
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MONTHLY REPORT

January 19, 2022

Ashley Hutson, CAC Chair

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to the TPB met on Thursday, January 13 for an online-only meeting. At the meeting the committee met with the TPB Chair and the TPB Staff Director. The committee was also briefed on the UPWP and discussed plans for the year ahead.

Materials for the meeting can be found here: <https://www.mwcog.org/events/2022/1/13/tpb-community-advisory-committee/>

THE YEAR AHEAD

Pamela Sebesky, TPB Chair and Vice-Mayor for the City of Manassas, thanked the committee for their service and said she looks forward to working with the CAC in 2022. She said her approach for chairing starts with building consensus for solutions that work for all. Once consensus is achieved, she seeks to get commitment from jurisdictions and agencies to act on that consensus. She encouraged the CAC to apply these principles when considering items for the TPB and bring consensus-based advice that is inclusive all views to the TPB.

Kanti Srikanth, TPB Staff Director, shared his vision for the year ahead. He said that over the years the TPB has developed strategies for addressing regional challenges and said work is needed to implement those strategies on the local level. He encouraged the committee to think about the role that they can play in advocating for and raising awareness of implementation locally. He also previewed some topics that the TPB will work on in 2022. These include finalizing Visualize 2045, climate change mitigation, resiliency planning, and state of the region's roads and bridges.

CAC DISCUSSION

The committee divided into small groups by state so the committee could determine differences to help the committee work together in the future. In their small groups, they answered three questions. Following the small group discussion, the members reconvened and discussed their answers.

The small groups discussed what motivates them to attend CAC meetings. There was agreement that meeting people who live in different parts of the region and learning from their experiences is interesting and motivates people to continue being members of the committee. The focus on regionalism at the committee helps members think beyond their personal travel experiences and better understand the complexity of the region's transportation system. One member said that participating on the CAC helps them understand how local projects fit into and can be influenced by the region. Other members cited being motivated by challenges they've faced and a desire to increase visibility around equity issues in transportation.

Committee members said that they often share what they learn at the CAC with the other associations and committees that they serve on. There was also agreement that strengthening the relationship between CAC members and members of the board could help the committee be more effective. Some members felt that the committee should also build relationships with elected officials who do not serve on the TPB as a good way to raise awareness about regional transportation issues. There was also discussion about getting communities involved in regional transportation planning by leveraging existing groups that members are a part of. One member encouraged the committee to be careful about speaking for their community without first talking to their community.

Finally, the committee discussed the biggest transportation priorities locally and regionally. The following list represents the perspective of individual members:

- Concern about lack of interoperability and connectivity of transportation when crossing state/jurisdiction lines.
- Planning more aggressively to incorporate emerging technology into transportation planning and eventually infrastructure.
- Improving regional connectivity, especially when connecting activity centers in outer parts of the region without having to head into the core. Making sure that everyone in the region has access to resources.
- Addressing cut through traffic on residential streets on the way to highways.
- Improving the safety and resiliency of the region’s transportation system.
- Building a second Potomac River crossing between Virginia and Maryland.
- Wanting to make sure that infrastructure investments are distributed equitably.
- Improving pedestrian and traffic safety.
- More funding for transit to help increase ridership.
- Concerns about the efficacy of public private partnerships.
- Analyzing the impacts of telework on the region’s transportation system.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Bryan Hayes, TPB Transportation Planner, encouraged committee members to apply for participation in the 2022 Community Leadership Institute
- Lyn Erickson, TPB Plan Development and Coordination Program Director, briefed the committee on the FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program.
- Lyn Erickson also walked the committee through the January TPB agenda.

ATTENDEES

Members	
Ashley Hutson, CAC Chair	Katherine Kortum
Daniel Papiernik	Kia James
Delia Houseal	Lorena Rios
Elisa Walton	Michael Artson
Eyal Li	Nancy Abeles
Jeff Jamawat	Ra Amin
Jeff Parnes	Robert Jackson
Guests	
Heather Foote	Matthew Hernandez
Tony Giancola	
Staff	
Kanti Srikanth	John Swanson
Lyn Erickson	Stacy Cook
Bryan Hayes	Joseph Limber