
TPB CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

September 18, 2019

Rob Jackson, CAC Chair

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) met on Thursday, September 12. At the meeting, the committee was briefed on work to expand the regional trail network and participated in an activity about the Aspirational Initiatives from Visualize 2045.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGIONAL TRAILS

Mike Farrell, TPB Transportation Planner, briefed the committee on efforts to expand the region's bicycle and pedestrian trail network, which will advance the TPB's Aspirational Initiative to complete the National Capital Regional Trail. He described previous work identifying the trail and collaborating with the Capital Trails Coalition. He provided an overview of the criteria for selecting trail segments to be included in the network and shared a map of the draft network.

The committee supports TPB efforts to expand the regional capital trail network. They discussed ways to promote awareness and use of the National Capital Regional Trail, and also made suggestions for ways that the agencies that build and maintain the trail can make it safer and more accessible.

The following is a summary of committee discussion:

- Use of consistent branding and wayfinding will help raise awareness about the regional trail network, while also making the network easier to use.
- Selection criteria should include monitoring systems for safety, emergency response, and traffic monitoring. Specifically, criteria should make sure that women and minorities feel comfortable and safe using the network.
- Trail connections to Baltimore and Richmond could be explored.
- Numerical goals could be set for the number of households and jobs that are accessible by the network to encourage additional expansion and to measure success.
- Jurisdictions should be encouraged to include bicycle waystations and other amenities along trail to promote use. Other ways to promote use could include providing printed maps of the network in addition to providing online mapping and apps.

ASPIRATIONAL INITIATIVES ACTIVITY

Stacy Cook, TPB Transportation Planner, provided a quick summary of a survey that the committee took online. She said that the survey and this activity will be used to inform plans for public engagement for the update of Visualize 2045 which is due in 2022.

The committee completed a work sheet, then divided into four groups. Each group discussed how they travelled to the CAC meeting that evening, and ways that the Aspirational Initiatives might have

made their trip better. Following the group discussions, the committee reflected on the activity and shared observations with staff.

Members of the committee explained why they felt the in-person discussion was more effective than the online survey. They said that the group activity was useful because it provided an opportunity to hear about other people’s experiences. They felt that they were able to identify more ideas to share in the group discussions. They said it also helped them think differently about their own experiences from a multimodal and regional perspective. They said that this provided them with an opportunity to think about how the Aspirational Initiatives work together.

The committee suggested some additional questions that staff could ask, including: 1) What impediments did you encounter and how did they impact your trip? 2) Is there an alternate route that you take? How might it be impacted by the Aspirational Initiatives? The committee also suggested incorporating audio and visual responses (like smiley and sad faces) as part of the online survey.

The committee also expressed the importance of letting the public know how the feedback they collect is going to be used. Staff reiterated that feedback from this exercise would be used to inform planning for future Visualize 2045 public engagement.

OTHER ITEMS

- Bryan Hayes, TPB Transportation Planner, encouraged members of the committee to submit a statement of interest to participate in the Fall 2019 Community Leadership Institute.
- Lyn Erickson, TPB Plan Development and Coordination Program Director, reviewed the agenda for the September TPB meeting.

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rob Jackson, chair
 Nancy Abeles, vice-chair
 Meredith Howell, vice-chair
 Daniel Papiernik
 Kalai Kandasamy
 Jeremy Martin
 Emmet Tydings
 Jonathan Warner
 Karthik Balasubramanian
 Katherine Kortum
 Theodore Wilhite
 Jasmine Young

ALTERNATES

Jacqueline Manapsal
 Ronit Dancis
 Tony Giancola
 Elisa Walton

TPB STAFF AND GUESTS

Lyn Erickson, TPB staff
 Bryan Hayes, TPB staff
 Abigail Zenner, TPB staff
 John Swanson, TPB staff
 Mike Farrell, TPB staff
 Stacy Cook, TPB staff
 Bill Orleans, public