

REPORT
TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
December 15, 2010
Maureen Budetti, CAC Chair

The December 9th CAC meeting included a briefing on the COG/Board of Trade Joint Task Force on WMATA Governance and a discussion about the upcoming meeting of the TPB Priorities Plan Scoping Task Force.

Briefing on the COG/Board of Trade Task Force on WMATA Governance

Ron Kirby, Director of COG's Department of Transportation Planning, briefed the CAC on the origins, purpose and recommendations of the task force. Referring to the task force report, he noted that a growing number of regional leaders believe that shortcomings in WMATA's governance structure have contributed to a serious decline in Metro's performance. He explained that the task force was convened by COG and the Board of Trade, but the report reflects the task force's findings, not the positions of COG or the Board of Trade. Mr. Kirby served as staff/research leader for the task force report.

Mr. Kirby said the overarching recommendation of the report was to form a WMATA Governance Commission. The report made three sets of recommendations: 1) steps for the new Commission to pursue in the immediate future; 2) steps for the WMATA board to take in the immediate future; and 3) actions that would require changes in the WMATA Compact.

The CAC is broadly interested in the issue of WMATA governance because of its implications for regional transportation planning. In addition to looking at the task force report, the CAC has been in communication with members of the Metro Riders Advisory Council (RAC) regarding the RAC's own recommendations regarding WMATA governance. CAC member Harold Foster has written a side-by-side comparison of the reports of the task force and the RAC. Although this document does not reflect the positions of the CAC, it can be found at the CAC webpage at www.mwcog.org/transportation/committee/cac.

At our December 9th meeting, CAC members emphasized the following two points:

- ***Support for further action.*** Without endorsing specific steps or recommendations, CAC members expressed broad support for the current efforts to improve WMATA governance. The committee believes that changes are clearly warranted.
- ***Need for specificity in linking the recommendations to problems.*** Members commented that some of the recommendations seemed to be generic "good government" exhortations. The recommendations did not necessarily make clear how these somewhat vague solutions were tied to actual problems.

Discussion About the Upcoming Meeting of the TPB Priorities Plan Scoping Task Force

Ron Kirby described the material and the agenda for the December 15th meeting of the task force. He noted that the meeting will begin with an extensive discussion about potential steps the TPB

can take to better explain the current process to citizens. He also called attention to a strawman outline in the mailout material that lays out the information that would be included in a priorities plan document. He said that the development of such a plan would last two years, which would coincide with the approval of the next major CLRP update in 2014.

Member comments included the following:

- Members generally expressed support for efforts to improve public information about the current process.
- A member expressed concern that the meeting could be dominated by a discussion of the current process, which, he said, is not the real purpose of the task force. Mr. Kirby assured the committee that adequate time would be given at the task force meeting to developing a scope and process for a priorities plan.
- Members asked that the following features receive emphasis in the priorities plan scope: regional activity centers; climate change; and the role of the private sector.

CAC Election

Based upon the process laid out in the TPB Participation Plan, the CAC elected the following individuals to be members of the 2011 CAC:

- DC: Harold Foster & Larry Martin (Mr. Martin was chosen in a runoff with Zach Dobelbower)
- Maryland: Tina Slater & Emmet Tydings
- Virginia: Maureen Budetti & Allen Muchnick

At the January 19th meeting, the TPB officers will nominate an additional nine individuals to the CAC, making a full complement of 15 members. Also at that meeting, the new TPB chair will name a CAC chair for 2011.

ATTENDANCE CAC Meeting, December 9, 2010

Members in Attendance

Maureen Budetti (2010 Chair), VA
Zach Dobelbower, DC
Emmet Tydings, MD
Bill Easter, MD
Farrell Keough, MD
Lawrence Martin, DC
Kelby Funn, MD
Tina Slater, MD
Gail Parker, VA
Harold Foster, DC
Faith Wheeler, DC

Alternate Members Present

Kim Kaplan, VA
Frederick Walker, VA

Members Not In Attendance

Jim Larsen, VA
Stephen McCoy, DC
Madeline McDuffy, VA
Allen Muchnick, VA

Staff/Others in Attendance

Ron Kirby, TPB staff
John Swanson, TPB staff