

ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

October 6, 2020

Kacy Kostiuk, Chair

The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) met virtually on October 6 and the highlights from the meeting are provided below. A list of participants is on the last page. The AFA advises the TPB on transportation issues and services important to low-income communities, minority communities, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, and older adults.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF AFA MEMBER CHARLIE CRAWFORD

Chair Kostiuk facilitated a remembrance of long-time AFA member Charlie Crawford, whose contributions to the work of the AFA, the TPB and the region as a whole are many. Participants shared comments and memories of Mr. Crawford and held a moment of silence in his memory.

Mrs. Crawford, who joined the call, expressed her appreciation for the comments and the condolences received, including a gift from the TPB and AFA for Mr. Crawford's seeing eye dog Razen.

WHEELS TO WELLNESS

Ms. Hipski, Regional Transit Coordinator for the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland presented on the Wheels to Wellness program. The program, in partnership with two hospitals and two human service providers, coordinates rides for patients in Calvert, St. Mary's, and soon Charles Counties in Maryland who have no transportation to non-emergency medical appointments. The program helps to improve general healthcare and the research provided indicates a significant Return on Investment.

The presentation elicited a lot of interest from AFA members and Q&A included who benefits from the ROI of \$6.30, funding sources to sustain and expand the program, and the expansion into Charles County, Maryland. The Cost Benefit Analysis publication referenced in the presentation and mentioned in the discussion will be shared with the committee via email.

RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL AGING AND DISABILITY TRANSPORTATION CENTER'S (NADTC) SURVEY OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

Ms. Dize of n4a/NADTC shared the results of a national survey, conducted in partnership with KRC Research, of organizations that provide transportation services to older adults and people with disabilities. TPB staff participated in the survey and sent it out to subrecipients of the 5310 Enhanced Mobility program and the AFA Committee when it was launched.

Findings included:

- For those who do not drive, finding alternative transportation is difficult according to 77% of agencies—and the difficulty is strongly related to affordability.
- Only a quarter say transportation options are good—and only 3% very good. Less than 1 in 5 say options are highly affordable, and a third say not affordable.
- Agencies receive funding from a patchwork of sources, including State, FTA Section 5310, and Older Americans Act, ranging from 5 to 11 sources.

- The top three unmet requests are fairly evenly distributed between limitations by trip type, service area/distance, and hours or frequency.

The discussion following the presentation touched on coordination difficulties especially in developing one-call/one-click services, and the importance of and resources available for raising awareness of transportation programs and resources. The complete survey will be shared with the committee via email.

VISUALIZE 2045 – TIMELINE AND PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH

Ms. Cook presented the timeline and planned activities for Visualize 2045, the federally mandated, long-range transportation plan for the National Capital Region. Ms. Armendariz provided an overview of the 3 parts of the public opinion research component of the plan:

1. Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic – will ask the public about their transportation choices in the midst of COVID-19 in order to understand how people are adapting and how these changes might affect long-term travel patterns and choices in the future.
2. Our Transportation Future – will ask the public to consider the current transportation system and determine what implementation activities would make transportation options more appealing in the future.
3. External Forces and Future Factors – will ask the public about factors that will affect transportation in the future, such as climate change, autonomous vehicles, and continuing efforts to advance transportation equity in the region in order to understand how important these factors are in transportation decisions made by the public.

The information will be gathered through a survey and focus groups.

Discussion with the committee touched on public outreach goals and methods. TPB staff will return to present to the AFA and solicit feedback throughout the Visualize 2045 development process.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Kostiuk reminded participants of the work of Virginia Tech PhD student Mahtot Gebresselassie, who is researching accessibility of TNCs, and shared a message that she has expanded her work to include people using wheelchairs or scooters who travel into DC. A link to the survey will be emailed to the committee following the meeting.

Chair Kostiuk reminded participants that the deadline for public comment on TPB's Public Participation Plan is October 9th, via email to staff or at www.mwcog.org/tpbcomment.

Chair Kostiuk shared that she has asked TPB staff to look for a replacement chair in order to allow other TPB members the opportunity to learn about and participate in the important work of the committee, but will remain involved to the extent she is able.

A committee member shared that WMATA will be holding a public hearing on October 13th regarding proposed service cuts. Staff will share details via a follow up email.

2020 MEETING DATES

- November 10

MEETING ATTENDANCE

District of Columbia	Virginia	Virginia (continued)
Heather Foote, Age Friendly DC Transportation Committee	Andrew Wexler, Arlington County	Nechama Maslianksy, S.O.M.E.
Karen Randolph, DDOT	Caneq Aquirre, City of Alexandria - Councilmember	Virginia Dize, n4a/NADTC
Vivian Guerra, DDOT	Clemmon Hammie, VDOT	TPB Staff
Wendy Klancher, DFHV	Cynthia Alarico, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services	Kanti Srikanth
Maryland	Jennifer Karanek, NV Rides	Karen Armendariz
Debbie Fisher, representing people with developmental disabilities	Karen Smith, Arc of Prince William/INSIGHT, Inc.	Lyn Erikson
Gloria Butler, Arc of Prince George's County	Mahtot Gebresselassie, Virginia Tech PhD student	Lynn Winchell-Mendy
Janet Cornick, Maryland Department of Transportation	MaryJo Hensler, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services	Sergio Ritacco
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation	Peter Leisen, Arc of Northern Virginia	Stacy Cook
Nancy Huggins, KFH for Maryland Transit Administration	Rikki Epstein, Arc of Northern Virginia	
Rob Malone, Arc of Prince George's County	Roger Hoskin, representing older adults	Chair
Sam Oji, Montgomery County DOT	Tom Furlong, Diamond Transportation	Kacy Kostiuk, City of Takoma Park - Ward 3 Councilmember
Sara Fought, JCA Connect-A-Ride	Vanessa Coles, Arlington County	
Shawn Brennan, Montgomery County DHHS	Regional	
Sue Crawford, wife of member Charlie Crawford	Angela White, National MS Society of Greater DC	
Yolanda Hipski, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland	Brenda Richardson, Women Like Us	
	Cecelia Castillo-Ayometzi, WMATA	
	Glenn Millis, WMATA	