

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee November 17, 2004 Dennis Jaffe, CAC Chair

The TPB's Citizens Advisory Committee met on November 10. The meeting focused on emergency preparedness, a recap of the TPB's Disability Awareness Day, and the CAC's election to designate six individuals to serve on next year's CAC.

Emergency Communications and Coordination in the Transportation Sector

Falls Church Councilmember David Snyder briefed the CAC on recent developments to improve emergency communications and coordination in the transportation sector. This was the third time Mr. Snyder has spoken to the CAC this year, and the committee is grateful that he has been so generous with his time.

Mr. Snyder indicated that regional leaders have identified a number of gaps in emergency preparedness, including the need to improve communication and coordination among agencies in the event of emergencies. He said that regional transportation agencies have acknowledged that such improvements are needed, and over recent months, the agencies have joined together to develop an institutional approach to meet these needs.

Mr. Snyder said the agencies have agreed that the institutional basis for this effort should be a regional program that was established several years ago to share wireless communications among jurisdictions and agencies during incidents. This program, called Capital Wireless Integrated Network (CapWIN), has the fundamental governance structure, staff and other elements that can be expanded to accommodate regional transportation and public safety technology and operations coordination. The TPB will be asked to endorse expanding CapWIN for this purpose.

Member questions and comments included the following:

- Will turf battles among agencies present obstacles to CapWIN as it assumes this coordination role? Mr. Snyder said that in its current functions, CapWIN has addressed turf issues between agencies and jurisdictions. For this and other reasons, CapWIN does appear to be well-suited to take on this expanded coordination role.
- What is the difference between the proposed approach using CapWIN and the TRANSCOM agency in New York? Mr. Snyder said TRANSCOM had broad authorities and it is already operating on a 24/7 basis. He said he would like the enhanced CapWIN agency to include at least the same authorities as TRANSCOM. He said CapWIN provides a good headstart for creating a coordinating agency because it already includes a wide range of agencies.

- Will the new coordinating role at CapWIN include emergency management agencies? Mr. Kirby said it would not initially include emergency management agencies. Several CAC members suggested that the CAC might request that emergency management be included. Others voiced concern about whether this would complicate the process so much that it might cause further delay. Members also said that not addressing the complex linkage between emergency management agencies and the current participants in police, fire and transportation agencies failed to reflect the importance of a sufficiently inclusive and coordinated system.
- Is public information included in these improvements? Mr. Snyder explained that public information was not included in the institutional proposal regarding CapWIN. He said regional leaders have recognized that public information and public education need to be improved, but this is being pursued on a separate track. He said that this might be part of a separate discussion with the CAC.

As part of these discussions, the CAC passed two resolutions: 1) supporting the TPB draft resolution calling for the development of an enhanced CapWIN, and 2) urging the TPB to address the linkage of emergency management agencies in this new coordination effort, along with police, fire and transportation agencies. These resolutions are attached.

Recap of Disabilities Awareness Day

Wendy Klancher of the COG/TPB staff briefed the CAC on the TPB's Disabilities Awareness Day, which was sponsored by the TPB's Access for All Advisory (AFA) Committee. She explained the event highlighted the typical workday commutes of people with disabilities. Twelve travel teams—each including a person with a disability, a member of the TPB, and in some cases a member of the media—made a trek to a press conference at COG which was held immediately prior to the monthly TPB meeting. CAC member Mike LaJuene was a participant in one of the teams that included Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins and a reporter from the Washington Post.

During the press conference, participants from the travel teams described the services and obstacles they confronted on the morning commute. Ms. Klancher reported that the event received extensive press coverage.

At the conclusion, AFA Chair Kathy Porter provided a list of specific recommendations on ways to improve accessibility. A CAC member asked if the cost of these needs had been determined. Ms. Klancher replied that there was no overall cost estimate.

Other member questions and comments included the following:

- A member suggested that the accessibility issues raised by the event could possibly be combined with issues that were highlighted in the “Walkable Communities Audits” that were sponsored in the Spring by the TPB's Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee.

- A member suggested that the AFA committee might look a rating system that has been developed in other metropolitan areas for comparing accessibility in different jurisdictions.

CAC Election for 2005

The CAC held an election to designate six people to serve on the 2005 Citizens Advisory Committee. The following individuals were designated:

- District of Columbia: Harold Foster, Lee Schoenecker
- Maryland: Nathaniel Bryant, Steve Cafilisch
- Virginia: Allen Muchnick, Stewart Schwartz

According to the TPB Public Involvement Process, the TPB officers will nominate an additional nine people (three each from DC, MD and VA). The TPB must approve all 15 CAC members no later than the January meeting.

Upcoming Public Outreach Meetings

Two public outreach meetings on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study have been scheduled:

- December 7 in Fair Lakes, Virginia, 12:00 pm at the Peterson Companies. This meeting will be a relatively small lunch discussion which is being organized by Bob Chase.
- December 8 in Gaithersburg, Maryland, 7:30- 9:00 pm at Bohrer Park. This meeting will be moderated by Montgomery County Councilmember Michael Knapp, who is vice chair of the TPB. The flyer for this meeting is attached to this report.

Other Business

- TPB November agenda. The CAC reviewed the upcoming TPB agenda, including the consideration of the 2004 Constrained Long-Range Plan amendments.
- Items for December agenda. The committee discussed including the following items on next month's agenda:
 - Develop the CAC's end-of-the-year report.
 - Discuss methods to broaden outreach, including getting the presentation on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study onto the agendas of groups that are already meeting.
 - Develop a process for including alternate members on the CAC.
 - Receive a briefing from Kevin Moore of the newly formed organization, MetroRiders.org.

ATTENDANCE
CAC Meeting, November 10, 2004

Members in Attendance

1. Dennis Jaffe, Chair, DC
2. Ephrem Asebe, MD
3. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
4. Steve Caflisch, MD
5. Steve Cerny, VA
6. Bob Chase, VA
7. Harold Foster, DC
8. Allen Muchnick, Vice Chair, VA
9. Stewart Schwartz, VA
10. Emmet Tydings, Vice Chair, MD
11. Merle Van Horne, DC

Members Not in Attendance

1. Don Edwards, DC
2. Mark Friis, MD
3. Michael LaJuene, VA
4. Lee Schoenecker, DC

Staff/Others

David Snyder, Falls Church City Council
Ron Kirby, COG/DTP
Wendy Klancher, COG/DTP
John Swanson, COG/DTP
Glen Harvie

Resolutions

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

November 10, 2004

Regarding Actions of the Transportation Planning Board to Improve Regional
Transportation Communications and Coordination during Incidents

Given the CAC's continuing interest in emergency preparedness improvements, the Committee approved the following two resolutions at its meeting on November 10, 2004:

1. The Committee supports draft resolution TPB R7-2005, titled "Resolution to Endorse Actions of the Transportation Planning Board to Improve Regional Transportation Communications and Coordination During Incidents," which will be considered by the TPB for action on November 17, 2004.
2. The Committee urges the TPB to address the linkage of emergency management in the new coordinating structure, along with police, fire and transportation components.