

ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

March 7, 2019

Kacy Kostiuk, Chair

The Access for All Advisory Committee met on March 7, 2018 and the highlights from the meeting are provided below. A list of participants is on the last page. The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) advises the TPB on transportation issues and services important to low-income communities, minority communities, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, and older adults.

STATUS OF ENHANCED MOBILITY PROJECTS

Ms. Lynn Winchell-Mendy provided an update on work begun by projects funded under the 2017 Enhanced Mobility for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities solicitation. A document summarizing the projects as well as Enhanced Mobility projects funded under previous solicitations was distributed. To date, \$18 million dollars has been awarded to 49 projects.

Projects funded under the 2017 Solicitation include:

- Procurement of sixty-eight wheelchair accessible vehicles, including twenty-two for MetroAccess, that will be used throughout the region;
- Six Mobility Management projects focusing on travel training and volunteer drivers, three of which will be working as partners in Northern Virginia;
- A bus stop and sidewalk improvements in Rockville, MD; and
- Operating funds for a subsidized taxi voucher program

Committee members will have an opportunity to learn more about the projects as grantees are invited to present at future AFA meetings.

BRIEFING ON AN EVALUATION OF TPB PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Mr. John Swanson briefed the committee on a study conducted by Rhodeside & Harwell to evaluate the TPB's public participation activities. Several AFA members provided feedback through a forum, which was included in the study and will be used to enhance the TPB's ongoing public involvement processes and inform new outreach activities.

An AFA participant concurred with the recommendation to reinstate the Community Leadership Institute (CLI) based on a positive experience and several members showed interest when staff highlighted an upcoming CLI members are invited to apply to participate in.

TRANSPORTATION LAND-USE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM APPLICATION LAUNCH

Mr. John Swanson shared information about TPB's FY 2020 Transportation Land Use Connections (TLC), a program that provides technical assistance for planning projects and technical design. The application process is open and ends April 2.

Some members discussed projects and activities needed in the region that could benefit from the opportunity.

REACH-A-RIDE ENHANCEMENTS

Mr. Stephen Finafrock presented about enhancements to Reach-a-Ride, a website and call center managed by COG, that provides consumers and social service agencies access to information about Specialized Transportation Services in the region. New follow up methods were instituted that will help keep provider information current.

A question and answer period followed with much committee interest, and members shared willingness to assist with keeping the data current where possible and providing feedback on the user experience.

WMATA UPDATE

Mr. Christiaan Blake shared information about the recent expansion of the Abilities-Ride program to DC and Virginia. From September 18, 2017 through January 2019, a total of 3,183 MetroAccess customers have taken more than 108,000 trips. In addition to the Abilities-Ride program, Mr. Blake also presented information on enhancements to Metrorail and Metrobus which include bus stop improvements and railcar safety upgrades. MetroAccess improvements were also shared, which include a transition from ID cards to Smartcards, and plans to reinstate the use of sedans for a small share of the fleet to accommodate users who do not require a wheelchair lift.

GETTING READY TO INNOVATE GRANT PROJECT – METROACCESS APP DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Larry Bram shared the outcome of a grant Easter Seals received from the National Aging & Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) to develop specifications for an app for MetroAccess users. Several AFA members and COG staff participated in the Working Group and the result is a specification document that has been presented to WMATA.

Mr. Blake of WMATA was present and shared with the group that an app has been a long-term interest of WMATA's and is committed to working with Easter Seals and other regional partners towards the goal of making it a reality.

OTHER BUSINESS

In addition to the TPB/COG work the committee is tasked with weighing in on, the chair and staff want to ensure that the meetings are relevant to attendees. Participants were asked to share topics of interest for future AFA meetings with staff following the meeting or later via email.

Remaining AFA meetings for 2019 will be held on 5/9, 9/5 and 11/7.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

District of Columbia	Virginia	TPB Staff
Raka Choudhury, DDOT	Tomi Adeleke, VDOT	Lyn Erickson
Christopher Grayton, Yellow Cab of DC, Inc.	Roger Hoskins, representing older adults	Brandon Brown
Abidemi Olafusi, Department of Fore-Hire Vehicles	Jennifer Kanareck, NV Rides (phone)	Sergio Ritacco
Jeffrey Schaeffer, Transco (Liberty Transportation)	Peter Leisen, Arc of Northern Virginia	Kanti Srikanth
Roy Spooner, Yellow Cab (phone)	Alexa Mavroidis, ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia	John Swanson
Gloria Swieringa, Prince George's Commissions for Individuals with Disabilities	Jeanna Muhoro, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services (phone)	Lynn Winchell-Mendy
	Greg Roberts, ECHO (phone)	Stephen Finafrock
Maryland	Kelley Simoneaux, ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia	
Larry Bram, Easter Seals DC MD VA	Karen Smith, Arc of Greater Prince William (phone)	Chair
Shawn Brennan, Montgomery County Aging & Disability Services	Brittany Voll, DRPT	Kacy Kostiuik, City of Takoma Park – Ward 3 Councilmember
Gloria Butler, Arc of Prince George's County		
Janet Moye Cornick, Maryland Department of Transportation	Regional	
Charlie Crawford, representing individuals with disabilities	Janine Ashe, FHWA	
Thomas Curtis, Maryland Department of Disabilities	Christiaan Blake, WMATA	
Debbie Fisher, CHI Centers, Inc. (phone)	Glenn Millis, WMATA	
Sara Fought, JCA Connect-A-Ride	Brenda Richardson, Women Like Us	
Bill Orleans, resident	Angela White, National MS Society	