
**TPB CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONTHLY REPORT**

May 16, 2018

Katherine Kortum, CAC Chair

The CAC met on Thursday, May 10 for a briefing on the Transportation/Land-Use Connections program and to participate in a Visualize 2045 Forum.

TRANSPORTATION/LAND-USE CONNECTIONS (TLC) PROGRAM

John Swanson, TPB Transportation Planner, briefed the committee on projects selected for the FY 2018 Transportation/Land-Use Connections program. His presentation included an overview of the program's background, the selection process, and next steps.

The committee asked about the impacts of the TLC program. One committee member highlighted positive outcomes in Rockville, and staff shared success stories from around the region. The committee expressed ongoing support for the program.

VISUALIZE 2045: CAC FORUM

Staff hosted a Visualize 2045 forum for CAC members. Similar to forums being held throughout the region, it started with a presentation providing context about the TPB and how the seven initiatives were selected. There was also an in-depth presentation about the initiatives.

Three initiatives were selected for in depth discussion by the committee. There was also an opportunity to discuss the remaining four initiatives. Over three fifteen-minute sessions the committee shared their current experiences with each initiative, their hopes for a transportation future, and their concerns for realizing that future. Staff recorded notes of the discussion which will be included in a report summarizing input as part of Visualize 2045.

Here is a sample of the CAC's hopes and concerns regarding these initiatives:

Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together

The committee was optimistic about the possibility of bringing jobs and housing closer together. They liked the possibility of getting to and work more quickly and having few conversations about being late for work. They said that more housing and jobs near Metro, especially in the eastern side of the region, could help address the east/west divide. They expressed hope that developing more jobs and housing near transit could help shift an emphasis to affordability and equity. They want a future in which there is more affordable housing available to people with low and medium incomes.

The committee was concerned that that are practical limitations for locating all jobs proximate to housing. One committee member emphasized the need for parking for those that must drive to work. There was a sense that regional land-use will be more effective when it is coordinated across the region.

Expand Bus Rapid Transit Regionwide

The committee said that BRT is most successful when it has dedicated lanes. Other amenities like free WiFi and charging stations would help convince future users to use BRT. They said service provided by BRT should be passenger oriented and connect with a variety of modes including Metro and commuter rail. They said that flexible fare options should be available so that people with limited income can utilize the service.

The committee is concerned that BRT may be too expensive for low-income residents to use. They said it is hard to dedicate lanes from already busy corridors, especially given limited right-of-way. They worried that an honor system would make it easy for people to not pay fares, while onerous boarding procedures would slow down trips and disincentivize use.

Provide More Telecommuting and Other Options for Commuting

The committee said that there are real advantages to working from home and they hope policies and infrastructure can make it easier to telecommute in the future. They would like to see hoteling and other types of remote offices set up across the region so that people can take advantage of some of the perks of having an office without having to commute. They said that reduced parking at employers encourage more people to telework when possible.

The committee said that telecommuting is not applicable to all jobs and that it will benefit high-earners more than people who work hourly wages. They said that uncertain productivity while teleworking may make employers reluctant to permit teleworking.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED

- Lyn Erickson, TPB Plan Development & Program Coordination Director, reviewed the agenda for the May TPB meeting.

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Katherine Kortum, chair
Josh Linden
Rob Jackson, vice-chair
Carol Tyson
Jeremy Martin
Ronit Dancis, vice-chair
Emmett Tydings
Lorena Rios
Jeff Parnes
Stephen Still
Anna Ray
Ricky Tejada

ALTERNATES

Zunjing Jenipher Wang
Daniel Papiernik
Monika Shepard
Theodore Wilhite
Vicki Lancaster
Justin Lini

TPB STAFF AND GUESTS

Lyn Erickson, staff
John Swanson, staff
Bryan Hayes, staff
Abigail Zenner, staff
Bill Orleans, resident