

REPORT
TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
July 16, 2015
Bob Summersgill, Chair

On July 16, the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) discussed regional transportation issues with the TPB Chair. TPB staff briefed the committee on the TPB's TLC, TAP and TCSP programs. The committee also received updates on the activities of its various subcommittees.

Briefing on upcoming TPB Agenda

Kanti Srikanth, Director of DTP Staff, updated the CAC on the agenda for the July TPB Meeting. He noted that work of the CAC was highlighted and commended in the Report of the 2014 Federal Certification Review of the TPB, which would be presented to the TPB at the upcoming meeting.

Discussion with TPB Chair Mendelson

Phil Mendelson, Chair of the TPB and the DC Council, met with the CAC to discuss issues regarding regional planning. He highlighted key transportation challenges facing the region, including funding, transit reliability, and mode shift.

CAC members engaged Mr. Mendelson in a lively conversation. Participants agreed that the WMATA funding shortfall was an urgent issue but that it requires a multi-faceted solution. Mr. Mendelson also noted the need to increase bus service frequency and take other steps, including advertising, to improve the visibility and ridership of the region's bus systems.

Mr. Mendelson was urged to raise the visibility of the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan, and promote the implementation of its principles. Some CAC members expressed concern to Mr. Mendelson that there is a growing perception in parts of the region that the TPB is too focused on the inner jurisdictions.

TLC, TAP, and TCSP

John Swanson of DTP staff gave a presentation on three TPB programs – the Transportation/Land-Use Connections Program, the Transportation Alternatives Program, and the Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Program research grant. Mr. Swanson described how these three programs advance the goals of the TPB's Regional Transportation Priorities Plan and COG's Regional Activity Centers initiative. TPB staff is working to better integrate these programs and expand their reach.

Member comments included the following points:

- The TPB should consider expanding funding for the TLC Program because it is a way to promote regional priorities at the local level.
- Staff should be encouraged to make the results of the TCSP project and similar work more closely tied to private development and local sector plans.
- Staff should explore ways to measure the benefits of pedestrian and bicycle improvements to demonstrate how increased use of those modes could contribute to congestion relief.

Subcommittee Work Session

The CAC subcommittees gave updates of their activities. The Transit Data subcommittee has been holding discussions with WMATA and requested that members help the agency in promoting open-data sharing agreements with local jurisdictions.

ATTENDEES

Members Present

- Bob Summersgill (DC)
- Keith Benjamin (DC)
- Jeff Parnes (VA)
- Tom Sanchez (DC)
- Douglas Stewart (VA)
- Alex Tremble (MD)
- Emmet Tydings (MD)

Alternates Present

- Nancy Abeles (MD)
- Emily Oaksford (DC)
- Tina Slater (MD)
- Julia Thayne (DC)

Members Not Present

- John Epps (MD)
- Gary V. Hodge (MD)
- Lorena Rios (VA)
- Stephen Still (VA)
- Jeremy Martin (MD)
- Holly Muhammad (DC)
- Veronica O. Davis (DC)
- Andrea Hamre (VA)

TPB

- Phil Mendelson, TPB Chair
- Kanti Srikanth, COG/DTP staff
- John Swanson, COG/DTP staff
- Bryan Hayes, COG/DTP staff
- Lamont B. Cobb, COG/DTP staff

Guests

- Bill Orleans