
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MONTHLY REPORT

June 15, 2023

Richard Wallace, CAC Chair

The June meeting of the 2023 - 2024 TPB Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on Thursday, June 15. The committee received a presentation from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) about their funding and project prioritization process and an overview of TPB's Intercity Travel work. The meeting was held virtually on WebEx.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FUNDING & PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

Samuel Brooks, DDOT Interim State and Regional Planning Manager, provided an overview of their funding and project prioritization process, and their approach to re-examining projects for Visualize 2050. This presentation is first in a series from the various state agencies to TPB's advisory committees to inform them about the state and local processes, and how they coordinate at the TPB.

Member comments and questions included:

- **Discussion about comprehensive public involvement and how the CAC can help state agencies with outreach efforts.** A committee member asked how DDOT seeks to receive input from the public if initial turnout is low. Samuel Brooks stated that there was low turnout from Wards 7 and 8 during public outreach for the long-range transportation plan, so DDOT staff worked with ANC commissioners for a second round of engagement. He added that the yearly budget process with the Council is an additional opportunity to engage. He also noted that depending on the project, there may be other outreach with residents impacted by construction or other considerations. Another member said they have engaged with DDOT in their role as an ANC commissioner, and said that CAC members can promote engagement efforts with their communities.
- **Question to further understand DDOT's Equity Assessment Tool.** One member asked for additional information on DDOT's Equity Assessment Tool. Samuel Brooks shared that DDOT's tool includes an analysis of the current transportation system to understand areas of greatest transportation needs. The assessment can help understand intended outcomes.
- **Question about the potential impacts of Zero-Based-Budgeting (ZBB).** A member asked how DDOT staff expects the ZBB process to change their project list. Samuel Brooks said that projects will be reviewed for their alignment with TPB goals and assessed for their financial feasibility considering revenue on hand.

INTERCITY TRAVEL REVIEW

Andrew Meese and Pierre Gaunaud shared information about TPB's Intercity Travel activities. In 2016, federal legislation required MPOs to examine intercity travel. Pierre Gaunaud summarized findings for research on intercity travel patterns and options in the Metropolitan Washington region.

Member comments and questions included the following:

- **Questions about how intercity travel providers are addressing public safety and accessibility.** One member asked about how providers are helping the public feel secure. TPB staff said that transit operators are focusing on more security, security ambassadors, and de-

escalation training. They added that these security measures may benefit intercity travelers at shared bus stops, and this may be a topic to further explore. Another member expressed interest in accessibility at stations, on buses and trains, and paratransit availability related to intercity travel.

- **Question about rail and bus coordination, and new stations in the region.** One member asked about how bus and rail operations are coordinated to ensure adequate time for transfers. They also asked about plans for new stations in Virginia. TPB staff stated there may be a new stop at Crystal City and noted that more intercity bus bays have been added across the region. Another member emphasized the importance of defining equity when considering bus and rail expansion to potential riders.
- **Interest in commuter train trends.** One member expressed interest in information about commuter train trends. TPB staff responded that commuter train travel is lower than pre-pandemic levels due to federal employee teleworking. They added that intercity travel is spurred by leisure travel. They said that future projects related to commuter trains are the expansion of Brunswick lines, MARC through service to VA, and infrastructure upgrades at VRE. Another member asked about how cooperation between MARC and VRE to run service through Union Station and service expansions will address increased demand and reach.
- **Question about bike policies.** One member asked about policy changes to allow passengers to bring bicycles on intercity bus and rail, and if demand has increased for bike storage.
- **Question about informal intercity providers.** One member asked if the region had any informal intercity transportation providers, similar to NYC's Dollar Vans.
- **Clarification about services available at Burke Station.** One member asked if the Burke Station in Virginia served Amtrak stops. Another member added that Burke is only served by Roanoke trains.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Agenda Item 5 – the Public Participation Evaluation Status Update – will be presented at the July meeting.
- Chair Wallace announced that the next CAC meeting will take place on July 13 as a virtual meeting held on WebEx.

ATTENDEES

Members

Richard Wallace, *Chair*
Ashley Hutson
Carolyn Wilson
Christina Farver
Daniel Papiernik
Felipe Millían
Gail Sullivan
Jacqueline Overton Allen
Jeffery Parnes
Kalli Krumpos
Larkin Turman
Maribel Wong
Mark Scheufler

Nancy Abeles
Noell Evans
Ra Amin
Rick Rybeck
Timothy Davis

Staff

Andrew Meese
Cristina Finch
Marcela Moreno
Pierre Gaunard
Rachel Beyerle

Other

Samuel Brooks, DDOT