

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Draft Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 21, 2013

Room 4/5

5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

ACPAC members: Sarah Bunn, Bill Butler, Gretchen Goldman, Ravi Gupta, Andrew Kambour, Sally Kane, Katherine Lizotte, Brian McFarland, Patrick Matos, Caroline Petti, Glenna Tinney (via phone)

Staff: Joan Rohlfs, Maia Davis, Amanda Campbell

Speakers: Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director, Coalition for Smarter Growth

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes

The agenda and minutes from September 16, 2013 were approved with one revision from Chair Petti.

2. Next Generation of Transit Initiative (Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director, Coalition for Smarter Growth)

The Coalition for Smart Growth (CSG) was founded by environmental non-profits in the region in the late 1990s when smart growth was a new concept. CSG supports the implementation of smart growth to improve air quality and address climate change as well as other benefits. Stewart described to the group the linkages between smart growth, air quality and climate change. He described why he believes transit-oriented development (TOD) is the best way for our region to grow and how the market trends support the need for more TOD. Stewart identified three focus areas for TOD moving forward including Route 1 in Fairfax County, Rockville Pike in Montgomery County, and the 15 underutilized Metro stations in Prince George's County. Stewart argued that the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP) should address climate change and strongly favor walkable/TOD and since there is no guaranteed funding for the RTPP or Metro's Momentum Strategic Plan transit supporters need to speak up to support transit funding and TOD.

ACPAC members posed questions and had comments regarding community support for TOD, parking policies, and affordability of living in TODs. Stewart described how it's important to have a community vision plan so that TOD is pursued in a manner that works for each community and lays the groundwork for developers. He described how 1:1 resident to parking space ratios do not work in TODs and how it would be beneficial to not have policies that have parking minimums. In an urban area, 0.3-0.7 spaces per residential unit is more appropriate. As far as affordability, Stewart explained that there is too much supply for the demand; therefore, we need to build more TOD to bring the costs down. It will also help to develop smaller residential units, requiring a percentage of units to be affordable and full cost accounting that includes full transportation costs.

3. Bikeswell (video)

BikeArlington, in partnership with the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee, developed the "bike-umentary" of the year: BikeSwell - Smart Movement in Arlington, Virginia. ACPAC viewed this film, which features local bike advocacy rock stars and highlights the triumphs and tribulations of making Arlington a premiere bicycle friendly community.

4. 2012 Climate and Energy Progress Report (Maia Davis, COG DEP Staff)

In the spring of 2013, ACPAC held a discussion about ideas for the climate and energy action plan and work program. Maia Davis reminded the group of some of the feedback ACPAC provided and how that has been incorporated into the recently published 2012 Climate and Energy Progress Report and into COG staff's climate and energy work plan for 2014. The Progress Report highlights regional stats that show progress over the past several years and highlights best practices including those from smaller jurisdictions. The work plan calls for the development of a regional methodology and annual greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, webinars, and fact sheets. One FY 2014 priority includes development of a Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Pilot Program.

5. Committee Updates/Proposed ACPAC Letter to Clean Air Partners

Chair Petti informed ACPAC that CEEPC approved moving forward with the development of a Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Pilot. An Awards Task Force has been established with 3 CEEPC members and 3 ACPAC members to flesh out the details of the pilot program. Members include:

- ACPAC: Caroline Petti, Bill Butler, and Glenna Tinney
- CEEPC: Del Pepper (Alexandria), Ryan Spiegel (Gaithersburg), and Nicole Steele (Alliance to Save Energy)

The first call of the Task Force is Monday, October 28, 2013. ACPAC will be kept informed of progress and will be tapped to serve as a judging panel in 2014.

Sally Kane briefly discussed the possibility of an ACPAC subcommittee and/or letter to Clean Air Partners. Glenna Tinney and Ravi Gupta, ACPAC members, have been elected to the Clean Air Partners Board and some ACPAC members have been discussing how to voice ACPAC's interests and concerns to the Clean Air Partner Board. A letter or, if needed, ACPAC subcommittee may be the appropriate approach. Sally, Glenna, and Ravi met after the ACPAC meeting to discuss.

6. Adjourn

Next meeting: November 18, 2013 – 5:30pm – 7:30pm
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