

REPORT

**TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
June 21, 2006
Emmet Tydings, CAC Chairman**

The June 15 meeting of the CAC focused on a presentation by Ron Kirby on potential regional programs to improve land use/transportation linkages.

Presentation: “Strengthening the Linkages between Transportation and Land Use Planning in the Washington Region”

Ron Kirby, Director of the Department of Transportation Planning, gave a draft version of a presentation that he and staff have developed for the TPB meeting on June 21. The presentation describes forecasted transportation trends, including a significant increase in congestion and a decline in transit mode share over the coming decades. He said these problems are partially linked to regional land use challenges that have been highlighted in the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study, including the jobs/housing imbalance and the east/west economic divide.

Mr. Kirby said the TPB has sought on a short-term basis to address transportation problems with capacity increases and better management of the existing capacity. To look at longer-term solutions, the TPB has been conducting the scenario study known as the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study. This study has worked with a number of “what if” questions, but has not focused on the “how to” questions of implementation.

Mr. Kirby spoke about the potential for using the scenario study to play a more active role in implementing transportation/land use linkages. He said the study might be used to identify specific transportation improvements with high potential to facilitate land use shifts. He said it also might help build consensus around needs, and as a source of information in discussions related to particular projects. For example, he said, projects like the Purple Line and transit on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge are the kinds of projects that could be highlighted through the study.

Participants at the meeting had the following questions and comments:

- ***Should funding be tied to an “incentives program”?*** Participants at the meeting noted that Mr. Kirby’s presentation focused on developing regional consensus around key needs, but would not necessarily provide funding for projects. Mr. Kirby responded that other metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) have developed grants programs for “livable communities” but he added that those were regions where transit-oriented development (TOD) needed to be jump started. In contrast, he noted that TOD is already well established in the Washington region. Mr. Kirby suggested that instead of developing a small-scale grants program, it might be more effective to focus on leveraging support and develop consensus for major investments.

- ***The development of TOD is uneven in the region.*** Members pointed out that transit-oriented development (TOD) is encountering different challenges in different parts of the region. In some places, people are resistant to increased densities and are concerned about additional traffic. In other places, Metro station areas remain undeveloped. A member noted that it is ultimately up to policy makers to determine whether they want to take bold action on a regional basis to address these issues.
- ***Small-scale improvements could have a big impact.*** A member noted that any program to improve integration between land use and transportation needs to identify the “low-hanging fruit” projects that can relatively easily be addressed. Mr. Kirby agreed that he would like to see the scenario study used to support shorter-term, less expensive transit options. He noted that modest public investments in locations that are outside the immediate vicinity of transit stations could make activity centers more viable and more attractive to the public.
- ***What can the CAC do?*** Mr. Kirby said the committee should continue to monitor this initiative and if it chooses, provide support for whatever program the TPB ultimately decides to pursue.

Other Business

- John Swanson of the COG/TPB staff asked CAC members to provide staff with suggested organizations that might host the “What If” outreach presentation.
- Michelle Pourciau, acting director of the District Department of Transportation has announced that she intends to nominate Merle Van Horne as a CAC member to replace Allen Greenberg who resigned last month.
- Mr. Swanson introduced Michael Eichler, a new transportation planner who will work with the Access for All Advisory Committee, long-range plan development and analysis, and other activities.

ATTENDANCE **CAC Meeting, June 15, 2006**

Members in Attendance

1. Emmet Tydings, Chair, MD
2. Ephrem Asebe, MD
3. Stephen Cerny, VA
4. Harold Foster, DC
5. Grace Malakoff, DC
6. Jim Larsen, VA
7. Allen Muchnick, VA
8. Merle Van Horne, DC

4. Dan Malouff, VA
5. Larry Martin, DC
6. Robin Marlin, DC
7. Alexandra Simpson, VA

Staff/Others

Ron Kirby, COG/TPB
 John Swanson, COG/TPB
 Darren Smith, COG/TPB
 Julie Ruszyk, VDOT
 Glen Harvie
 Allen Greenberg
 Bill Orlean

Members Not in Attendance

1. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
2. Stephen Caflisch, MD
3. Elvin Crespo, MD