
ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

April 24, 2023

Christina Henderson, Chair

The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) met virtually on Monday, April 24. The committee discussed the draft 2023 Coordinated Plan, the FY 2024 Transportation Land Use Connection (TLC) program's recently approved projects, Healthcare Transportation roundtables held in Maryland, and the ongoing Montgomery County Ride On bus network redesign. The AFA advises the TPB on transportation issues and services important to low-income communities, underrepresented communities, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, and older adults.

COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (COORDINATED PLAN) UPDATE

Sergio Ritacco, TPB Transportation Planner presented new information related to the Coordinated Plan update, including an announcement for the April 13 – May 13 public comment period and timeline for TPB approval. In addition, he reviewed the Coordinated Plan development process and recognized AFA's role in providing input and guidance on the plan. The draft Coordinated Plan was presented to TPB at their April meeting and will be an action item in May. Comments and questions from the committee included:

- **Questions about the 2023 Enhanced Mobility (EM) grant solicitation.** Two members asked about where information will be available on the upcoming solicitation. TPB staff shared the link for the EM webpage: <https://www.mwcog.org/transportation/programs/enhanced-mobility/>

SELECTED PROJECTS FROM FY2024 TLC SOLICITATION

John Swanson, TPB Transportation Planner, presented the selected projects from the FY 2023 TLC solicitation, approved by TPB at their April meeting. Comments and questions from the committee included:

- **TLC projects should include people with disabilities and older adults early in the planning process to better address design choices that impact those communities (ex. floating bus stops, protected bike lanes, etc.), and understand peer agency approaches to bus stop accessibility.** One member suggested that people with disabilities and older adults should be consulted early on in project timeline before key design decisions are made. TPB staff responded that these projects usually include a stakeholder engagement component and referenced that the Prince George's County Bus Stop project application is focused on ADA accessibility at bus stops. Another member asked about the Prince George's County Bus Stop Project, asking if the project team would refer to other transit agencies that have studied bus stop accessibility as models (ex. Fairfax County, Arlington, Alexandria). They added that audible announcements are key for accessibility and to reconsider any floating bus stops.
- **Question about TLC project evaluation.** One member asked if TLC projects are evaluated and presented with recommended changes. TPB staff responded that periodic evaluations are conducted via phone interviews with past program participants.
- **Question about state-level project selections.** One member asked about the distribution of selections across DC, Maryland, and Virginia. TPB staff responded that while there were no applications for TLC from DC this year, there are currently two active TLC projects in DC.

UPDATE ON MARYLAND HEALTHCARE TRANSPORTATION ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS

Yolanda Hipski, Regional Transit Coordinator with Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, presented about the Maryland Healthcare Transportation Roundtables held last fall. Her

presentation shared results from a survey about healthcare transportation, themes from the roundtables, and next steps. Comments and questions from the committee included:

- **An emphasis on challenges to mobility in Southern Maryland and possible partnership with the Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAVAIR).** One member shared their experience living in Southern Maryland with limited public transportation options, and issues with inaccessible vehicles. The presenter shared an anecdote about clients unable to get to medical appointments on public transportation and relying on rideshare with costs of \$500 - \$550 one-way. The member suggested that NAVAIR attracted new people to the area and suggested that they could be a partner for future mobility projects.
- **Older adults need better information about the programs available to them and how to use them.** A member expressed a need for better information about transportation programs for older adults to understand their options and how to use them.
- **Suggestion to research Medicaid waiver program and disincentives to coordination.** One member suggested reviewing Medicaid's structure for funding transportation to understand possible disincentives to coordinated healthcare transportation encountered by past coordinating groups.
- **General support for the roundtables.** Several members shared their support for the Roundtables and interest in the findings from the survey and roundtable discussions.
- **Interest in a future presentation about transportation options in Southern Maryland.** One member expressed interest in a future presentation about public transportation options in Southern Maryland, especially on the Route 5 Corridor toward St. Mary's and Lexington Park.

RIDE ON REIMAGINED

Deanna Archey, Senior Transportation Planner for Montgomery County DOT, presented about Ride On Reimagined. The presentation included an overview of Montgomery County's bus network redesign, an overview of Phase I of the effort, and next steps.

- **Interest in a future presentation with updates from WMATA's Better Bus Redesign to understand MetroAccess impacts.** One member that also participates on WMATA's Accessibility Advisory Committee, expressed interest in WMATA presenting updates related to their Better Bus Redesign. They stated that changes to routes, frequency, and operating hours may impact MetroAccess.
- **Questions about how residents were engaged around potential traffic impacts from the redesign.** A member asked about how the redesign team engaged residents that may be impacted by new traffic patterns from service changes. The presenter shared that the redesign, beginning with the development of the scope of work, included opportunities for engagement through virtual comments, pop-up events, and focus groups.
- **Excitement about MetroAccess flat fares.** A member, also participating on WMATA's Accessibility Advisory Committee, shared that the recently approved WMATA budget includes a MetroAccess fare cap at \$4.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Marcela Moreno informed the committee that AFA meetings will be available for members of the public to watch and listen via a YouTube stream on the AFA meeting webpage. AFA members will receive the WebEx link to join the meeting via a calendar invite, the AFA agenda shared with them, and a courtesy email before the meeting.
- Marcela Moreno introduced a new staff member at TPB, Cristina Finch, who joined TPB as a Principal Planner/Technical Manager.
- Mohammad Khan shared information about the Enhanced Mobility Grantees Best Practices Forum being held at COG on April 25, 2023.

District of Columbia

Heather Edelman
Heather Foote
Nechama Masliansky
Brenda Richardson

Maryland

William Clements
Bong Delrosario
Deborah Fisher
Peter Flandrau
Sara Fought
Yolanda Hipski
Robert Malone
Sherri Mohebbi
Kari Snyder

Virginia

Emily Braley
Kinta Carter
Tom Furlong
Roger Hoskin
Peter Leisen
Valesca Maldonado

John Nemeth

Regional

Janine Ashe
Cecilia Castillo-Ayometzi
Glenn Millis
Angela White

TPB Staff

Jamie Bufkin
Rachel Beyerle
Lyn Erickson
Mohammad Khan
Marcela Moreno
Sergio Ritacco
Kanti Srikanth
John Swanson

Guests

Deanna Archey
Neville Waters

Chair

Christina Henderson, Council of the District of
Columbia