

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee February 15, 2006 Emmet Tydings, CAC Chair

The newly appointed 2006 CAC held its first monthly meeting on February 9, 2006. The meeting focused on discussing the year ahead—both for the CAC and for the TPB.

Discussion of the CLRP Process and the 2006 Project Submissions

John Swanson of the COG/TPB staff gave a presentation on the TPB process, the CAC's role, and the anticipated TPB agenda for 2006. He explained this year's schedule for updating the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP).

Ron Kirby, Director of COG's Department of Transportation Planning, gave a brief overview of the projects that have submitted for this year's update to the Constrained Long-Range Plan. He said that six significant changes have been proposed for inclusion this year in the CLRP. The projects include:

- South Capitol Street Improvements and new bridges at the Frederick Douglas Memorial Bridge and at 11th Street in the District of Columbia;
- Studies of I-95/395/495 in Virginia;
- An intersection improvement at VA28/I-66 in Virginia; and
- A new interchange at I-270 and New Cut Road in Montgomery County.

Member comments and questions included the following:

- ***The project submission information is confusing.*** CAC member said the information that the state DOTs provide regarding project submissions is difficult to read and is unclear. Similar concerns about CLRP project information were included in the CAC's 2005 Recommendations on CLRP/TIP Information and Analysis. Staff responded that these concerns are valid and that staff is working to improve CLRP information.
- ***Were the projects that are not considered "regionally significant" also released for public comment?*** Staff responded that the complete table of project submissions was posted on the COG/TPB website. On February 9, staff sent out an email notice announcing the release of the project submissions and the availability of the complete table of project submissions.
- A member expressed concerns about the project development process under ***Virginia's Public/Private Transportation Act (PPTA)***. He said he was worried these projects, including the proposed VDOT studies for the 2006 CLRP, could be circumventing federally required public participation requirements.

The CAC's Agenda for 2006

Emmet Tydings, new CAC chair, described his goals for the year. He said he would prefer to focus the committee's agenda this year on longer-term planning issues rather than the smaller-scale, short-term concerns that have characterized the committee's work in the past couple years. He said he would like the committee to focus on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (RMAS) and the 2006 update to the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP).

Regarding RMAS, Chairman Tydings he would like the committee to continue to conduct outreach forums and continue to monitor the study's development. Regarding the CLRP, he said the CAC should monitor this year's update to the plan and seek to ensure that the TPB and staff take steps to implement last year's CAC Recommendations on CLRP/TIP Information and Analysis. The committee should also seek to ways to promote integration between the CLRP and the RMAS scenarios.

CAC member comments and questions included the following:

- ***The CAC should not only focus on RMAS/CLRP.*** Committee members expressed concern that the CAC should not exclusively work on RMAS and the CLRP this year. Several members noted that important issues frequently arise on the TPB agenda—such as the MetroAccess study on the February agenda—and the committee had a responsibility to comment on these issues. Chairman Tydings said that he did not want to dissipate the committee's energies by working on too many smaller scale issues. Nonetheless, he agreed that the agenda should remain flexible to respond to emerging issues and member interests.
- ***The CAC should develop a more coordinated program for outreach.*** Members suggested that the CAC should develop a more coordinated approach for its public outreach meetings on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study. One member suggested:
 - The committee should set a goal for increasing the number of public meetings conducted this year.
 - The RMAS presentation (“What if the Washington Region Grew Differently?”) should be tailored so that it can be directly used by CAC members or other interested community members in their own meetings, in a variety of settings.
 - The CAC should receive a briefing from the consultants who will be working with TPB staff on enhanced outreach activities. The CAC's outreach on the scenario study should be coordinated with these new consultant activities.
- ***The CAC should establish more formalized procedures for agenda-setting and operations.*** The CAC might consider appointing an executive committee to help develop the committee's activities, and to clarify operating procedures and the appointment process.

Briefing on the TPB Agenda

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ron Kirby briefed the committee on the upcoming TPB agenda.

ATTENDANCE **CAC Meeting, February 9, 2006**

Members in Attendance

1. Emmet Tydings, Chair, MD
2. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
3. Stephen Cerny, VA
4. Harold Foster, DC
5. Allen Greenburg, DC
6. Grace Malakoff, DC
7. Dan Malouff, VA
8. Robin Marlin, DC
9. Larry Martin, DC
10. Allen Muchnick, VA

Members Not in Attendance

1. Ephrem Asebe, MD
2. Stephen Caflisch, MD
3. Elvin Crespo, MD
4. Jim Larsen, VA

Alternate Members in Attendance

Joseph Bowser, DC
Merle Van Horne, DC

Staff/Others

Ron Kirby, COG/TPB
John Swanson, COG/TPB
Pete Garcia