REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
July 21, 2004
Emmet Tydings, CAC Vice Chair

The TPB's Citizens Advisory Committee met on July 15. CAC Vice Chair Emmet Tydings served as chair. The meeting focused on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study and a proposal to improve the system for posting public comments on the COG/TPB website.

Proposal to Improve the TPB's Website Postings of Public Comments

The CAC at its June meeting discussed the system for posting public comments on the website. This year, for the first time, TPB staff posted all public comments (more than 2,500 on the Intercounty Connector) received during an official public comment period. Some observers, including CAC members, have noted that the arrangement of the comments on the website made it difficult to sort through them and to easily locate certain comments.

Based on CAC recommendations from the June meeting, TPB staff will implement the following website updates:

- The COG/TPB website will be enhanced so that comments that are entered directly into the website can be indexed so that subsequent users will be able to sort these comments according to name, organization, jurisdiction, and position on key issues (pro/con/other).
- People submitting comments via the website will be able to attach a previously formatted document to their comment.
- As before, comments that are *not* received through the website, including e-mails, letters, faxes, etc., will still be posted as pdf documents according to date received.

Andrew Austin, the TPB's webmaster, came back to the CAC meeting in July to demonstrate a mock-up version of the improvements. Committee members provided additional comments on the proposal, including the following:

- Suggestions regarding the display of comments, eg, whether full statements could be hidden and accessed with a click.
- Suggestion that commenters be permitted to upload Word attachments, as well as pdfs.
- Suggestions regarding sorting capabilities, including 1) a request that "business" be a category for identifying commenters, in addition to "individual," "organization," and "government/agency," and 2) a suggestion that people reviewing the site be able to sort by key words.
- Members recognized that the new improvements will need to be implemented quickly, in anticipation of another period of public comment when the CLRP and TIP are up for approval this fall. After this next period of testing, additional improvements may be needed. On seeing the proposed improvements, the consensus of the committee was

that the website is heading in the right direction to be more responsive to all stakeholder needs.

Discussion of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (hereafter referred to as RMAS)

Bob Griffiths of the TPB staff gave an update on RMAS and noted that results of the first analysis of the five land use scenarios were not yet available.

Member comments included the following:

- "The reality is that growth in the outer jurisdictions is skyrocketing." A member felt that scenarios in the study did not appear to be rooted in the real-world. He said that the "Jobs-Out" land use scenario is where the world is headed.

- "This shows how poorly we've been using land." A member emphasized that the study, including the analysis of the current Constrained Long-Range Plan, will demonstrate the damage caused by inefficient land use patterns.

- "A really aggressive scenario would be to cut job growth." A member said the compounding effects of even relatively small levels of employment growth in jurisdictions like Montgomery County will continue to require long commutes because adequate housing cannot be developed.

Discussion on the CAC's Public Outreach Meetings

The committee had earlier decided to focus its public forums this fall on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study. This month the committee continued its discussion of these meetings.

Some general points:

- The meetings should not be rushed. Some members were concerned there could be a backlash against the study or a mischaracterization of its intent if results of the study are too incomplete for broader public discussion or if the TPB members and planning directors from affected jurisdictions are not fully engaged.

- If meetings are held this fall, they should be "taken down a level" to "kitchen table-like format" to portray land use and transportation policies at a more localized level. The presentation for the meetings will need to be very visual and not depend on abstract regional charts.

- The committee decided to work through a subcommittee that will determine for the meetings will need to be very visual and not depend on a direction for the public outreach meetings for the fall. The subcommittee will meet within the next several

weeks. A majority of CAC members volunteered for the subcommittee, which underscores the priority perceived by all.

Preview of Agenda Items

Ron Kirby of the COG/DTP staff provided a brief preview and explanation of the TPB's upcoming agenda items 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12. A handout copy was provided of each. Mr. Kirby pointed out that the issues under Item #12 (Briefing on Air Quality Conformity Requirements) were somewhat problematic as they related to forthcoming conformity requirements for fine particulates (PM 2.5) because the PM 2.5 nonattainment area had not yet been determined and the type of test that should be used for making a PM 2.5 conformity determination was not yet known.

ATTENDANCE
CAC Meeting, July 15, 2004

Members in Attendance
1. Emmet Tydings, Vice Chair, MD
2. Ephrem Asebe, MD
3. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
4. Steve Caflisch, MD
5. Steve Cerny, VA
6. Harold Foster, DC
7. Mark Friis, MD
8. Michael LaJuene, VA
9. Allen Muchnick, VA
10. Lee Schoenecker, DC
11. Stewart Schwartz, VA
12. Merle Van Horne DC

Members Not in Attendance
1. Bob Chase, VA
2. Don Edwards, DC
3. Dennis Jaffe, Chair, DC

Staff/Others
Andrew Austin, COG/DTP
Ron Kirby, COG/DTP
Bob Griffiths, COG/DTP
John Swanson, COG/DTP
Julie Ruszczyk, VDOT
Glen Harvie
Harry Sanders