

## REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee  
May 16, 2007  
James Larsen, CAE, CAC Chairman

The May 10 meeting of the CAC included a discussion with TPB Chair Cathy Hudgins, an update on the Constrained Long-Range Plan and a continued discussion on the development of the TPB's new Participation Plan.

### Discussion with TPB Chair Cathy Hudgins

The CAC was pleased to welcome Cathy Hudgins to our monthly meeting to discuss her priorities for the year and how she hopes to work with the Citizens Advisory Committee. Chairman Hudgins laid out some guiding principles for her work including: 1) the need for multimodal transportation systems, 2) a belief that design must be universal with respect to access, capacity, instructions, and location; 3) the need for projects to be environmentally friendly, including appropriate landscaping and streetscaping; and 4) the need to broadly define the term "stakeholders" to reflect the true breadth of the community.

CAC member questions and comments for Chairman Hudgins included the following:

- ***How can the TPB advance the principles laid out in the Vision and the scenario study?*** Chairman Hudgins said it was important for regional leaders to create forums for dialogue in which citizens can better understand key issues instead of simply allowing already polarized positions to get further entrenched.
- ***What is the status of the regional transportation funding shortfall?*** Chairman Hudgins said there has been some progress in addressing the region's transportation funding needs, although she expressed concern that in many cases, the funding burden seems to be shifting to the local level.
- ***What is the one main thing that Chairman Hudgins would like to accomplish this year as Chair of the TPB?*** Ms. Hudgins replied that she is concerned about equity issues, but she also expressed concern that equity challenges are often addressed by carving out special programs instead of creating systems that serve everyone better. For example, she said that in addition to improving MetroAccess, it was important for WMATA to work to make the entire fixed-route system more accessible to people with disabilities.
- ***A member expressed concern that planning is often insensitive to community impacts.*** Chairman Hudgins said that this comment highlighted a key challenge, which is that the TPB is usually not involved in direct decision-making. She said this position can be frustrating and that the "process" role of the TPB should ensure that

projects have had a proper “airing” in their communities. But it is often difficult for the TPB to know if an adequate level of community involvement has actually occurred.

### **Briefing on the 2007 Constrained Long-Range Plan Update**

Ron Kirby, Director of COG’s Department of Transportation Planning, said that the TPB at its April meeting voted to table the approval of the project submissions for this year’s CLRP. This delay was largely in response to comments regarding the two biggest projects this year – I-66 spot improvements and the I-95/395 HOT lanes project.

Comments and questions included the following:

- A CAC member noted that although VDOT has changed the project description for the I-66 project, the description still does not appear to fully acknowledge that this is a capacity expansion project.
- The same member asked why VDOT had not filled out and made available Congestion Management forms for the two projects, as required by the federal law SAFETEA-LU. Staff said they would look into this requirement.

### **Discussion of the Development of the New TPB Participation Plan**

The committee and staff continued its discussion of the development of the new Participation Plan, which is required under SAFETEA-LU. TPB staff members John Swanson and Sarah Crawford presented some background on inputs and key themes that the plan will address. Darren Smith of the staff then led the committee in a short exercise to help them identify and discuss different types of constituencies whose needs should be met through the TPB’s public involvement activities.

Individual comments included the following:

- Public involvement activities need to respond to local issues because citizens find it difficult to relate to a regional framework.
- Reaching out and communicating effectively is a serious professional undertaking and the TPB should work with professionals to perform this work correctly.
- It is not the TPB’s job to communicate directly with the public. The TPB should work more extensively with the media to do this.
- The TPB should establish benchmarks in its public involvement activities.

## **Other Business**

John Swanson of the TPB staff announced several items:

- An outreach meeting on the TPB's Regional Mobility and Accessibility Scenario Study was held in Alexandria, VA, on April 17 at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street. Another presentation was scheduled to occur at the Frederick Area Committee on Transportation (FACT) on May 14 starting at 8:00 am at Winchester Hall in Frederick, MD.
- Mr. Swanson said that staff plans to conduct additional forums around the region in the coming months. He encouraged CAC members to provide suggestions of potential venues or interested organizations that might want to host forums.
- The TPB will host its third Community Leadership Institute (CLI) on June 20 and 23. These upcoming sessions will focus on working with leaders from immigrant communities. Mr. Swanson encouraged CAC members to provide suggestions for potential nominees to the CLI.

## **ATTENDANCE** **CAC Meeting, May 10, 2007**

### **Members in Attendance**

1. Jim Larsen, VA, Chair
2. Larry Martin, DC, Vice-chair
3. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
4. Stephen Cerny, VA
5. Harold Foster, DC
6. Daniel Malouff, VA
7. Robin Marlin, DC
8. Allen Muchnick, VA
9. Merle Van Horne, DC

### **Members Not in Attendance**

1. Steve Caflisch, MD
2. Grace Malakoff, DC
3. Todd Reitzel, MD
4. Jahantab Siddiqui, MD
5. Alexandra Simpson, VA
6. Emmet Tydings, MD

### **Staff/Others**

Ron Kirby, COG/TPB  
Jazmin Casas, COG/TPB/FHWA  
Sarah Crawford, COG/TPB  
Darren Smith, COG/TPB  
John Swanson, COG/TPB