

## **ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

February 23, 2017

*Charles Allen, Chairman, TPB First Vice Chairman*

On Thursday, February 23, the Access for All Advisory Committee held its first meeting in 2017. The AFA meets approximately five times a year, and was recently reconstituted with members that represent low-income communities, minority communities, persons with disabilities, those with limited English Skills and older adults. The AFA also has ex-officio members representing transportation, transit and human service governmental agencies. The AFA is charged with:

- Advising the TPB on issues and services important to traditionally-underserved communities; and
- Providing input on the TPB's Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan which guides COG/TPB's implementation of the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility grant program.

### **UPDATE ON TPB-FUNDED JARC, NEW FREEDOM AND ENHANCED MOBILITY GRANT PROJECTS**

Ms. Winchell-Mendy of the TPB staff provided a brief update on the status of projects previously funded through the TPB's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs and the new Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility program.

- COG/ TPB funded 59 JARC and New Freedom projects, totaling more than \$22 million.
- 14 projects are still operating; 7 will be complete this year and 7 will be complete by 2019.
- COG/TPB has funded 32 Enhanced Mobility projects, which includes over 90 vehicles for specialized transportation providers.

The AFA will be providing input on priority projects for next solicitation for FTA Enhanced Mobility grant applications scheduled to occur between August and October 2017. Approximately \$5 million will be available in matching federal grants for eligible transportation projects in this solicitation.

Committee members expressed support for the continuation of the Reach-a-Ride website and call center that provides information on specialized transportation information in the region.

### **PRESENTATION ON THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA MOBILITY ACCESS PROJECT**

Ms. Susan Shaw from the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services provided an overview of the Northern Virginia Mobility Access Project (NVMAP) which is funded by COG/TPB New Freedom and Enhanced Mobility grants totaling approximately \$500,000 including the matching funds. This project is led by Fairfax County but includes the City of Alexandria, and Arlington and Loudoun Counties. The goal is to promote collaboration among Northern Virginia localities to reduce barriers to access transportation services for older adults and people with disabilities. This project is a good example of the multijurisdictional projects called for in the TPB's Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan.

Committee members asked about transportation services for people who have temporary disabilities, the appropriateness of non-profits partnering with TNC's such as Uber and Lyft if these companies are unable to serve all people with disabilities, and the source of funds for Fairfax County non-profits to provide transportation services.

## **UPDATE ON WMATA'S BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FY2018**

Mr. Christiaan Blake from WMATA told the committee that the decisions for the FY2018 fare and service changes are being considered by the WMATA Board and that given the financial challenges Metro is facing, the FY2018 budget includes the possibility of fare increases (fares were raised three years ago), Metrorail and Metrobus service cuts, additional funding from jurisdictions and internal cuts in WMATA staff and management. Mr. Blake stated that WMATA staff has conducted a public participation process and will be presenting the results of a Title VI analysis of the impacts of the changes on low-income and minority populations to the WMATA board. The WMATA board will begin steps towards a decision on March 9.

Wendy Klancher from the COG/TPB staff provided a summary of the letter that was sent to the WMATA Board from the TPB Chairman with the concerns from the AFA committee about the proposed fare and service changes in WMATA's FY2018 budget and the negative impacts these changes would have on transit-dependent populations.

Chairman Allen noted the proposed disproportionate increase in bus versus rail fares (a 10 cent increase in Metrorail fares but a 25 cent increase in Metrobus fares) and expressed concerns for bus riders who do not have the ability to pay a higher fare.

Committee members asked about other ways to raise transportation revenues for Metro, such as from development around Metrorail stations. A member from SOME (a community organization serving poor and homeless individuals) reported that based on a survey of their clients, even a slight increase in bus fare will cause an enormous hardship for extremely low-income and African American individuals who cannot afford Metrorail. These individuals rely on the bus to get to job training, interviews and medical appointments and will be further disadvantaged with a 25 cent increase in bus fares.

## **PRESENTATION ON THE MODIFIED "EQUITY EMPHASIS AREAS" MAP FOR THE TPB'S TITLE VI/ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ANALYSIS OF THE CLRP**

Mr. Ritacco of the COG/TPB staff briefed the committee on modifications to the 'Equity Emphasis Areas' map for the Title VI/Environmental Justice (EJ) analysis of the Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP). The modified method results in a net gain of 29 census tracts designated "Equity Emphasis Areas" (from 331 to 360). This modified methodology and map will be presented to the TPB for endorsement on March 15. After the endorsement, TPB staff will begin Phase 2 analyzing the CLRP for transportation impacts on low-income and minority populations.

Chairman Allen thanked the AFA for providing feedback on the name TPB staff was using previously "Communities of Concern" and noted that the name has been changed to "Equity Emphasis Areas" based on AFA and other stakeholder feedback.

Committee members noted that there is a significant discrepancy in demographics between the eastern and western sides of the region, expressed concerns about whether the Environmental Justice Executive Order will be honored by the new administration, and asked about the limitations of the demographic data being used, and if the analysis would include examining WMATA's proposed reductions in bus service. On the latter question, Ms. Klancher clarified that the primary purpose of the map is to make sure the CLRP investments don't have a future disproportionate impact in 2040 and is not related to operational decisions for bus services.

## **BRIEFING ON THE TPB'S TRANSPORTATION LAND-USE CONNECTIONS (TLC) PROGRAM**

Mr. Cobb provided an overview of the Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program, which provides technical assistance for small planning projects to promote livable, walkable communities

to TPB member governmental agencies. The TLC solicitation for FY2018 projects is open until April 3, 2017. The application includes a narrative question on how the project includes income, diversity, and equity measures in their project

Committee members asked for examples of TLC projects funded in the past, eligibility for TLC projects that examine cross-jurisdictional transportation services or pedestrian infrastructure accessibility surveys.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Richard Ezike made an announcement to the committee that he is working with an organization examining how autonomous vehicle's may impact many of the communities the AFA represents, and that he will be working with COG/TPB staff to get some input from the committee on this issue.

## ATTENDEES

District of Columbia	Virginia	Regional (con't)
Brenda Richardson, Earth Conservation Corps	Alexa Mavroidis, Arlington Transit Accessibility Subcommittee	Kate Robb (phone), American Public Health Association
David Do, Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs	Andrew Riddle, VDOT	Marieannette Otero, Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Elizabeth Tesi, St. John's Norwood Parish	Andy Wexler, Arlington Transit	
Nechama Masliansky, SOME (So Others Might Eat)	Cynthia Alarico (Presenter) Fairfax County	<b>TPB Staff</b>
Richard Ezike, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation	Denis Paddeu, Rappahannock Area Agency on Aging	Kanti Srikanth
Susie McFadden-Resper, DC Office of Disability Rights	Doris Ray, ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia	Lyn Erickson
Tyra Redus, DDOT	Heidi Mitter (phone), VDOT	Lamont Cobb
Nichole Opkins, Office of Councilmember Allen	Jeanna Muhoro, Fairfax County DOT	Lynn Winchell-Mendy
Charles Allen, AFA Chairman	Jennifer Kanarek (phone), NV Rides	Sergio Ritacco
<b>Maryland</b>	Karen Smith, The Arc of Greater Prince William	Wendy Klancher
Abby Levin, Jewish Council for the Aging	Lorena Rios, Northern VA Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Lori Zeller
Charlie Crawford, Representing people with disabilities/AFA liaison to AAC	Rikki Epstein, Arc of Northern Virginia	
Debby Fisher, CHI, Inc.	Roger Hoskins, representing older adults	
Gloria Butler, Arc of Prince George's County	Susan Shaw, (Presenter) Fairfax County	
Harriet Block (phone), Jewish Council for the Aging	Tim Roseboom (phone), VDRPT	
Janet Moye Cornick, MDOT	Tom Furlong, Diamond Transportation	
Kari Snyder (phone), MDOT	<b>Regional</b>	
Shawn Brennan, Montgomery County DHHS	Angela White, National MS Greater DC-Maryland Chapter	
Shiva Shrestha (phone), MD State Highway Administration	Christiaan Blake, WMATA	
Thomas Curtis, Maryland Department of Disabilities	Glenn Millis (phone), WMATA	
Bill Orleans, resident	Sharlene Reed, WMATA	