
TPB CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

January 22, 2020

Rob Jackson, CAC Chair

In 2019, the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) met 11 times to fulfill their mission *to promote public involvement in transportation planning for the region, and to provide independent, region-oriented citizen advice to the TPB on transportation plans and issues*. This report summarizes CAC discussions and activities over the course of the year.

CAC SUPPORTS TPB SAFETY EFFORTS, ENCOURAGES REGION TO DO MORE

The CAC believes that every life is important, and that any death related to transportation is unacceptable. The committee is encouraged by the attention that the TPB brought to safety in 2019 and strongly encourages the board to develop and assist members to take actions in 2020 to further increase safety for all modes around the region.

Safety and safety related topics were on six CAC agendas over the year.

The committee recognizes that making transportation safer in the region is not easy and that it is a responsibility that is shared by many. With that in mind, the committee has identified the following high-level areas that they believe could have an impact:

- **Vision Zero:** In 2015 the CAC recommended that the TPB commit to eliminating traffic deaths. Four years later, the committee acknowledges that many jurisdictions in the region have adopted a towards zero deaths policy, including the District of Columbia, the City of Alexandria, Montgomery, Prince George's and Arlington Counties, and the state of Maryland. The committee encourages all jurisdictions in the Washington region to develop local road safety plans to eliminate traffic deaths.
- **Regional safety data:** The CAC is encouraged by the regional safety study that is currently underway at the TPB. The committee believes that efforts like this are necessary to identify trends and to develop actions to positively change those trends. The CAC is excited that the TPB is funding "deep dive" analysis of three regional contributing factors: pedestrians, intersections and arterials. The committee encourages the board to fund analysis of additional contributing factors.
- **Reciprocity for moving violations:** The CAC believes that unsafe driving is a major factor that makes getting around the region less safe. Due to the multi-state nature of our region, it can be difficult to enforce auto enforcement violations across jurisdictions. The CAC acknowledges that it is a major and complex undertaking to foster automated enforcement reciprocity across all-three states. Nonetheless, the committee feels that this is worth pursuing.

The committee also discussed the following issues related to transportation safety, but did not come to a consensus on these topics:

- **Engineering:** construct more pedestrian actuated crossings; remove slip or right-turn lanes; harden left turns; construct fences on traffic islands; create regional protected bike lane targets; limit road access during rush hour to transit and bicycles; and provide more rumble strips.
- **Enforcement:** prohibit right turns on red; red light and speeding cameras near schools; update laws so attribution of blame is consistent; enforce speeding on neighborhood streets; implement automated enforcement of bike lanes and cross walks; periodic driver tests; increase pedestrian safety enforcement in high-risk areas; and provide consistent rules for cyclists in the region.
- **Education:** create regional programs to deal with increased-risk behaviors like distracted driving; inform drivers of newer automobiles about how technology in the car can be distracting; drivers in congested conditions are more distracted; and update driver education for an increasingly multi-modal environment.

The CAC will continue to speak to the importance of safety at their meetings and with the TPB.

ITEMS ON 2019 CAC AGENDAS

In addition to safety, the CAC was briefed on many topics related to TPB plans and activities in 2019. The committee provided independent, region-oriented citizen advice to the TPB on the following: the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program, 2019 Bike to Work Day, the Air-Quality Conformity Analysis, National Capital Trails, Street Smart, the COG Regional Housing Targets, and more.

The committee also learned about the TPB's planning data and research program. They were briefed and commented on the Regional Travel Survey, the State of the Commuter Survey, and the Baltimore-Washington Air Passenger Survey.

Over the course of three meetings the committee worked with TPB staff to provide input on possible participation activities related to the Aspirational Initiatives and the upcoming update to Visualize 2045.

The committee also participated in the federal certification review, providing feedback about TPB participation activities to federal partners.

TOPICS OF INTEREST FOR 2020

At the January CAC meeting, the committee discussed topics and issues that they'd like to focus on in 2020. These ideas were divided into two categories, those provided by staff and those provided by the committee members.

Staff topics included: continuing the discussion about transportation safety; getting involved in Visualize 2045; updating the Participation Plan; contributing to possible changes to CAC operations/membership; and discussing climate change.

The following ideas and questions were suggested by committee members. TPB staff are asked to take the following into consideration when preparing agendas for the 2020 CAC.

Safety

- How can a census of cyclists in the region be useful for safety planners?
- How can the region change pedestrian behavior around safety and accountability?
- How can the region change driver behavior and accountability to improve pedestrian safety?
- The TPB should fund more deep dives on safety.
- How can new technology be used to collect safety data and how can the aggregated data be used to inform our discussions and decision-making around safety?
- What does speed limit enforcement look like in the Washington region?

Transit

- How can bus service be improved?
- Talk about long-term bus and transit improvements.
- Transit and connectivity from one mode to another. Especially, improving multi-modal connectivity at far flung Metro stations.

Equity

- Would like the committee to focus more on racial equity in transportation.
- Would like to learn more about economic equity in transportation, especially about how which traffic infractions are criminalized and how decisions are made about fine schedules.

TPB Operations

- Would like to learn more about TPB's switch to an activity-based model.
- Would like to know more about how TPB activities support slugging in the region.

Miscellaneous

- By 2045 hopefully there will be a different way to fund transportation. Should we start thinking about user-based fees?
- Parking signage can be confusing from one jurisdiction to the next. How does ambiguous signage disproportionately impact certain populations?
- More discussion about multi-modal mix. How can the committee strive for less polarization?

CAC Business

- How can the CAC be a forum for "blue sky thinking"?
- Should the CAC take meeting minutes?
- Freedom of Information Act questions.

OTHER BUSINESS

At the January CAC meeting the committee also:

- Participated in the FY 2021-2024 TIP Forum.
- Jon Schermann, TPB Transportation Planner, and Nicole Waldheim, Cambridge systematics, updated the committee on early findings from the region safety study.
- Lyn Erickson, TPB Plan Development and Coordination Program Director, reviewed the agenda for the January TPB meeting.

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rob Jackson, chair
Nancy Abeles, vice-chair
Kalai Kandasamy
Daniel Papiernik
Jeffrey Parnes
Lorena Rios
Jeremy Martin
Ricky Tejada
Emmet Tydings
Karthik Balasubramanian
Katherine Kortum
Theodore Wilhite
Jasmine Young

ALTERNATES

Jacqueline Manapsal (phone)
Ronit Dancis
Veronica Lowe
Elisa Walton

TPB STAFF AND GUESTS

Lyn Erickson, TPB staff
Bryan Hayes, TPB staff
Abigail Zenner, TPB staff
John Swanson, TPB staff
Karen Armendariz, TPB staff
John Schermann, TPB staff
Nicole Waldheim, consultant

Bill Orleans, public