

## **ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

November 30, 2017

*Charles Allen, Chairman, TPB First Vice Chairman*

The Access for All Advisory Committee met on November 30, 2017 and the highlights from the meeting are provided below. A list of participants is on the last page. The Access for All Advisory Committee (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.

### **INITIATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION BY TPB'S LONG-RANGE PLAN TASK FORCE ("TASK FORCE")**

Ms. Lori Zeller provided an overview of the latest activities the Long-Range Plan Task Force, which is a TPB effort to identify a set of initiatives that could significantly improve the region's transportation system.

Mr. Richard Ezike, the AFA's representative on the Long-Range Plan Task Force, presented the initiatives that support the concerns of the AFA Committee in preparation for the task force meeting in early December. The AFA concurred that the following initiatives are the highest priority based on responsiveness to AFA concerns and the sketch-planning results:

- Optimize Regional Land Use Balance (I8)
- Metrorail Regional Core Capacity Improvements (I6)
- Transit Fare Policy Changes (I9)
- Operational Improvements and Hotspot Relief (includes demand-responsive services for people with disabilities) (I2)
- Regionwide High-Capacity Transitways (I4)
- Amplified Employer-based Travel Demand Management (I10)

### **PRESENTATION ON WMATA'S ABILITIES-RIDE PROGRAM**

Mr. Christiaan Blake from Metro's Office of ADA Policy and Planning gave a presentation on Metro's Abilities-Ride program offering on-demand taxi services to MetroAccess customers in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland. The program was launched in mid-September and key features include:

- Direct trips (rather than a shared-ride service) with Regency or Silver taxi
- Customers can book trips via telephone, mobile app or website
- Metro pays up to \$15 per trip
- Customer pays the first \$5 of the fare and any fare above \$20
- Customers can take 4 trips a day

This new service is expected to reduce the amount of subsidy the jurisdictions pay towards MetroAccess. Demand for the service has already grown: In the last half of September, 42 customers took 135 rides but in October the demand quadrupled to 694 trips taken by 140 customers. Mr. Blake said that Metro is working to promote alternatives to MetroAccess like Abilities-Ride and TransportDC, and will work on the development of such programs in Northern Virginia.

Metro's intent is to complement existing services in the region, not compete with or overlap with the services.

#### **PRESENTATION ON MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S MOBILITY MANAGEMENT EFFORTS**

Ms. Shawn Brennan from the Montgomery County Department Health and Human Services provided an overview of the County's Enhanced Mobility grant from COG to improve awareness of and access to a variety of existing transportation services for older adults and people with disabilities. The outcomes of the grant include the promotion and greater utilization of existing transportation services, improved and translated materials, and an advertisement played in theaters and featured online. Ms. Brennan talked about the lessons learned from the grant including: the importance of outreach to residents of public housing, faith community groups, and people with limited English skills and the need to carefully consider effectiveness of existing materials, and refine as necessary.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CHARLES ALLEN**

Mr. Kanti Srikanth acknowledged Mr. Charles Allen for his service as the AFA chair in 2016 and 2017. Since Mr. Allen will be the TPB chair in 2018, another TPB member will be appointed the AFA chair. Mr. Srikanth thanked Mr. Allen for his dedication to the concerns of traditionally underserved populations.

## MEETING ATTENDEES

<b>District of Columbia</b>	<b>Virginia</b>	<b>TPB Staff</b>
Rosa Carrillo, Multicultural Community Service	Cynthia Alarico, Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood Services	Kanti Srikanth
Nechama Masliansky, SOME	Mary Blyther, Arlington STAR Transportation	Lyn Erickson
Susie McFadden-Resper, DC Office of Disability Rights	Roger Hoskins, representing older adults	Wendy Klancher
Angela Miller, Direct Action (for People with Disabilities)	Jeanna Muhoro, Fairfax County Department of Transportation	Sergio Ritacco
Gloria Swieringa, Prince George's Commissions for Individuals with Disabilities	Denis Paddeu, Rappahannock Area Agency on Aging	Lynn Winchell-Mendy
Ezra Wright, Earth Conservation Corps	Doris Ray, ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia	Lori Zeller (Presenter)
<b>Maryland</b>	Karen Smith, The Arc of Greater Prince William	Abigail Zenner
Shawn Brennan, Montgomery County Aging & Disability Services (presenter)	Susan Shaw, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services	
Gloria Butler, The Arc of Prince George's	Lorena Rios, Northern VA Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	
Charlie Crawford, representing people with disabilities	Tom Furlong, Diamond Transportation	
Thomas Curtis, Maryland Department of Disabilities	Richard Ezike, Union of Concerned Scientists	
Andrea Lasker, Prince George's County DPWT	<b>Regional</b>	
Abby Levin, JCA Connect-A-Ride	Christiaan Blake, WMATA (presenter)	
Bill Orleans, resident	Marieannette Otero, Safe Routes to School National Partnership	
	Sharlene Reed, WMATA	
	Angela White, National MS Society	