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**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
January 20, 2016

*Bob Summersgill, Chairman*

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) focused on two major issues in 2015: Safety and Transit. The year started with a fatal Metro accident, which highlighted both the need for transportation safety and Metro's central role in the region's transportation system. In 2015, the CAC recommended that the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) and member jurisdictions adopt a goal of zero traffic deaths within the next 20 years. The committee also asked WMATA to share scheduled transit data and serve as the coordinator for all the transit data in the region.

Following the guidance from the 2014 CAC, this year's committee also worked to get a better understanding of how data is used to track safety and how people moved round the region. They also continued to advocate for public involvement in developing a prioritized list of unfunded projects for the Washington region.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2015**

During the year, the committee provided feedback and guidance on a number of issues, ranging from the TPB's regional freight planning activities, to the 2015 CLRP update, and the TLC and TAP programs. The following sections describe the topics and ways in which the CAC feels it had the biggest impact in 2015.

#### **Transportation Safety**

The CAC requested a series of briefings on transportation safety in the Washington region, including an overview of the TPB's safety subcommittee and the "Street Smart" bicycle and pedestrian safety public education campaign. The committee also heard from DDOT about efforts to implement a *Vision Zero* policy in the District. Parallel to these briefings, the committee discussed the need for greater data transparency around safety, and the role that the TPB could play in promoting safety in the region.

This work culminated in the *CAC Recommendation to Eliminate All Traffic Fatalities in the Washington Region* which was presented to the TPB in December. At the request of the 2015 TPB Chairman Phil Mendelson, TPB staff is working on a response to the CAC's recommendation.

#### **Transit Information**

TPB Staff briefed the CAC about the status of real-time transit information in the Washington region. In response, the CAC formed a subcommittee to explore ways that the TPB could advocate for more reliable transit information in the region. The subcommittee met with WMATA staff to learn more about their efforts to act as the regional coordinating body for transit schedules. The subcommittee encouraged the transit agency to share schedule data that WMATA was already collecting with mapping applications.

#### **TPB Audio**

For several years the CAC has encouraged TPB staff to find ways to make TPB meetings more accessible. This year, responding to requests from the TPB and the CAC, TPB staff started streaming audio from the TPB meetings live on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)

website ([www.mwcog.org/TPBmtgLIVE](http://www.mwcog.org/TPBmtgLIVE)). The CAC played an important role in making this happen. Members of the committee also volunteered to provide feedback during trial runs of the service.

### COMMENT AND ADVICE ON TPB PLANS

As described in the TPB's Participation Plan, part of the CAC's mission is, "to provide independent, region-oriented citizen advice to the TPB on transportation plans and issues." In that spirit, the CAC provided comment and advice on the following TPB plans and planning areas:

- **Multi-Sector Working Group:** TPB staff regularly briefed the CAC about MSWG work activities. During these briefings, the CAC inquired about performance targets and encouraged the TPB to consider engaging the public with targeted information on greenhouse gas reduction efforts.
- **Unfunded Capital Needs Working Group:** During briefings on the unfunded projects group, the CAC encouraged TPB staff to work with COG staff to coordinate scenario analysis of unfunded projects, especially as it relates to greenhouse gas reductions. They pushed the working group to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian projects into the process, and to focus on WMATA capital needs. The committee also commented on the scope of work and asked to be consulted as TPB staff develop public involvement around unfunded projects and scenario analysis.

### MISSED OPPORTUNITIES IN 2015

In 2015 the CAC experimented with subcommittees. These subcommittees were designed to allow CAC members to engage in topics more deeply and then share findings with the whole committee. Five CAC subcommittees were formed to explore: Unfunded Projects, Public Participation, Multi-Sector Working Group, Real-Time Transit Information, and WMATA. Without specific goals, work tasks, or products identified by the CAC, these subcommittees stopped meeting after several months. While some groups, like the one focused on transit information, produced results, in reflection the CAC felt like the experiment with subcommittees was not as effective as they had hoped.

The CAC recognizes the important role that Metro can play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, serving as a transportation hub, and decreasing congestion is vital to the region. The current troubles at WMATA need to be addressed, but we don't have specific recommendations beyond the steps that the TPB and WMATA have made.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2016

- Promote the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan at the jurisdiction level.
- Put pressure on the region to make more real-time transit information available in a format that can be shared across services.
- Continue to advocate for CAC guidance of and public involvement in the long-range planning process to prioritize unfunded projects.
- Stay involved in discussions about long-range planning at the TPB.
- Follow up with TPB staff about CAC recommendation to eliminate traffic deaths, and the impact that new federal regulations might have on transportation safety collection.
- Discuss ways that the TPB can engage folks active at the local level in regional issues.
- Encourage TPB staff to think about ways that transportation can be used to solve other problems, including issues related to equity and economic development around activity centers.

- Put pressure on the TPB and its member jurisdictions to force major, constructive changes by WMATA.
- Limit the number of future CAC subcommittees per session. The CAC should put more effort into defining clear objectives for those committees.

## 2015 MEMBER ROSTER

<b>NAME</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
<b>Bob Summersgill</b>	DC	Chairperson
<b>Veronica O. Davis</b>	DC	Committee Member
<b>Holly Muhammad</b>	DC	Committee Member
<b>Thomas Sanchez</b>	DC	Committee Member
<b>Keith Benjamin</b>	DC	Committee Member
<b>Emily Oaksford</b>	DC	Alternate Committee Member
<b>Julia Thayne</b>	DC	Alternate Committee Member
<b>Jeremy Martin</b>	MA	Committee Member
<b>Emmet Tydings</b>	MD	Committee Member
<b>John D. Epps</b>	MD	Committee Member
<b>Gary V. Hodge</b>	MD	Committee Member
<b>Alex D. Tremble</b>	MD	Committee Member
<b>Nancy Abeles</b>	MD	Alternate Committee Member
<b>Cherian Eapen</b>	MD	Alternate Committee Member
<b>Tina Slater</b>	MD	Alternate Committee Member
<b>Douglas Stewart</b>	VA	Committee Member
<b>Jeffrey M. Parnes</b>	VA	Committee Member
<b>Stephen Still</b>	VA	Committee Member
<b>Lorena Rios</b>	VA	Committee Member
<b>Andrea Hamre</b>	VA	Committee Member
<b>Lara Hegler</b>	VA	Alternate Committee Member
<b>Michael Rodriguez</b>	VA	Alternate Committee Member
<b>Robert Jackson</b>	VA	Alternate Committee Member