

REPORT
TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
April 17, 2013
Stephen Still, 2013 CAC Chair

The CAC's meeting on April 11 included a presentation on WMATA's *Momentum* strategic plan, and a discussion with TPB Chair York. The CAC also elected two Vice Chairs to serve for the 2013 year. At the end of the meeting, the CAC discussed its priorities for the upcoming year, including setting future agenda items.

Briefing and Discussion on *Momentum*, WMATA's Strategic Plan

Mr. Kannan of WMATA provided a briefing to the CAC on *Momentum*, WMATA's strategic plan, the draft of which was released to the public in January. He first introduced strategic planning objectives. He said that the *Momentum* plan covered both short and long term planning, and that it represents an evolution about how WMATA approaches prioritizing projects. He said that WMATA is focused on rail and bus system improvements so that the system functions at a high level of service, \$5 billion in capital improvements are planned over a six-year time period. He handed out a summary of the draft strategic plan and provided an overview of its goals.

CAC members were very receptive to Mr. Kannan's presentation. Some CAC members were particularly interested in the role of joint development within the strategic plan, and asked that joint development be used to generate revenue and increase access. The CAC also encouraged the use of new technology for fare payments across WMATA and other regional operators. . One CAC member questioned the long-term plans for ensuring accessibility for Metrorail stations, and asked if the existing parking facilities constrain future growth. Another CAC member advocated for WMATA to encourage promoting local privatized transit services – like jitneys – as a way to bring people to transit stations. CAC members also inquired about plans for Metrorail extensions to outer jurisdictions such as Frederick County, to which Mr. Kannan replied that WMATA is focusing on maximizing core capacity as a primary goal before looking to expand. Commuter rail may be a better option for serving more distant locations. At the conclusion of the conversation, Mr. Kannan invited members of the CAC to provide additional feedback by visiting www.wmata.com/momentum or by providing collective feedback as a joint CAC document.

Discussion with TPB Chairman Scott York

TPB Chair Scott York thanked the members of the CAC for volunteering their time to serve on this important advisory body. He emphasized the critical influence that a group of interested citizens can have on elected officials, and acknowledged that although the region is comprised of diverse interests, people in the region all share a commonality of needing to travel between work and home. He discussed some international success stories, particularly in Germany, that incorporate smart transportation and land-use policies and multi-modal transit, in a manner that ultimately leads to an enhanced the quality of life. He suggested that these examples can serve

as models for the region, and encouraged the CAC to stay involved and provide feedback and guidance to the TPB.

Members of the CAC were appreciative of Chair York's visit, and had several questions and comments for the Chair, particularly about transportation issues in Virginia. One CAC member complimented the Chair on being visionary regarding transportation issues and priorities. CAC members also asked for the Chair's support to convince other Virginia elected officials to be "forward thinking" when it comes to transportation policy. CAC members were especially concerned about increasing congestion, and voiced the need for more infrastructure connectivity between Maryland with Virginia. Other questions surrounded recent discussions on the "outer beltway" concept, to which the Chair suggested was not likely.

Election of CAC vice Chairs for 2013

According to the TPB's Participation Plan, the CAC annually elects two individuals to serve as vice chairs of the committee. Nominations for these two positions were made via email between March 27 and April 2. Because this year's CAC chair is from Virginia, the 2013 vice chairs will be from D.C. and Maryland. The CAC unanimously elected the following members to serve as Vice Chairs for 2013:

- John Epps (MD)
- Veronica Davis (DC)

New Business: Setting the Agenda

The CAC discussed its priorities and set some future meeting agenda items. Several CAC members acknowledged the existing avenues for communication between the CAC and the TPB, including the public comment period, the CAC report, and the time designated for the CAC chair to speak during TPB meetings. In particular, the CAC recognized that the CAC report, which conveys resolutions and CAC actions, represents a tremendous opportunity to effectively communicate with the TPB.

The CAC also discussed the importance of elevating issues to the TPB's agenda, and cited its involvement in elevating the Transportation Alternatives Program to the TPB agenda after MAP-21 was enacted. One CAC member advocated that the CAC and TPB should work to influence for the region's benefit, the policies and priorities for the upcoming reauthorization of MAP-21, which is set to expire in 2014.

In addition, the CAC identified the following areas for further focus:

- The Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP). CAC requested that staff provide an update on the activities of the RTPP at its May meeting.
- The Regional Complete Streets Policy. One member of the CAC noted that May 2013 marks the one-year anniversary of the TPB adoption of this policy, which stated that within 120 days after its adoption, TPB member jurisdictions and agencies were to report in the regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Database on the pedestrian and bicycle facilities

that have been newly created or substantially improved. The CAC recognizes that this reporting component of the Regional Complete Streets Policy is still outstanding, and would like to see progress made in this area.

- CAC members also expressed interest in learning more about the TPB's role in setting a Regional Green Streets Policy, and its work collecting information through the Bus-on-Shoulder Task Force.

Other Issues

- Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning, provided a briefing on the TPB's May 15 agenda.
- Deb Kerson Bilek, of TPB staff, provided an update on the TPB's public involvement activities, which include a briefing on the upcoming Community Leadership Institute that will be held on April 25, 30, and May 4, as well as the Community Leadership Institute Alumni Network kickoff event, which was held on April 4.
- Deb Kerson Bilek, of TPB staff, provided a brief update on the Transportation Alternatives Program. Currently, the Transportation Alternatives Program is in the middle of a solicitation, which ends on May 15th. She said staff would have more details to report at the May or June meeting, once applications are received. In addition to learning about these submissions, the CAC is especially interested in receiving information about the evaluation criteria that will be used to award projects, as well as the selection panel.

ATTENDEES CAC Meeting, April 11, 2013

Members Present

1. Steve Still, Chair, (VA)
2. Justin Clarke (MD)
3. Cherian Eapen (MD)
4. John Epps (MD)
5. Allen Muchnick (VA)
6. Emmet Tydings (MD)
7. Tracy Hadden Loh (DC)
8. Emily Oaksford (DC)
9. Tina Slater (MD)
10. Lorena Rios (VA)

Alternates Present

- Tom Burell (VA)
- Andrea Hamre (DC)
- Janie Nham (DC)
- Rosemarie Helen Savio (DC)
- Jarrett Stoltzfus (MD)
- Jeffrey Slavin (MD)
- Anita Hairston (DC)

Members Not Present

- Neha Bhatt (DC)
- Veronica Davis (DC)
- David Skiles (VA)
- Patrick A. Gough (DC)
- Jeffrey Parnes (VA)

Staff and Guests

- Ron Kirby, COG/TPB staff
- Deb Bilek, COG/TPB staff
- Bryan Hayes, COG/TPB staff
- Ben Hampton, COG/TPB staff
- Scott York, TPB Chair
- Shyam Kannan, WMATA
- Christine Green, Safe Routes to School National Partnership
- Bill Orleans, citizen