

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
September 17, 2003
Karren Pope-Onwukwe, Chair

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on September 11. The main discussion topic was the Round 6.3 Cooperative Forecasts. The committee also discussed its upcoming outreach meetings and the CLRP financial analysis.

Discussion of the Round 6.3 Cooperative Forecasts

Paul DesJardin of the COG staff gave a presentation regarding the changes in the new cooperative forecasts. Mr. DesJardin is scheduled to give a similar presentation to the TPB on September 17.

Questions and comments from the CAC members included the following:

- A member asked if any of the data could be charted by radii (e.g., 5, 10, 15 miles) starting at the regional core? He noted that some of the jurisdictions—Fairfax, Prince George’s and Montgomery counties, for example—were so large that the information would be more useful if provided at a finer grain of detail. Mr. DesJardin said this could be done.
- A member noted that some of the changes between this round and the last round of cooperative forecasts were startling. He asked if the figures seemed reasonable. Mr. DesJardin answered that over time, the projections have proven their accuracy. He also noted that the cooperative forecasts were rigorously peer-reviewed.
- A member asked how conflicting growth assumptions—for example, if two jurisdictions both are planning for the same stadium—are reconciled in the cooperative forecasts. Mr. DesJardin answered that in the short-term, development projects are assumed if they have permits to proceed. In the long-term, such assumptions would be need to be worked out among the planning directors, based on professional judgment.
- Members had a number of comments regarding relatively low projections for jobs and housing in activity centers in Prince George’s County:
 - A member expressed interest in expanding the approved listing of activity centers—for Prince George’s County in particular. “Looking at the list now makes you feel like there’s no hope,” she said.
 - Another member noted that Prince George’s County had never been satisfied with the activity centers list. He said that planning efforts in Prince George’s would

- hopefully expand its official number of activity centers. He expressed hope that development would eventually come to Prince George's because of its abundance of available land close to Metrorail stations.
- Another member emphasized that the activity centers maps were actually a snapshot of imbalances in the region at the time they were developed; they should be used to make changes in development patterns, particularly in Prince George's County.
 - A member said he believed there were actually too many activity centers included in the maps, and he was shocked that Prince George's did not have more. He suggested that more effective lobbying was needed.
 - In response, Ron Kirby commented that the activity centers were based on established projections. A member responded that perhaps the criteria needed to be changed. Another member said that just changing the definition of activity centers will not really change the reality facing Prince George's County.
- A member asked if a chart could be developed depicting employment at Metro stations. Mr. DesJardin said that such a chart could be developed. He noted that 20-25 Metro stations did not have significant development.

CLRP Financial Analysis

Ron Kirby explained the position of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) regarding the financial analysis for the Constrained Long-Range Plan. He said WMATA had asked that the TPB place greater emphasis on the transit system's short-term funding shortfall.

CAC member comments included the following:

- A member noted that WMATA is an aggressive advocate, but other parts of the transportation system do not have similarly effective proponents and are deteriorating quickly. He said the state departments of transportation need to more aggressively lobby for more highway funding.
- In response, another member noted that WMATA deserves special attention because it carries such a large part of the federal workforce. He further suggested that roads need to be built with longer-life pavement. More broadly, he said that if there is not enough transportation funding, then efforts need to be made to reduce automobile trip demand.
- Another member noted that although he was a long-time transit advocate, he found WMATA's request to be unclear. He felt that more information was needed.

CAC Outreach Meetings

The CAC has planned four outreach meetings for the fall. Flyers for the first two meetings will be available at the TPB meeting on September 17.

- ***Looking at Transportation Options for Southern Prince George's County***

October 1, 7:00-8:30 pm, Best Western Hotel, 6400 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, MD

- ***Transit-Oriented Development: What Could It Mean for the Eastern Side of the Region?*** Meeting Cosponsored with the TPB's Access for All Advisory Committee

October 7, 7:00-8:30 pm, St. Luke's Center, 4925 East Capitol St. SE, Washington, DC

- ***Should the Beltway Be Expanded With HOT Lanes?***

November 18, 7:30-9:00 pm, Fairfax County, VA (location TBD)

- ***Columbia Pike Revitalization: Can It Be a Model to the Region?***

December 3, 7:00-8:30 pm, Arlington Career Center, Arlington, VA

Other Business

The CAC decided to expand contact with the other citizens committees working at COG, especially the CAC working with the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee and the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC).

The CAC also discussed incentives for hybrid vehicles and decided to potentially look further into this topic.

ATTENDANCE
CAC Meeting, September 11, 2003

Members in Attendance

1. Karren Pope-Onwukwe, MD Chair
2. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
3. Steve Cafilisch, MD
4. Bob Chase, VA
5. Federico Cura, VA
6. Glen Harvie, MD
7. Allen Muchnick, VA
8. Stewart Schwartz, VA
9. Merle Van Horne, DC

Members Not in Attendance

1. Jim Clarke, MD
2. John Edwards, VA
3. Dennis Jaffe, DC
4. Nancy Jakowitsch, DC
5. Jacque Patterson, DC
6. Lee Schoenecker, DC

Alternates in Attendance

Harold Foster, DC
Harry Sanders, MD

COG/TPB Staff

Paul Des Jardin, COG/HSPPS staff
Ron Kirby, COG/TPB staff
John Swanson, COG/TPB staff