



## AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 16, 2020  
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

### DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY

**ACPAC ATTENDEES:** Tara Failey, Hilary Lewis, Robin Lewis, Guillermo Ortiz, Hyon Rah, Rodney Sobin, Gabriel Thoumi, Glenna Tinney, Tamara Toles O'Laughlin

**COG STAFF:** Leah Boggs, Katie Dyer, Tim Masters, Dusan Vuksan, Steve Walz

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

*Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, Chair*

The meeting was called to order, introductions were made, and the September 21, 2020 ACPAC meeting summary was approved with no amendments.

#### 2. CLIMATE AND ENERGY 2030 FINAL PLAN UPDATE

*Steve Walz, COG Staff*

Steve Walz briefed the committee on anticipated CEEPC action on the final 2030 Plan. Main changes to the plan included:

- Clarify equity as a 5th pillar of Region Forward.
- Align climate goals with goals adopted by the COG Board in October 2020.
- Clarify climate resilience goals.
- More background and context on climate resilience and regional transportation initiatives.
- Align 2030 Scenario with mitigation strategy action areas. Clearly identify what the strategy does and does not address.
- Add transportation/land use mitigation strategy initiatives to influence mode shift and travel behavior.

The four main plan elements of the plan are greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, mitigation strategy actions, climate risks and vulnerabilities (CRVA), and resilience actions. Additionally, the plan seeks to:

- Decrease substantial GHG emission reductions from the built environment and transportation sector.
- Efficient public and private use of energy region-wide, with reliance upon renewable energy and alternative fuels for buildings, vehicles, and public transportation.
- Seek the enhancement of established neighborhoods of differing densities with compact, walkable infill development, rehabilitation and retention of historic sites and districts, and preservation of open space, farmland, and environmental resource land in rural areas.

Next steps include:

- Adopt the plan.
- Submit to Global Covenant of Mayors.
- Continue support for local plan development.
- Continue implementation support.
- Support local action cost effectiveness.

### **3. TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE INITIATIVE (TCI) CAP AND INVEST PROGRAM**

*Dusan Vuksan, COG Staff*

Dusan Vuksan provided an update on [TCI's Cap and Invest Program](#) for transportation sector GHG emissions. TCI is a regional collaboration of 12 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia that seeks to improve transportation, develop the clean energy economy, and reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector. COG and the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) are not part of TCI; however, closely follow their efforts as TCI is a state led initiative.

- In 2018, TCI announced intentions to design a regional transportation policy proposal to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from the transportation sector through a cap-and-invest program or other pricing mechanism.
- By December 2019, TCI released a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining a proposal for a cap-and-invest program to cap CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transportation fuels and invest revenue from the program into programs and policies to further reduce GHG emissions.
- By September 2020, TCI released additional modeling results and proposed equity measures.
- The final MOU release date was pushed from Summer 2020 to December 2020 due to COVID-19.
- Jurisdictions proposing to participate in the program will work to develop a “model rule” for the cap-and-invest program. Participating jurisdictions would then need to take any legislative and other steps necessary to participate in the program. Participating jurisdictions programs could begin as early as January 2022.
- Cap and Invest is a proposed multi-state, regional program to:
  - Regulate motor vehicle gasoline and on-road diesel fuel destined for final sale or consumption in participating jurisdictions.
  - Cap CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the above types of motor fuel.
  - Initial emissions cap declines every year at a rate chosen by TCI jurisdictions.
  - State fuel suppliers would be required to purchase allowances for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
  - Proceeds from sale of allowances invested into projects, programs, and policies that further reduce vehicular CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; program investments include EV transit buses.
  - TCI jurisdictions independently decide on investments to achieve.
- To ensure equity is integrated in the program, four proposed measures were put forth:
  - Dedicated Investments: establish a minimum requirement of 35% of investments to go towards serving overburdened and underserved communities.
  - Equitable Processes: each participating jurisdiction would establish an equity advisory body comprised of diverse stakeholder groups to advise on decision-making and equitable outcomes for the TCI program.
  - Transparency: annually review and report on program progress, including expenditures of proceeds with respect to equity.

- Complementary policies: invest in complimentary policies that advance goals of equity and environmental justice.
- In support of the cap and invest program, the COG Board passed a resolution in February 2020 endorsing TCI as positive path forward to reduce transportation-related GHG emissions and encouraging continued participation.

#### Discussion

- Chair Toles O’Laughlin expressed concerns from community members about the lack of inclusion in the development process. TCI addressed equity during public workshops during the policy design process.
- There was dialogue around changes in the schedule of the program. Due to COVID-19, the schedule was modified, the timing was delayed some months, as well as some sessions were held online.
- There is uncertainty as to how biofuels will be handled under the program.

#### **4. TPB CLIMATE PLANNING SESSION UPDATE**

*Steve Walz, COG Staff*

Steve Walz briefed the committee on the Transportation Planning Board’s climate planning session held in October 2020.

- At the request of the TPB chair, COG staff held a transportation focused climate planning session.
- TPB’s long range taskforce is looking at [Visualize 2045](#) to develop mitigation measures for GHG reductions.
- The transportation planning process will also address resiliency.
- DC is in the process of updating their sustainability plan and the District Department of Energy and Environment and the Department of Transportation are coordinating more to identify Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds that can be used for emission reductions.

#### Discussion

#### **5. 2021 RECRUITMENT, NOMINATING COMMITTEE, OFFICERS**

*Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, Chair*

*Leah Boggs, COG Staff*

The Chair appointed a nominating committee to nominate new officers and Leah Boggs briefed the committee on the 2021 recruitment process.

- Gabriel Thoumi, Hilary Lewis and Gretchen Goldman were appointed as the nominating committee. The nominating committee will present the nominees at the January 25, 2021 meeting and committee members will vote in new leadership.
- A robust recruitment process is underway for 11 new members – DC has three openings, MD has four openings and VA has four openings. Applications are due December 18. Applicants will be invited to the January 25, 2021 meeting.
- The first meeting of new officers and newly appointed members will be the March meeting.

## 6. UPDATES

COG Staff briefed the committee on the Prince George's Climate Commission Kickoff and Climate Action Plan.

- June 2020, Prince George's County Council passed a resolution to establish a climate action commission in order to develop a climate action plan.
- The Commission has 16 members including a COG staff member.
- The first Commission meeting was September 2020 and Steve Walz was the COG representative.
- The County is developing a scope of work for COG to support development of the plan.
- Prince George's County Council Member Deni Taveras will be the new CEEPC.

### Discussion

- Robin Lewis expressed concerns over transparency issues with the Commission's process and publicizing meetings. COG staff will send the link to the Commission meetings.

## 7. MEMBER TIME

Concluding the last meeting of the year, members shared anecdotal health and wellness techniques they've engaged over the last year.

## 8. NEXT ACPAC MEETING AND ADJOURN

The next ACPAC is January 25, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.