

## **REPORT**

### **TPB Citizens Advisory Committee May 19, 2010 Maureen Budetti, CAC Chair**

The CAC's May 13 meeting focused primarily on the upcoming "Conversation on Setting Regional Transportation Priorities" scheduled for May 26. The CAC also received a short update on the Federal Certification Review of the TPB, which was the main subject of discussion at the CAC's April meeting.

#### **CAC Prepares for the May 26<sup>th</sup> Conversation**

The CAC recognizes that the event on May 26<sup>th</sup> represents a potentially pivotal opportunity to change the way in which the TPB conducts regional planning. The Conversation has been scheduled at the request of the CAC and in large part, it has been designed to respond to the CAC's recommendation that the TPB should develop a long-range regional transportation priorities plan that would identify unfunded priority projects and provide a big-picture context for understanding the TPB's Constrained Long-Range Plan.

We are taking our role in this event very seriously. Fourteen CAC members are planning to attend. We spent the majority of our meeting last week discussing an outline for the CAC presentation. Our presentation will provide background on how the CAC came to its recommendation for a regional priorities plan and we will make the case for an enhanced planning process. We will also describe options for change and, although we do not believe it is appropriate for a citizens committee to lay out a detailed proposal for a priorities plan, we will make note of some essential elements that we believe such a planning process should incorporate. These key elements include establishing a priority-setting process that picks up where the TPB Vision leaves off, and conducting a public involvement process that facilitates a wide-ranging regional conversation and better uses available information to inform the planning process.

At the CAC meeting last Thursday, committee members particularly focused on the need to be clear in making the case for change. The committee needs to articulate why an integrated planning process that uses a regional lens would be good for the region and why the current scenario study, while an important tool, is not the same thing as a regional transportation priorities plan.

The committee also clearly understands that the details for an enhanced regional transportation planning process need to be worked out – and this process cannot happen in one meeting. We certainly do not claim to have all the answers, but we do sincerely hope that the internal stakeholders of the TPB process will be open to an honest discussion about real change.

## **Recap of the Federal Review of the TPB Process**

Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning, provided an update on the preliminary findings of the Federal Certification Review of the TPB, which was conducted in April. He underscored the good discussion that resulted from the process, and noted that a preliminary report of findings in three main categories was provided at the April TPB Meeting. These findings include a comment that the TPB relies upon the internet too much as an information medium. The CAC is looking forward to getting the final federal report, and we also intend to promote a variety of options for information sharing.

## **Other Business**

- Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning, briefed the committee on the upcoming TPB agenda, including the approval for project submissions for the 2010 CLRP and 2011-2016 TIP.
- Staff asked the CAC to provide suggestions on future agenda topics for the committee. Suggestions currently on the table include: 1) a briefing from the WMATA Riders Advisory Council and 2) update on COG's Region Forward report.

## **ATTENDANCE**

CAC Meeting, May 13, 2010

### **Members in Attendance**

1. Maureen Budetti, VA, Chair
2. Zach Dobelbower, DC
3. William Easter, MD
4. Farrell Keough, MD
5. Larry Martin, DC
6. Stephen McCoy, DC
7. Madeline McDuffy, VA
8. Allen Muchnick, VA
9. Gail Parker, VA
10. Tina Slater, MD
11. Emmet Tydings, MD
12. Faith Wheeler, DC

### **Alternates in Attendance**

Kevin Posey, VA

### **Members Not in Attendance**

1. Harold Foster, DC
2. James Larsen, VA
3. Roxanne Taylor, MD

### **Staff/Others**

Ron Kirby, COG/DTP  
John Swanson, COG/DTP  
Deb Bilek, COG/DTP  
Bill Orleans, interested citizen