

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee February 18, 2009 Farrell Keough, CAC Chairman

The first normal business meeting of the 2009 CAC on February 12 included a briefing on the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) and the role of the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC); a discussion of the year ahead; a briefing on the FY 2010 Commuter Connections Work Program; and a briefing telecommuting technologies for future CAC meetings.

Introduction to the TPB and the role of the CAC

Sarah Crawford of TPB staff provided a brief overview of the Transportation Planning Board and its role in regional transportation planning. She detailed the TPB's federal responsibilities, the TPB as a forum for regional coordination, and the technical resources TPB staff provide. She reviewed the CAC's role in providing citizen input to the TPB, as well as anticipated TPB and CAC activities in the year ahead. She highlighted the TPB's Scenario Study, upcoming federal transportation funding initiatives, and the 2009 Public Forums on the Transportation Improvement Program as several initiatives that could be influenced by the CAC.

Discussion of the CAC's Year Ahead

Mr. Keough reviewed some of the priorities he solicited from CAC members prior to the meeting. These included:

- Improving the public input process and inter-jurisdictional coordination between the departments of transportation in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, including more face-to-face meetings with DOT representatives.
- Continue to monitor the scenario planning work at the TPB by attending the TPB Scenario Study Task Force and receiving staff updates.
- Hold several community outreach meetings outside of the MWCOG offices. These meetings would focus on local topics related to regional transportation issues.
- Foster greater levels of discussion outside of meetings using internet-based technologies in addition to community outreach events.
- Foster greater levels of discussion at CAC meetings by limiting agenda items and presentations.

Briefing and Discussion on the FY 2010 Commuter Connections Work Program

Nick Ramfos, Director of the Commuter Connections Program at MWCOG, provided a brief presentation on the purpose of the Commuter Connections Program, the measures effectiveness of the program, and the proposed budget for the FY 2010 program. CAC members asked several questions about the different Commuter Connection programs, including the Guaranteed Ride Home, the number of persons signed up through Commuter Connections, and bicycle commuting benefits. Members took great interest in the calculations of the air quality benefits derived from Commuter Connections services.

Inquiring about the substantial decrease in some Commuter Connections budget lines, CAC Members responded with concern and disappointment that the Virginia Department of Transportation had decided to reclaim funds from this successful TPB program. One member responded that the decision was in contradiction to the need for strengthened regional coordination that the CAC has stressed in recent years. The CAC passed the following motion in support of maintaining a fully funded regional Commuter Connections Program.

***Motion:** Commuter Connections is a nationally recognized travel demand management program with a successful track record promoting regional transportation objectives. To support the current standard of regional coordination, the TPB CAC strongly encourages all participating DOTs to maintain their level of commitment to the Commuter Connections program.*

CAC Meeting Logistics: Technology

Ms. Crawford presented information on technologies available to the CAC to allow for remote participation in monthly CAC meetings. She demonstrated the Adobe Connect software, which would allow members to sign into a meeting room online, view presentation materials, and participate via conference call in CAC meetings. She said this technology would be available for the March meeting, but emphasized the value of attending meetings in person. Several members with experience using this technology volunteered to provide guidance to those who choose to use the technology for the March meeting.

Mr. Tydings, administrator of the CAC Yahoo! Group, said he would send an invitation to new members to join the discussion forum. He and several other CAC members noted the effectiveness of the Yahoo! Group in facilitating discussion on transportation topics and continuing discussions on CAC items outside of meetings.

Other Business

- Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning, provided an overview of items on the February 18 TPB Agenda and described each agenda item with relation to how programs are funded.

ATTENDANCE
CAC Meeting, February 12, 2009

Members in Attendance

1. Farrell Keough, MD, Chair
2. Maureen Budetti, VA
3. Paul DeMaio, DC
4. Harold Foster, DC
5. Bill Klenke, MD
6. Jim Larsen, VA
7. Larry Martin, DC
8. Allen Muchnick, VA
9. Gail Parker, VA
10. Trudy Reeves, DC

11. Lynn Shanton, MD
12. Emmet Tydings, MD
13. Shirley Williams, DC

Alternates in Attendance

- Patrick Coonan, DC
Bernard Hill, DC

Members Not in Attendance

1. Roland Gunn, VA
2. Derrick Richardson, MD

Staff/Others

- Ron Kirby, COG/TPB
Nick Ramfos, COG/TPB
Sarah Crawford, COG/TPB
Rex Hodgson, COG/TPB
Michael Farrell, COG/TPB
Robin Marlin