERIES OF PRESENTATIONS ON THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL IN THE REGION**

#### **Enhanced Mobility**

Ms. Winchell-Mendy provided an overview of the impact of and responses to COVID-19 by Enhanced Mobility grant projects. Broad impacts included:

- Travel restrictions for populations at high risk
- A decline in drivers willing to drive taxis/ride-hailing and people willing to ride
- A decline in number of volunteers
- Shut down of adult day and vocational programs
- Significant decreases in ridership
- There has been an end to in-person activities that many depend upon to combat isolation and depression

Grantee responses to the challenges included:

- Developing virtual travel training and virtual volunteer training
- Using the time to develop outreach materials, translate marketing materials into Spanish, increase social media presence
- Planning for next steps in Workplans, planning for safe reopening, holding virtual meetings with partners
- Recruiting younger volunteer drivers
- Using vehicles for delivery of Meals on Wheels, prescriptions, and groceries
- Offering transportation for critical medical needs only
- Ensuring safety of passengers by purchasing PPE and following safety guidelines
- Developing partnerships with local governments and other non-profit organizations
- Maintaining vehicles
- Allowing additional trip purposes for vouchers, and adding grocery delivery

COG/TPB will continue to collect and monitor impacts and reopening of service.

Two subrecipients of Enhanced Mobility presented on innovative practices they've undertaken to allow for continued delivery of services to older adults and people with disabilities during the pandemic. Highlights included the Arc of Northern Virginia's adaption to virtual travel training for people with intellectual disabilities, which allowed the inclusion of family and mentors and Capitol Hill Village's successful offering of virtual peer-to-peer training directly with transportation providers resulting in increased Village participation.

### **Regional**

Mr. Meese shared preliminary results of TPB staff research on data and information examining COVID-19's transportation impacts on travel and roadway traffic volumes impacts, transit, and safety, speeds, and other impacts. Findings included:

- Traffic volumes and vehicle miles of travel dipped most dramatically in April but have significantly recovered
- Truck travel never declined as much as passenger travel did
- Though the overall number of crashes and incidents went down during the pandemic, major incidents and fatal crashes remained high even during periods of reduced travel demand
- Transit ridership has varied, with greater declines for longer-distance commuter services, lesser declines for local bus transit services
- Ridership changes should be viewed in relation to pandemic-reduced service levels; bus usage has been significant and remains a lifeline for critical workers.

Mr. Canan discussed planned activities to continue to monitor and analyze the impacts. COG Departments of Transportation Planning, Environmental Programs, and Community Planning & Service plan to collaborate on a multi-sector assessment of the data.

Due to time constraints, questions will be directed to staff for circulation to the appropriate speaker and response.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Masliansky of SOME shared information on the DC Transportation Equity Network (DC TEN), a "cross-sector coalition of organizations committed to seeing a complete transportation system that ensures vulnerable travelers are accounted for in the District of Columbia." As a member, SOME will continue to provide updates on the work of DC TEN.

Chair Kostiuk shared information about the transition to a new AFA Chair.

### **2021 MEETING DATES**

- TBD in consultation with new Chair

## MEETING ATTENDANCE

<b>District of Columbia</b>	<b>Virginia</b>	<b>TPB Staff</b>
Christopher Grayton, Yellow Cab Company of DC	Clemmon Hammie, VDOT	Andy Meese
Heather Foote, Age Friendly DC Transportation Committee	Karen Smith, Arc of Prince William/INSIGHT, Inc.	Kanti Srikanth
Judy Berman, Capitol Hill Village	Mahtot Gebresselassie, Virginia Tech PhD student	Karen Armendariz
Karen Randolph, DDOT	Peter Leisen, Arc of Northern Virginia	Lyn Erikson
Nechama Maslianky, S.O.M.E.	Roger Hoskin, representing older adults	Lynn Winchell-Mendy
Vivian Guerra, DDOT	Brittany Voll, DRPT	Sergio Ritacco
		Tim Canan
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>Regional</b>	
Andrea Lasker, Prince George's County DPWT	Angela Miller, Direct Action	<b>Chair</b>
Christina Vandroff, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland	Angela White, National MS Society of Greater DC	Kacy Kostiuk, City of Takoma Park – Ward 3 Councilmember
Debbie Fisher, representing people with developmental disabilities	Brenda Richardson, Women Like Us	
Gloria Swieringa, Prince George's Commission for Individuals with Disabilities	Carla Elliott, WMATA	
Janet Cornick, Maryland Department of Transportation	Cecelia Castillo-Ayometzi, WMATA	
Marci LeFevre, City of Hyattsville	Glenn Millis, WMATA	
Sara Fought, JCA Connect-A-Ride	Janine Ashe, FHWA	
Shawn Brennan, Montgomery County DHHS	Ken Thompson, Easterseals	
Yolanda Hipski, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland		