
**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONTHLY REPORT TO THE TPB**

November 20, 2024
Ra Amin, CAC Chair

The November meeting of the CAC was held virtually on Thursday, November 14. The meeting featured the FY2024 Street Smart campaign, a detailed discussion of DMVMoves, an “Act Locally” round-robin, and updates on CAC recruitment and upcoming meeting planning.

FY2024 STREET SMART CAMPAIGN

Mike Farrell, Senior Transportation Planner, briefed the Committee on the regional Street Smart pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign. Street Smart focuses on education through mass media. The fall and spring waves of advertising, outreach, and law enforcement aim at raising awareness of hazards that pedestrians and bicyclists face and recommends actions to reduce risks. The Fall 2024 campaign was launched at Naylor Road Metro Station on October 29. Mr. Farrell reviewed the trends in pedestrian fatalities in the DMV, emphasizing the need for continued awareness. The new slogan, “Slow Down Life Ahead,” street teams with people wearing the slogan, and information kiosks around the region will run through mid-November.

Questions and comments included the following:

Does the data indicate a percentage breakdown regarding whether pedestrian fatalities are mostly due to any one factor?

Research shows that pedestrian deaths can be reduced through road engineering and traffic calming measures. Countries with low pedestrian fatality rates generally have narrower streets, lower speeds, and grade-separated expressways. Members also noted that congested streets tend to be safer, remarking that jaywalking is often an accepted practice in some locales for this reason.

DMVMoves UPDATES

TPB staff gave an overview of the work to date on the initiative, focusing on the six recommendations that will be addressed in work groups over the next few months. Those recommendations that addressed customer service were discussed as an opportunity for the CAC to engage with the initiative. Staff stated that more detailed work with the transit operators is needed first before there will be any information that may be useful to decision-makers. The main focus is on improving the transit system, coordinating services, and identifying funding needs and resources. TPB staff suggested that after there is more work done in the working groups, and information ready for input could be brought back to the CAC in the spring. TPB staff can package that input and provide it to the task force. The four revenue scenarios were also briefly discussed.

Questions and comments included the following:

Has there been any discussion about the incoming administration and what the effects might be on transportation?

TPB staff do have the opportunity to hear about possible changes that may affect our regional members. Some of these possibilities are being discussed. We don't know what may happen, but everyone agrees its critical to fund the transit system. It is vital to this region. The leaders are saying failure to address this is not an option.

With a change in administration, can the funding scenarios one and two move forward? It's not just funding but changes that may move the federal workforce.

Yes, these are must-do's. There are also parts of scenario three that fall in this category. It's true that moving the federal workforce would have an effect. That is already evident with the return to office policies.

Can you tell us a little more about the event hosted by the Greater Washington Board of Trade?

This was an event hosted by the Board of Trade and the Greater Washington Partnership. They conduct this Transportation Forum annually. They host the transportation secretaries from the states and the District to have a discussion about regional transportation. They discussed DMVMoves. The general manager from WMATA joined the meeting. He addressed what they are doing to recover from the pandemic, with some good news related to a record level increase in ridership.

Regarding the bus fares and revenue raising, is anyone going out to tell people about these possible changes in bus fares? Has anyone talked to people about these?

No decisions have been made yet. It's too early. There is still a lot of work to do to get everyone on the same page and then it will be appropriate to engage the broader public.

The big question that DMVMoves is focused on is how we are funding the system. The CAC and others need to be thinking about how to get that information to decisionmakers and share this opportunity with our groups.

ACT LOCALLY ROUND-ROBIN

Chair Amin opened discussion on the activities that members are doing in their local communities. Members are getting involved in the safety committees at their schools, helping ensure they get to school safely, and working on a county citizens advisory board.

CAC RECRUITMENT AND THE DECEMBER CAC MEETING

Laura Bachle, Transportation Planner, briefed the committee on the open recruitment for the CAC, asking everyone to re-apply and also share the opportunity with their groups. She also asked for help in planning the next CAC meeting, which will be on December 12 and will feature the annual Leadership Roundtable.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Ra Amin, Chair
Christina Farver
Heather Ganoa
Maribel Wong
Jeff Parnes
Gail Sullivan
Ashley Hutson
Nancy Abeles

Kalli Krumpos
Daniel Papiernik
Mark Scheufler

Staff

Leonardo Pineda
Rachel Beyerle
Laura Bachle
Kanti Srikanth
Eric Randall
Lyn Erickson
Mike Farrell