
TPB COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

December 15, 2021

Elisa Walton, CAC Chair

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) met 10 times in 2021 to fulfill their mission *to promote public involvement in transportation planning for the region, to advance equitable representation in regional transportation planning, and to provide region-oriented community advice to the TPB on transportation plans and issues.* This report summarizes CAC discussions and activities over the course of the year.

In November 2020, the TPB approved a suite of updates to the CAC (R11-2021) that included changing the name of the committee and updating the committee structure to ensure the committee better reflects the region's racial and ethnic diversity as well as different perspectives from people with different ages and experiences getting around the region.

The 2021-2022 CAC consisted of 9 returning members and 15 new members. One of the goals for the year was to find a way to make online-only meetings as engaging and productive as in-person meetings. To do this, the committee tried to balance briefings, feedback and small group discussions. The CAC engaged on key issues facing the region, including current debates around highway expansion, and broader topics such as climate change and safety. Members shared perspectives and provided insight into these topics and the diverse impacts they have across the region.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2021, the CAC contributed to many items that were brought before the board. Four topics received the most discussion: climate change, Visualize 2045, roadway safety, and project inputs for the long-range plan update.

Climate Change

During 2021, climate change was a big topic of discussion at the TPB and at the CAC. The recognition that climate change will have noticeable impacts on the region was met with a desire to have an impact by exploring ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the region's transportation system. The CAC applauds the TPB for conducting the Climate Change Mitigation Study of 2021.

The committee encourages the TPB to continue taking climate change seriously and to work with member jurisdictions and agencies to act swiftly to mitigate climate impacts from the region's transportation system. The CAC also urges the TPB and MWCOC staff to leverage the CAC for help messaging the CCMS more broadly.

Visualize 2045

The TPB's quadrennial long-range transportation plan updates touches on all work conducted by the TPB. As such, the CAC received eight briefings on Visualize 2045 in 2021. These briefings covered an overview of the plan and its contents, project selection for the constrained element, results from the public opinion survey and focus groups, and public comment. Throughout these briefings, committee members provided input and advice to staff.

Additionally, CAC members participated in a Voices of the Region focus group alongside members of the Access for All Advisory Committee. This focus group served to introduce members of the two committees and provided them an opportunity to experientially learn about the survey questions and methodology.

The committee asks to stay involved in the development of Visualize 2045 and is eager to support TPB staff in raising awareness and promoting public involvement in the plan as it nears approval in 2022.

Roadway Safety

For the last several years, the CAC has advocated for making the region's roadways and transportation system safer for all users. This advocacy culminated with board approval of a set of regional safety recommendations, including the creation of the Regional Roadway Safety technical assistance program. During 2021, the CAC continued to regularly meet with TPB safety staff to track the process on the roadway safety technical assistance work.

The committee encourages the TPB to continue funding the Regional Roadway Safety Program and ensure that roadway safety is a priority for the board as well as member jurisdictions and agencies. The committee also encourages all member jurisdictions to participate in this technical assistance opportunity to increase roadway safety.

Project Inputs for the Visualize 2045 Plan Update

Like the board, the CAC had passionate discussions about project inputs for the air-quality conformity analysis of Visualize 2045. At the July committee meeting, Mr. Srikanth briefed the committee on board action to not include the I-495/I-270 projects. The committee was split on this decision but had a good discussion that resulted in a set of principles that the CAC believes the TPB should follow in the process of approving project inputs for the long-range transportation plan.

The following principles highlight the diversity of perspectives represented on the CAC. For more detail on these principles refer to the July 2021 CAC report.

- Only include projects in the long-range plan when they are ready.
- Consistency is vital.
- Clear public information is essential.
- Consider the diversity of the region.
- Be open to new ideas.
- Don't reinvent the wheel; build on past planning work.
- The TPB is the best place to consider the regional perspective.
- Take regional aspirations seriously.
- Respect expert opinions.

Other highlights

In addition to the above, the committee was briefed on many topics in 2021, including: the Regional Travel Survey, the Transportation Land-Use Connections program, the State of Public Transportation Report, the Transit Within Reach program, Enhanced Mobility, Connected and Automated Vehicles, and the Street Smart Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety program.

LOOKING TOWARD 2022

For the first time, CAC members were appointed to serve a two-year term. This means member appointed to serve in 2021 will return for 2022. Looking toward the year ahead, the group shared ideas for how to be purposeful in their discussions and how to have an impact as a committee.

The committee expressed interest in starting the new year with a work session, so members can work together to articulate common goals for the committee in 2022. This includes discussing the value that the CAC brings to the TPB process and how best the committee can work with the board. This discussion should also explore how the CAC can help communication about regional values in a way that resonates locally and ways that the committee can support the board.

Other suggestions for 2022 include:

- Several members mentioned that they'd like to learn more about how transportation projects are developed and funded.
- The committee also expressed interest in learning more about the impact of the pandemic on travel patterns. They expressed interest in the demonstrated benefits of fewer trips during the pandemic, how things might change as more people return to work in-person and other regional impacts of this shift.
- There was a request for a presentation on the past decade of TPB studies, reports, and plans. They said this would show the breadth and depth of TPB work.
- Encourage the CAC chair and the TPB chair to meet regularly. A strong relationship between the two chairs helps keep the board invested in the CAC and the committee engaged with the board. Additionally, members should seek to build relationships with all three TPB officers and TPB members from their home jurisdictions.
- One member said they miss in-person meetings. They said it was hard to feel connected with peers on the committee when meetings are online-only. They recommended resuming some in-person meetings as soon as it is safe to do so.

2021 CAC MEMBERSHIP

Name	Jurisdiction	State
Ashley Huston	City of Manassas	VA
Audrey Nwaze	City of Greenbelt	MD
Dan Papiernik	Fairfax County	VA
Delia Houseal	Ward 7	DC
Delishia Pittman	Prince George's County	MD
Edith Goldman, resigned	Prince George's County	MD
Elisa Walton, CAC Chair	Ward 6	DC
Emmet Tydings	Montgomery County	MD
Eyal Li	City of Takoma Park	MD
Jeff Jamawat	Ward 1	DC
Jeff Parnes	Fairfax County	VA
Jemila Kia James	Ward 7	DC
Justin Isbell	City of Alexandria	VA
Katherine Kortum	Ward 6	DC
Lorena Rios	Loudoun County	VA
Michael Artson	Prince William County	VA
Nancy Abeles	Montgomery County	MD
Prince Coulibaly	City of Gaithersburg	MD
Ra Amin	Ward 5	DC
Rafael Sampayo	Arlington County	VA
Robert Jackson	Fairfax County	VA
Ron Skotz	City of Bowie	MD
Solomon Haile	Fairfax County	VA
Tracy Duvall	City of Takoma Park	MD