
ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

September 18, 2023

Christina Henderson, Chair

The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) met in a virtual format on Monday, September 18. The committee discussed the funding and project prioritization processes of Virginia, Maryland, and WMATA. These presentations are part of a series from the various state agencies to TPB's advisory committees to inform them about the state and local processes, and how they coordinate at the TPB. The AFA advises the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) on transportation issues and services important to low-income communities, underrepresented communities, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, and older adults.

VIRGINIA FUNDING AND PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Regional Planning Manager for the NoVA District, and Sree Nampoothiri, Senior Manager, Transportation Planning and Programming at the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), provided an overview of the Virginia's Project Selection & Funding Process, Common Goals & Priorities, and Virginia's Approach to Visualize 2050. Member questions and comments included:

- **Discussion of how paratransit is incorporated in the state's long-range transportation plan.** A committee member asked how paratransit services were represented in the long-range transportation plan. A member of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation staff responded that federal 5310 funds paratransit and other mobility options. TPB staff added that paratransit is included in Visualize 2050, although it does not contain specific details.

MARYLAND FUNDING AND PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Regional Planner, provided an overview of the MDOT Policy Framework, 2050 Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP), and the Transportation Trust Fund. This presentation is part of a series from the various state agencies to TPB's advisory committees to inform them about the state and local processes, and how they coordinate at the TPB.

- **Clarification on which transportation projects are addressed through the state funding and prioritization process.** One committee member asked about which projects, specifically in Prince George's County, are included in this process. MDOT staff responded that projects are included in priority letters developed by municipalities and elected officials and used by MDOT to identify projects for the CTP. She noted the Interchange at Greenbelt Station as an example. The committee member asked if these projects were primarily roadway. MDOT staff responded that these projects could be transit projects like the Purple Line, which was included in priority letters from Montgomery and Prince George's County. They noted they could provide a contact for a MDOT's 5310 program for additional information.

WMATA FUNDING AND PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

Mark Phillips, Metro's Director of Regional Mobility Planning, provided an overview of their Capital Program and Capital Improvement Program (CIP), annual budget process, and Metro's role in the TPB process. This presentation is part of a series from the various state agencies to TPB's advisory committees to inform them about the state and local processes, and how they coordinate at the TPB.

- **Desire to understand how Metro will address heat emergency impacts on rail in the capital programming.** A committee member asked how Metro will address extreme heat event

impacts on rail infrastructure. Metro staff mentioned that WMATA has a Sustainability team working to address the impacts of heat on the transit system and developing a resiliency plan. They mentioned that WMATA's Sustainability's website outlines the team's initiatives. They also noted TPB's resiliency working group, and that WMATA's Sustainability team is participating in the effort.

- **Suggestion to explicitly recognize racial equity in presentation materials.** A committee member suggested that WMATA highlight the importance of racial equity in their slide presentations. Metro staff mentioned that they have a social and racial equity policy, and that the Your Metro performance measures include equitable outcomes in their measurements. They also added the Better Bus System Redesign includes equity as a prime outcome.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mohammad Khan, TPB's Enhanced Mobility Program Manager, provided an update on the 2023 Enhanced Mobility Solicitation. He shared that over three meetings, they had participation from 58 people representing 45 organizations. He added that the selection committee would kick off on October 16. Chair Henderson asked if there would be a fourth pre-application conference. TPB staff responded that if there was demonstrated interest in an additional session, staff would be open to holding a fourth conference.
- A former AFA committee member suggested sharing a free virtual event with the committee. Marcela Moreno shared information on their behalf about the DC Region's Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit on September 26 27 and October 3 - 4.
- Chair Christina Henderson announced that the next AFA meeting would be held on Monday, November 27th. The format is to be determined via an e-mail poll.

District of Columbia

Rosa Carrillo
Heather Edelman
Heather Foote
Nechama Masliansky
Brenda Richardson

Karen Smith

Regional

Janine Ashe
Glenn Millis
Angela White

Maryland

Doreen Brown
William Clements
Bong Delrosario
Deborah Fisher
Peter Flandrau
Sara Fought
Denise Isreal
Robert Malone
Sherri Mohebbi
Gloria Swieringa

TPB Staff

Rachel Beyerle
Lyn Erickson
Cristina Finch
Mohammad Khan
Marcela Moreno
Nicholas Ramfos
Kanti Srikanth

Guests

Amy Garbarini, VDRPT
Regina Moore, VDOT
Sree Nampoothiri, NVTA
Mark Phillips, WMATA
Kari Snyder, MDOT

Virginia

Cynthia Alarico
Emily Braley
Clemon Hammie
Roger Hoskin
Terri Lamb
Valesca Maldonado
John Nemeth

Chair

Christina Henderson, Council of the District of Columbia